

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22393/>

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**Call Participants:** *Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Rob O'Reilly, Marty Gary, Bob Beal, Joe Grist, Danny Ryan, Susan Conner, Nancy Butowski, Bruce Vogt, Jim Price, Emilie Franke*

**Decisional**

➤ **Management Strategy Status and Updates (1:05-1:35pm)**

- Handout: *Fish MStrat Status; FishGIT MStrat Participation; Strategy Posters*
- Staff reviewed the status of each management strategy: blue crab, oyster, forage, and fish habitat. The blue crab and oyster strategy are farther along due to the availability of existing reports and available content.
  - Summary posters for all CBP strategies are posted on the CBP website to give the public an idea of the content.
  - CBP Management Board members provided comments on these posters at their January meeting.
- Staff reviewed who has been participating on each strategy team. GIT members and the Ex Comm are responsible for communicating and sharing the draft strategies with their constituents and others within their organization.
- Major deadlines: February 23<sup>rd</sup>-send drafts to full GIT for input; March 2<sup>nd</sup>-send drafts to Management Board for review; March 16<sup>th</sup>-drafts open for public input.
- Discussion:
  - Peyton pointed out that the blue crab strategy should also emphasize the current blue crab management process each year in addition to discussing the upcoming stock assessment.
  - Jurisdiction reps discussed briefing their various advisory committees and other state fisheries groups on the management strategies over the next several weeks, time dependent on the workload of those groups.

**Actions: -Staff will provide necessary briefing materials to support Ex Comm outreach efforts on the management strategies. -Staff will keep the full GIT up to date on strategy development and opportunities to submit comments.**

➤ **CBSAC: Stock Assessment Status (1:35-2:05pm)**

- Handout: *TOR\_Draft\_2015; Stock Assessment Timeline 2015-17*
- Joe presented the draft terms of reference TOR's for the upcoming blue crab benchmark stock assessment. He emphasized that finalizing these TOR's is CBSAC's highest priority now and they will inform the planning process.
- CBSAC plans to have an in-person meeting in late February or March to finalize the TOR's. Ex Comm comments on the TOR's are essential to inform CBSAC's discussion.
- Discussion:
  - Related to TOR 3, Joe clarified that the peeler and recreational sector would be addressed as distinct sectors when looking at catch, etc.

- Related to TOR 10, Joe specified that this ecosystem focused TOR would hopefully provide more clarity to answer questions like what happened to the 2012 abundance.
  - Marty discussed that stakeholders are still asking about what happened to the 2012 year-class.
  - Rob described the importance of acknowledging the importance of these natural mortality factors and how they play into population variability from year to year.
  - Bruce proposed that in addition to listing the causes of natural mortality, the stock assessment analyses could address the relative importance of the various causes.
- Rob stressed the importance and need for more specific, high-resolution CPUE data and making sure the jurisdictions are comfortable with the landings data used in analyses since there have been updates/changes in reporting and calculation functions.
- The sooner the TOR's are finalized, the sooner cost estimates can be discussed and funding options can be explored.

**Actions: -Ex Comm members will review the TOR's and provide comments to CBSAC by February 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff will provide a template for submitting comments.**  
**-Andrew will develop a short annotation/description of each TOR to explain in more detail what each TOR would address.**

➤ **Invasive Catfish: Moving Forward (2:05-2:25pm)**

- Handout: Summary STAC Comments ICTF Report
- Bruce reviewed the Task Force's plan to address STAC's comments and revise the Task Force report, which includes updating the research findings and addressing current efforts that are already happening in the jurisdictions.
- The report will be sent to the GIT and Ex Comm for final review in early spring.
- Bruce reviewed STAC's major recommendation suggesting that an invasive species management plan be developed for blue/flathead catfish.
- Discussion:
  - Tom expressed concern that there is still not complete agreement among jurisdictions on what the next steps should be to address invasive catfish, so trying to develop goals/objectives for a plan may be ineffective. However, specific next steps are important to communicate with the public.
  - Ex Comm members acknowledged that there is ongoing effort around a blue catfish fishery that will continue to move forward. Marty and Tom pointed out that stakeholders are facing some hurdles regarding permitting and product availability that are coming to light.
  - Marty discussed the need to better understand what the research is telling us about catfish population dynamics.

**Actions: Task Force will move forward and revise the final report. The GIT should continue to be updated on current efforts (research, fishery, etc.) related to invasive catfish in the Bay.**

➤ **2015 Ex Comm Call Dates and Presentations (2:25-2:30)**

- Handout: 2015 calendar

- Ex Comm agreed to 2015 call dates (still Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm):
  - February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Ex Comm will let staff know of specific science presentation they would like to see. Initial recommendations include a presentation on NOAA's climate change vulnerability assessment for specific fish species on the Atlantic coast.

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Executive Committee members' updates and discussion of management issues.
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**Informational**

➤ **CBP Funding for GITs**

- Proposals for the GIT funding are currently being reviewed. Project proposals were submitted for forage metric development, CBSAC research priorities (WDS gear efficiency survey, summer survey data, recruitment variability), and striped bass health indicator development.

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

2015 Ex Comm-Mondays 1:00-3:00pm

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

March 16<sup>th</sup>

April 20<sup>th</sup>

May 18<sup>th</sup>