

Protect and Restore Fisheries Executive Committee Meeting
March 24, 2010
Action Items and Minutes

Attendees: Jack Travelstead, Jonathan Kramer, Shannon Green, Bob Beal, Tom O'Connell, Nancy Butowski, Bryan King, Peyton Robertson, Shannon Simpson, Bruce Vogt, Derek Orner, Howard Townsend

Action Items:

- 1. Jack, Peyton, and Tom, can you identify for me in the attached list which members you will be calling regarding an invitation to be a member of the Fisheries GIT by highlighting them. If other Executive Committee members have or would like to call members they have nominated please let Shannon Simpson know asap.**
- 2. Regarding the decision to include Lynn Fagley and Rob O'Reilly in the membership of the full Goal Team as liaisons to the FEW, other members of the Executive Committee members are welcome to designate someone to this position from their organization as well. Please let Shannon Simpson know and provide their title, mailing address, phone number and email address.**
- 3. Shannon Simpson will make changes to the membership list and charter based on the meeting and other comments. Invitations will be emailed and mailed to each proposed member. A new draft of the charter will be emailed out for review and revisions in preparation for a full GIT and FEW meeting in June.**
- 4. Next Executive Committee Meeting: April 21, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Membership (FYI)

Peyton/Shannon S.

Invitations: Tom and Peyton reviewed, making phone calls, individual letters being prepared for email and mailing.

- Tom, Peyton, and Jack will divide up proposed membership list to make preliminary calls to each person in advance of invitations being sent out.
- Shannon S. will make changes to the invitation letter regarding comments received.
- Shannon S. will revise membership list as follows:
 - Move Jack Brooks of MD's Tidal Fish Advisory Committee to Commercial Fisheries category
 - Remove Larry Sims from membership list, Jack Brooks will represent MD commercial fishermen
 - Add Ron Lukens from Omega Protein
 - Ask Trent Zivkovich if since CCA represents the recreational fishing community, would he mind CCA being represented through Jim Gracie with Maryland Sportfish.

Coordination between GIT and Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW) – resource manager from each organization represented on the Ex Comm as members of the GIT and liaisons to the FEW.

- Executive Committee agreed to Lynn Fagley and Rob O'Reilly as members of the full GIT membership as liaisons between the GIT and the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup.

Other Ex Comm members are welcome to designate someone from their shop to this same position.

Update on Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Project

Shannon G.

- The Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (comprised of the chairs of the EBFM teams) will be holding its first meeting in the next few months.
 - FEW will hold its first meeting sometime in May, currently floating possible dates
- Status updates on Blue Crab and Alosines Species Teams, and the QETs.
 - The blue crab issue brief is currently being finalized, Ex Comm members should be receiving this package soon.
 - Beginning to look at developing dashboards for striped bass and menhaden like the one created for blue crab.

Draft Charter

Peyton/Shannon S.

- A draft charter for the Fisheries GIT has been provided for your review. This initial draft is to get us started, please provide comments and revisions to Shannon.Simpson@noaa.gov. The finalization of this document will be an iterative process. Before being adopted this document will also be review by the full membership of the GIT once confirmed. The content of the charter will be updated periodically as needed.
 - Tom and Nancy will be sending comments to Shannon S.
 - Need to include how Fisheries GIT will address issues beyond the five key species, any challenges surrounding these issues, and balancing competing issues.
 - Under the EBFM Project revise to outline the organization of the teams, their focus and activities, and how they will support the Fisheries GIT.
 - Under “Operating Principles” there was agreement that the Fisheries Executive Committee should make decisions by consensus, when unable to do this then majority rules. Need to establish operating principles for full GIT membership separate from those for the Ex Comm.
 - Define the process by which a diversity of input is obtained from the full GIT membership regarding Ex Comm decisions.
 - Outline how we anticipate involve broader public participation while keeping the rest of the meeting a small group – include mechanism for public comment?

First meeting of the full GIT membership in conjunction with the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW)

Peyton/Shannon S.

- Bring full GIT and FEW together for a meet and greet, GIT and EBFM overview, state of the science and management discussion
 - Staff are currently looking for a day and a half in June that will work for the Executive Committee and Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup members given that

NOAA has conflicts the first week of June and MAFMC and PRFC meets the second week.

- Question raised and decided Peyton would lead the full Fisheries GIT as well

Oysters: Address entirely in the Fisheries GIT including restoration (Decision)

Bruce

- Habitat GIT is ok with the Fisheries GIT assuming responsibility for oysters
 - Fisheries GIT staff will look into ways to bridge the Habitat QET work with work being done in the Habitat GIT.
 - Players for oyster restoration reside in Fisheries GIT membership.
- What this means for the GIT
 - Peyton – list of action items to tackle already exists
 - Jonathan – asked for help from the Executive Committee in setting up an oyster species team. Shannon G. will be reaching out to members for input on this.

Request for Proposals

Peyton/Bruce/Jon

- Couple Ex Comm members helping to review NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office multi-species proposals
 - Derek Orner will be getting in touch with a few Ex Comm members to set up a time to discuss fisheries proposals received in response to NOAA's RFP.
- NOAA and Maryland Sea Grant coordination on proposals received for respective RFP's
 - Jon K. will also be reaching out to Ex Comm members regarding MD Sea Grant's RFP which is a longer process, to make sure not duplicating effort
 - The Fisheries GIT will routinely engage on science needs and take advantage of the current collective knowledge and assess gaps and needs going forward.
 - In order for NOAA to incorporate input from the Fisheries GIT in developing their RFP, would need input August.
 - MD Sea Grant RFP is geared to address mid to long term science and technical needs, seeing the Fisheries GIT as a stakeholder, while NOAA RFP could focus on immediate and short term needs.
 - Make effort to find funding opportunities for things the Ex Comm deems important.
 - Full GIT would determine annually it's immediate, short, mid, and long term needs and map out a timeline for these needs. Full GIT would begin doing this at the June 2010 meeting.

Executive Order update

Peyton/Bruce

- The E.O. goals framework will be out for public comment as of Friday, March 19. We encourage you to pass this on to others and provide feedback.
 - Blue crabs – 200+ million is an interim target not long term because historically has been a higher population. This target came out of the last stock assessment, can be revised once CBSAC has completed the current stock assessment being conducted. Jon K. suggests getting blue crab team together to further flesh out the dashboard with real information given the E.O. goal, to have this to put forward.

- Oysters – An atlas exists but it's not very scientific or high resolution. Peyton – need to be more targeted and restrictive in management of oysters. Need to invest a little more, ramp up. Debate facilitated in oyster workshop on science of oyster restoration – discuss the science we have and come to agreement on what is successful oyster restoration in the Bay then look at contributions of the players. Get everyone on the same page, NOAA and USACE have a shared vision and work with the states and jurisdictions to implement oyster restoration.

Presentation on modeling tools and capabilities to assist managers - Discussion

Howard Townsend, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

- NOTE: Two Ex Comm members participating in modelers and managers session of the Chesapeake Community Modeling Program's symposium (FYI)
 - With respect to recent quick turn arounds with OMB and CEQ, many questions on whether we have a baseline to determine where we need to be - modeling could help us determine this
 - Modeling could help us determine a starting point for restoration
 - Tom O. – good to develop models with some level of predictability for instance we don't know growth or survival rates for oysters and struggle with determining recruitment.
 - Howard – a well reviewed model based on the best available science can be used to justify any given management decision and assist with making defensible decisions. Can be used to evaluate management decisions. Models can be used to be more strategic about what data we collect so that we are collecting useful data.