

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2010 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Brief Updates

June GIT/FEW Meeting:

- Agenda: We expect to have the draft agenda finalized and distributed to the full membership and the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW) next week. The agenda is being developed based on multiple conversations between GIT and EBRM Staff, the Chair, Co-chair, and Executive Committee Members.
 - The objectives of this meeting are to acquaint the GIT and FEW, provide reasonable background information for all participants to have a common understanding of the current state of Chesapeake Bay fisheries research, and convey the necessity for ecosystem based fisheries management.
 - Thoroughly explain the relationship between the GIT and FEW with regards to their respective roles and interactions.
 - One possible agenda item includes an interactive problem solving activity hopefully based on an existing (Blue Catfish) or successful (Mattawoman/Corsica) case study.
 - Any ideas for this will be appreciated
- Logistics: The meeting is being held for 1 ½ days, June 29-30 at Holiday Inn Solomon's Conference Center with meals included. The evening of June 29, we have space at the Solomon's Pier restaurant for a happy hour/meet and greet and to provide an informal setting for the new GIT membership to get to know each other and share information.
- GIT Charter: A little behind on this due to other tasks, the goal is to have this to the Executive Committee, and GIT and EBFM Staff next week for a 1-2 week review. Comments will then be incorporated and the draft sent to the full GIT membership by June 12.

New Membership: Currently we have received 20 responses from the 33 invitations we sent out and 19 have accepted the invitation. Almost all of those who have accepted can attend the June meeting. Overall there was a general attitude of enthusiasm from those who have responded.

Additional member added to GIT as liaison to the FEW: In response to the offer to Ex Comm members to designate a representative to the GIT in this capacity, Patrick Campfield from ASMFC will join Lynn and Rob as liaisons between the GIT and the FEW.

Discussion

Recent Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW) Meeting

Update provided by Shannon Green.

- Discussed how to communicate their capabilities to the GIT
- Currently working on further developing the species briefs
- Blue Crab Dashboard in rough draft form
 - Developing better indices

CBSAC Blue Crab Report:

- CBSAC met Wednesday, May 19 to prepare the 2010 Annual Advisory Report
 - Most CBSAC committee present (met at CBF in Annapolis)
 - Abundance of age 1+ crabs at beginning of 2010 season is estimated at 315 million crabs – a 41% increase over 2009.
 - Recruitment has basically doubled over the 2009 number.
 - 2009 Baywide harvest was 53.9 million pounds. Projected 2010 harvest is ~90 million pounds based upon the historical relationship between population size and the subsequent year's harvest.
 - Stock not considered overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Exploitation target in 2009 was 43% - which is below the overfishing threshold (53%) and target (46%).
 - Management Advice – precautionary. Don't want to exploit increased stock
 - Maintain conservation measures until the full effects are known
 - Report will recommend two strategies for future management as well as Address critical data and analysis needs
 - Final Advisory Report will be released in June, 2010
 - 2010 Benchmark stock assessment under development and on schedule. Final assessment report due at end of 2010 and will undergo review in March 2011.
- The Ex Comm should expect to see the report within 1-2 weeks for your approval. Derek and Adam will set up a webinar to facilitate clearance by the Ex Comm all at once. With approval a press release will go out along with the actual technical report and summary for managers.
- Ecocheck will be producing a summary report for the public

Executive Order Strategy Debrief: Next steps and implications for the Fisheries GIT.

- Need advise on management needs and how to manage species
- Possibly increase CBSACs role to include an oyster stock assessment in addition to blue crabs stock assessment

Snakeheads:

- Have invaded locations outside the Potomac
 - Currently in Herring Creek, St. Mary's River, Susquehanna, and some other regions
- Have been reported to be crossing the main-stem bay
 - Clearly salt tolerant
- **Action Item:** Culminate and compare state regulations regarding snakeheads in order to determine appropriate course of action regarding this invasive species.