

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for January 28th, 2013 from 1:00pm-3:00pm
Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/19199>

In Attendance: Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Jack Travelstead, Bryan King, Ellen Cosby, Thomas Jordan, Matthew Kornis, Ed Houde, Bruce Vogt, Andrew Turner, Susan Conner, Nancy Butowski, Ron Lukens, Peter Bergstrom, Karl Blankenship, and Adam Davis

Presentation Discussion

Forage Fish & Land Use

- Handouts:
 - *Forage Fish Slides - Jordan and Kornis.pdf*
 - Key Take Home Points:
 - Cropland leads to increased total N and P
 - Developed land leads to increased total N
 - Increasing salinity decreases total N and P (oceanic flushing)
 - Marsh habitats have highest species diversity
 - Rip-rap and bulkheads reduce diversity
 - Menhaden larval ingress abundances differed nine-fold, but the JAI in summer did not differ much in the three years and were not concordant with the larval abundances
 - Effort and harvest are our best controls at managing the menhaden and bay anchovy abundance
 - Discussion:
 - The Executive Committee believes there is a lack of public knowledge on the impacts the land/water interface type can have on aquatic life.
 - **Action Item:** GIT staff will compile a “fact sheet” with findings and implications from this research to send to targeted audiences like CBC.
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Decisional

December GIT Meeting Outcomes and Next Steps

- Handout: *Sustainable Fisheries GIT - Dec 2012 Meeting Summary (v3).pdf*
- Discussion:
 - Lynn Fegley and Andrew Turner are working to address the development of male specific blue crab targets and thresholds as well as adding additional expertise in CBSAC

Invasive Catfish Task Force Charge

- Handout: *Invasive Catfish Taskforce Charge (2.1).pdf*
- Discussion:
 - It should be important for the Task Force to consider invasive catfish's impacts on freshwater mussels.
 - Catfish pose a potential threat through direct consumption as well as a disruption in the mussel's life cycle. Freshwater mussel larvae will attach to anadromous fishes for relocation and distribution, so an introduced apex predator feeding on large quantities of anadromous fishes could threaten freshwater mussel populations whose habitat ranges and areas of high

- abundances already overlap.
 - Pertinent Catfish sections the Task Force should address with both short (6 month) and long-term (one year) recommendations:
 1. Current science – what we know now, and what we need to know to make proper management decisions
 2. Communication and outreach strategies aimed to mitigating spread and reducing negative impacts
 3. Guidelines implementing management recommendations
- **Action Item:**
 - Fisheries GIT staff will re-draft the Invasive Catfish Task Force charging document with the above criteria and guidance.
 - Assemble the Invasive Catfish Task Force and begin working on completing the goals of the charge.

Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

- Handout: Responsive RFP FY 13.pdf
- Timeline:
 - Proposals due to STAC by March 1st, 2013
 - Funding begins June 1st, 2013
 - Workshops must be completed by May, 31st 2014
- Workshop Ideas:
 - Ecosystem Services of Restored Oyster Reefs
 - How will restored oyster reefs affect nitrogen removal rates, water quality, and provide for increased fish populations by creating structured habitat?
 - EBFM
 - How should we pick up where the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup left off with progressing towards EBFM?
 - Land Use Planning Tool Kit for Citizen Engagement
 - What tools can the Fisheries GIT create to better educate and inform the public as well as encourage stakeholder involvement in planning and land use decision making processes?
 - Invasive Catfish – mitigation strategies and other region approaches
 - How can we build upon what the Invasive Catfish Task Force will put together to enact mitigation and control strategies aimed at reducing impacts of invasive catfish?
 - Others?
- Discussion:
 - Through discussion the Executive Committee narrowed down workshop ideas to the below two:
 - Ecosystem Services Workshop: would focus on fisheries production as a nitrogen removal workshop has already taken place (results in process)
 - Land Use Workshop: would focus on developing a tool kit and a guidance document for citizen engagement and activism detailing when and how to get involved in the land use decision making process
 - Another idea was to consider convening a FEW/FEP meeting outside of the STAC workshop process to discuss continuing work with EBFM.
- **Action Item:** GIT staff will begin working on drafting a proposal for each of the above

approved workshop ideas and send to the GIT Executive Committee for virtual review and final approval.

Next Steps on Land Use

- Handout: *Fisheries GIT & Land Use 1-25-13.pdf*
- GIT Staff have had several conversations with MD DNR on how to advance the land use discussion.
- Discussion:
 - What does the Executive Committee think about the attached handout on next steps?
- **Action Items**:
 - Flesh out next steps for Maryland.
 - GIT Staff will reach out to Laura McKay in Virginia.
 - Bryan King will identify contacts in D.C.

Charles County Comprehensive Plan

- Handouts:
 - *FWS_Charges County_Comp Plan_comments_let_01_14_13.pdf*
 - FWS Comment Letter on the proposed comprehensive plan
 - *DRAFT - Comments_on_draft_plandoc_rev_1-17-2013.pdf*
 - DRAFT MD DNR comment letter on the proposed comprehensive plan
- Conservation advocates believe the currently proposed Charles County Comprehensive Plan is inadequate to preserve natural resources and even consider it is worse for environmental protection than the previous 2006 plan.
- Discussion:
 - Executive Committee members don't see any reason why the Fisheries GIT should not submit a comment letter to the planning board and noted it should be important to include why we are commenting (our interest and concern) and express how we have already identified Mattawoman Creek as a priority tributary for protection and restoration efforts.
- **Action Item**: Fisheries GIT staff will begin drafting a comment letter on the draft comprehensive plan.

Fisheries GIT Goals

- **Sustainable Fisheries Goal**: Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish, and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and Bay.
 - **Blue Crab Outcome**: Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science.
 - **Oyster Outcome**: Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 20 tributaries by 2025.
 - **Fisheries Outcome**: Improve fisheries health and production by connecting land use decision making with ecosystem science and policy and creating a precautionary management approach to ensure the sustainability of Chesapeake Bay fisheries resources across jurisdictions.

- Management Board Comment:
 - Fisheries GIT should reconsider the third outcome since it is not really an outcome but a strategy. An outcome should be measurable and specific (e.g. which specific fisheries and where? Just tidal or non-tidal as well?)
- Discussion:
 - The Executive Committee agreed we should take the phrase “balanced ecosystem” and put some measurable commitments behind it in order to make this a measurable outcome.
- **Action Item:** Fisheries GIT staff will work with this recommendation and propose some measurable commitments we can review via email.

2013 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

- Handout: *2013 Calendar.pdf*
- Discussion:
 - All dates seemed to work for the Executive Committee members except May 28th and December 2nd-3rd.
- **Action Items:**
 - Executive Committee members please add the following dates to your 2013 calendars for Executive Committee meetings and full GIT meetings:

▪ February 25 th	▪ July 15 th
▪ March 18 th	▪ August 19 th
▪ April 15 th	▪ September 23 rd
▪ June 17 th -18 th (Full GIT Meeting)	▪ October 21 st
	▪ November 18 th
 - GIT staff will work to find new dates for the May Executive Committee meeting and the December full GIT meeting.

Informational

Oyster Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (TORs)

- Handout: *Chesapeake Bay oyster stock assessment Terms of Reference_2012.pdf*
- Discussion:
 - The Pls discussed actions to address these TORs and outlined additional resource needs. This report should be available late February or Early March for return.
 - TORs 1-6 are within the current scope of the stock assessment, while 7-11 are not.
 - Executive Committee members stressed that TOR 7 is very important

Oyster Nitrogen Removal Workshop Outcomes

- Handout: *Workshop highlights.pdf*
- Peter Bergstrom (NCBO) organized an oyster nitrogen removal workshop on January 10th-11th in Wachapreague, VA.
- Meeting organizers are developing consensus points as well as a report from this workshop that should be available mid-March
- Executive Committee members would like the report completed before the March STAC meeting

NCBO Fisheries Science Program Request for Proposals

- Handout: Final NCBO Fisheries FY13 RFP priorities.pdf
- In one to two weeks this RFP will go live. NCBO scouted to see what other research was being funded for importance in developing this “targeted” RFP.

Fisheries GIT Indicators

- Striped Bass:
 - Available online at:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/striped_bass_abundance
- Menhaden:
 - Fisheries GIT staff are still working with ASMFC to interpret the fishing mortality data for Menhaden and how best to translate this information for public consumption.

Toxic Contaminants Report Available

- Available: <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/Federal-Agencies-release-Technical-Report-on-Toxic-Contaminants-in-the-Chesapeake-Bay-and-its-Watershed.aspx>
- Summarizes existing information on the extent and severity of the occurrence of toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed

Bay Barometer Release

- The CBP will be publically releasing the latest Bay Barometer in Norfolk, VA on January 31st. Rob O'Reilly has agreed to deliver the Fisheries GIT indicator updates and “state-of-the-Bay” address as far as Fisheries resources are concerned.
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