



Joint Meeting of Habitat and Sustainable Fisheries GITs

June 19th-21st, 2018

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) – Schmidt Center
647 Contees Wharf Rd., Edgewater, MD 21037

Conference Line: (605) 472-5622

Conference Code: 158437

Adobe Connect: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/habgit/>

(Note: Enter as Guest with your name and affiliation)

Structure:

This three-day meeting will follow a staggered format; the Habitat GIT will meet June 19th-20th and the Fisheries GIT will meet June 20th-21st. Individual GIT meeting agendas can be found at the weblinks below –

[Day 1 \(June 19th\)](#): Habitat GIT meets 10am-4:15pm to handle internal business items.

[Day 2 \(June 20th\)](#): GITs meet jointly 9am-4pm followed by an optional group happy hour.

[Day 3 \(June 21st\)](#): Fisheries GIT meets 9:30am-4pm to handle internal business items.

Theme for joint sessions:

- Review results of the Fish Habitat Assessment STAC Workshop and identify ways this information can best be applied to link habitat and fishery management objectives.
- Identifying USACE priority areas of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Upper Susquehanna/Conococheague-Opequon, Lower Susquehanna/Anacostia, Choptank/Middle Peninsula) important for multiple outcomes of interest to both GITs that could serve as basis for a joint proposal for GIT funding under either (or both) the Place-Based Tools or Ecosystem Services topics.

Day 2 –

- 9:00 am** **Welcome and Introductions** – Sean Corson (NOAA), Fisheries GIT Chair; Christine Conn (MD DNR) and David Whitehurst (VA DGIF), HGIT Co-Chairs
- 9:15 am** **SERC Welcome and Applied Science** – Matt Ogburn (SERC)
- 9:30 am** **Overview of CBP GIT Funding Process** – Kristin Saunders (UMCES), Cross-GIT Coordinator; Brooke Landry (MD DNR) and Becky Golden (MD DNR), SAV Workgroup Co-Chairs; Bruce Vogt (NOAA), Fisheries GIT Coordinator
Summary of CBP GIT funding process and timeline, followed by examples of current GIT-funded projects (SAV and Shoreline) as context for afternoon discussion.
Objective: Build enthusiasm for development of cross-GIT project proposal for 2018.
- 10:00 am** **Break**

- 10:15 am** **Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions** – Gina Hunt (MD DNR), Fish Habitat Action Team Chair
Summary of STAC workshop participant discussion and survey results.
Objective: How might members of both GITs use a fish habitat assessment to guide fisheries management and/or habitat restoration and conservation? Do members of both GITs recommend moving forward with the creation of a habitat assessment?
- 11:15 am** **USACE Comprehensive Plan** – Angie Sowers (USACE)
A summary of the Comprehensive Plan’s priority sub-watershed opportunities.
Objective: Where can we focus our work within or beyond the identified priority locations?
- 12:15 pm** **Lunch**
- 1:15 pm** **Breakout Discussion**
Meeting participants will divide into in three groups:
1. Upper Susquehanna/Conococheague-Opequon
 2. Lower Susquehanna/Anacostia
 3. Choptank/Middle Peninsula
- to develop ideas for potential joint GIT Funding projects. Groups will use the following questions to guide discussion:
- Where does science point us in terms of unaddressed factors influencing?
 - Where within priority areas on the map do we see the greatest opportunity for improving/conserving both habitat and fisheries?
 - What can be accomplished with ~\$75,000? What other funding sources are available for these projects?
- Objective: Agreement on three solid ideas to further develop into a joint GIT funding proposal.*
- 2:30 pm** **Break**
- 2:45 pm** **Breakout Discussion Report** (15 minutes/group)
Discussion groups will report back ideas for potential joint GIT funding projects.
- 3:30 pm** **Wrap Up**
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn**

Follow Up:

A joint proposal for GIT funding can be drafted and refined after group discussion in June, and submitted for review to both GITs and the Management Board for consideration in July.