



Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Call: MINUTES

April 19, 2021 1:00 -3:00pm

➤ **Attendance:**

- Matt Robinson (DOEE)
- Pat Geer (VMRC)
- Jason Kahn (NOAA)
- Mike Bednarski (VDWF)
- Kevin Schabow (NCBO)
- Keith Lockwood (USACE)
- Marty Gary (PRFC)
- Bob Murphy (Tetra Tech)
- Alicia LoGalbo (USACE)
- Bryan King (DOEE)
- Mandy Bromilow (NCBO)
- Stephanie Wesby (NCBO)
- Bruce Vogt (NCBO)
- Max Appelman (NOAA)
- Karl Blankenship (Bay Journal)
- Lynn Fegley (MDNR)
- David Maginness
- Justin Shapiro (CRC/NCBO)

➤ **Introduction (Sean Corson & Marty Gary: 5 min)**

➤ **Presentation: Plastic Pollution Action Team (Bob Murphy and Ryan Woodland: 30 min)**

- The PPAT will present on their recently completed Ecological Risk Assessment of Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay. This semi-quantitative assessment used striped bass, in different age classes and salinity regimes, as a biological endpoint.

● **Group input:**

- Important point that is mentioned is the need for updated prey availability data (noted changes in zooplankton abundance), as well as microplastic uptake in striped bass and prey, trophic transfer, transport modeling, and current conditions
- Matt Robinson (DOEE) adds that striped bass was chosen because of its overlap and interaction with a large number of CBP outcomes/goals.
- Marty Gary (PRFC): Very struck by information from the previous PPAT meeting regarding decreases in zooplankton abundance. Very interested in how this

phenomena may be affecting striped bass recruitment. Could there be a connection between microplastics, zooplankton, and striped bass recruitment?

- Bob Murphy (Tetra Tech) mentions that the data in reference is from George Mason (in the Potomac). It would be beneficial to take a deeper look at this research. John Cohen's (UD) work also looks into some of this bay-wide.
- Sean Corson (NCBO) concurs with Marty's point. Recruitment and potential connections to stock assessment are of particular interest to this work.

➤ **Oyster Restoration Updates in 2021 (Stephanie Westby (NOAA): 15 min)**

- Restoration ongoing in five tributaries.
- Restoration completed in three tributaries.
- Two are scheduled to begin restoration in this calendar year. Plus bonus Elizabeth river.
- While 30% of tributaries are complete, 60% of all acreage is complete (1,100 of 1,800)
- ORES (Oyster reef ecosystem services) [comprehensive tech memo](#) summarizes years of work. An area of focus will be communication of regional results/successes

➤ **Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Spring Meeting (Mandy Bromilow: 5 min)**

- Scheduled for May 18th, 2021
- Looking at updated numbers for blue crab advisory report as well as touching base about the upcoming SRS process

➤ **Status of Bay Telemetry Array (Kevin Schabow (NOAA): 10 min)**

- Working on three arrays right now, but potential for more. And for more partners to be included
 - i. Bay mouth - 16 receivers. Scheduled for deployment in late May/early June
 - ii. Bay bridge - 6-7 receivers. Deployment TBD (Summer)
 - iii. Mid-bay: UMCES plans to deploy 5-6 in May/June (Not purchased by NCBO, so independent but we are in contact with their team)

● Group input:

- Pat Geer (VMRC): VA Secretary very interested and supportive of this work. VMRC secured 25 additional tags for striped bass (or potentially cobia). Looking at a total of 75 acoustics tags over the next two years.
- Bryan King (DOEE): DC has a Potomac array. Was curious if hydrophones are recoverable, as they are expensive? Was curious about data collection/collaboration.
 - Kevin says yes they are. Receivers are released to the surface but mooring is left in water.
 - Kevin also sent link to [MATOS](#) regarding data repository

➤ **NCBO Seasonal Summaries (Bruce Vogt: 15 min)**

- The NCBO team will be developing seasonal summary narratives using satellite and buoy data. Bruce will review likely buoy locations that have been selected.

➤ **Group input: We asked the ExComm to consider the following questions:**

- How might these seasonal summaries be useful to you and your constituents?
 - i. Pat Geer (VMRC) mentions that real-time measurements will be very beneficial to the management community.
- Do the buoys that have been selected seem suitable?
 - i. Pat Geer (VMRC) asks why not “all” NCBO buoys?
 - Bruce Vogt (NCBO) responds that we have selected four that have a comprehensive (ten year) record of temporal data associated with them. We can still put together data from others.
- Should we include both PL and GR buoys or choose one? Which one? Are there management applications/reasons for choosing one over the other?
 - i. Marty Gary (PRFC) advocated for PL to best serve the PRFC constituency
- Who should we target directly with these summaries (rec fishers, management council staff, industry)?

➤ **Overview of Upcoming SRS Process (Justin Shapiro: 5 min)**

- Over the coming months, Justin may be in contact regarding feedback/suggestions on our new logic and action plans.

➤ **Summer biannual meeting (Justin: 5 min)**

- Action: Justin will send around a list of potential dates and topics for ExComm approval and feedback

➤ **American Fisheries Society Meeting (Bruce Vogt)**

- Marty and Sean discuss bringing in folks. Potential to bring up at a Management Board meeting to look into Bay Program involvement.
- Bruce and Justin may be following up with GIT membership