

# Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee

## Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2018 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

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### ***Participants***

Rob O'Reilly  
Glenn Davis  
Pat Geer

Sean Corson  
Dave Blazer  
Lynn Fegley

Bruce Vogt  
Marty Gary

Sara Coleman  
Morgan Corey

### **Decisional**

#### ➤ **Revisit the need to develop blue crab male reference points**

##### ○ Description:

- Sean reviewed the issue of developing male-specific reference points for blue crab and focused on the connection between male reference points and the need to conduct a benchmark stock assessment
  - This issue has come up since males exceeded the 2017 conservation trigger

##### ○ Discussion:

- There is concern about funding, after a 2016 proposal estimating the cost of a new stock assessment at around \$400K
- Current blue crab management seems to be working well and there is a sense that a new stock assessment is not an urgent need as long as the population is stable
- Funding is always a challenge but planning ahead over the long term makes sense in order to be proactive managing an iconic Chesapeake Bay fishery
- We need to incorporate more socio-economic data in stock assessments

##### ○ Decisions:

- The issue of whether to pursue male reference points should be investigated further and discussed at a separate meeting

##### ○ Actions:

- **NCBO will work with Lynn to plan a meeting with managers and stock assessment scientists to reach a conclusion about the need to develop male-specific reference points**

#### ➤ **Invasive Catfish Task Force update**

##### ○ Description:

- Sara relayed the outcomes of a recent call with the Invasive Catfish Task Force
  - The main goal was to wrap up the report from November 2017 symposium and move forward deciding whether to pursue a fishery management plan (FMP). The Task Force is currently working to develop management recommendations for the report.

##### ○ Discussion:

- With expanding range of invasive catfish it is beneficial to stay ahead of the issue and have more information
    - We can continue to support research and will consider creating a bay-wide FMP if all jurisdictions are strongly in favor, recognizing that it will be a time intensive effort
  - **Actions:**
    - Sara will distribute the finished report in mid-September and summarize the state of invasive catfish research to inform next steps
- **Envisioning next steps for Fisheries GIT**
  - Description:
    - Sean gave an overview of the envisioning discussion for September meeting
  - Discussion:
    - Where do we want to be over the next 5-7 years as a goal team? We have existing Bay Program outcomes guiding our actions, ongoing efforts (e.g. oyster restoration), as well as emerging issues (e.g. invasive catfish). Where should we spend our limited resources and focus our energy?
    - Actions: Bruce, Sara, and Morgan will prepare a presentation to facilitate the envisioning discussion for September meeting
- **December GIT meeting**
  - Description:
    - Morgan and Bruce reviewed December meeting planning progress
  - Discussion:
    - The December meeting will focus on oysters, specifically oyster restoration progress in the Tred Avon River and developing Virginia blueprints
    - Need to discuss whether monitoring is consistent enough between MD and VA to speak to bay-wide restoration progress
    - There is interest by Ex Comm in discussing oyster aquaculture
    - The impacts of this summer's high levels of precipitation on oyster health will be an important topic to discuss as a group at December meeting
  - **Actions:**
    - Morgan will announce finalized dates and venue for December meeting, and work with Bruce to develop an agenda outline
- **Ex Comm Updates**
  - Rob: oysters are on the agenda for VMRC meeting. Atlantic Mackerel overfished but moving forward with rebuilding. MRIP data recalibrated for summer flounder and striped bass.
  - Dave: a 300lb bull shark was recently caught in the Bay
  - Marty: interest in obtaining oyster seed

## Informational

- **Confirm upcoming Ex Comm meeting dates**
  - Monday, September 17, 2018 1:00 – 3:00 pm conference call