



Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Winter 2021 Meeting

Thursday, December 2, 2021
2:00-4:00pm

Webinar: meet.google.com/pju-rxqu-whz

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Agenda

- I. Welcome** 2:00pm
Pat Geer, CBSAC Chair (VMRC)
- II. Charter & Membership Discussion** 2:05pm
Lead: Pat Geer
Facilitator: Bruce Vogt (NOAA)
Review the updates to the CBSAC Charter, particularly the membership roles, responsibilities, and criteria for nomination.
- III. MDNR Cooperative Data Collection Program** 2:20pm
Presenter: Glenn Davis (MDNR)
Facilitator: Bruce Vogt
Glenn will present catch composition data collected by MDNR's Cooperative Data Collection Program. This was an action requested at the last CBSAC meeting to better understand the size, sex, and maturity of crabs harvested.
- Questions to consider:
1. How can this information be used to improve stock assessment?
 2. Would similar pilot programs at VMRC and PRFC be worthwhile?
- IV. Low Abundance and Recruitment Discussion** 2:45pm
Lead: Pat Geer
Presenters: Rom Lipcius, Alex Schneider (VIMS)
Facilitator: Bruce Vogt
Discuss management options, potential research priorities, and next steps for responding to the low abundance and recruitment of the blue crab population. This discussion will be kicked off with presentations by Rom and his graduate student, Alex. Rom will be presenting an update on juvenile indices and Alex will be presenting an update on female abundance.
- Discussion points:
1. Is there a threshold for recruitment where it would not be advisable to execute the fishery? MDNR has concerns about the deterioration of the stock-recruit relationship and thinks it would be useful to determine if there is a new recruitment paradigm.

2. Explore ecological drivers of recruitment (predation, habitat loss, prey availability) and potential bottlenecks for productivity to develop indicators that can help track ecosystem changes alongside crab abundance indices. This could identify dominant pressures on the stock and/or identify research gaps for CBSAC to fill.
3. Quantify total mortality to explore changes in natural mortality, which may help us better understand why, despite meeting management objectives, the stock is not responding as expected.
4. Do we need to revise our current blue crab science priorities in response to the recent issues and discussions?

V. Wrap Up

3:50pm

1. Management Board progress review follow up
 - Update blue crab science priorities by Dec. 14th (Mandy will present science needs to STAR on the 16th)
 - CBC request for benchmark assessment and science workshop
2. New Blue Crab Logic & Action Plan due Feb 9, 2022
 - Plan for another meeting in Jan 2022
3. Member updates