

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2019 from 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Participants

Sean Corson	Morgan Corey	Dave Blazer	Glenn Davis
Marty Gary	Lynn Fegley	Bryan King	Nancy Butowski
Rob O'Reilly	Bob Beal		

Decisional

➤ CBSAC winter meeting report out

- Glenn Davis, CBSAC Chair, shared a brief report out on the March 7 CBSAC winter meeting at PRFC
 - CBSAC discussed the stock assessment update, decision rules and alternative control rules
 - State jurisdictions need more time to evaluate and set goals for what to accomplish with blue crab fishery
 - Will discuss again at May meeting how frequent stock assessment updates should be
 - Winter dredge survey on track so far, expecting initial findings by April
 - CBP asked GITs to assess science/data gaps towards outcomes
 - CBSAC is now reviewing research priorities from 2018 advisory report and developing a list of top few or ranking whole list for importance, ease of accomplishment, and cost
 - Also discussed membership and evaluating CBSAC role going forward with membership in mind – do we want to leave room for other species?
 - We have recently gotten away from analytical role, should CBSAC remain as an advisory committee synthesizing data and science? Or move forward with branching out? And if so, what priorities should CBSAC contribute to?
- Discussion:
- Depending on GIT needs will determine what CBSAC can assist with
 - Shift in membership as many members have moved up in chain of command meaning less time for quantitative work
 - Will require recruiting new members to work hands on with data
 - Previously, CBSAC did work with oysters, river herring CPUE trends; GIT used to be more focused on striped bass
 - Could also look at oyster metapopulation dynamics, blue catfish species interactions
- CBSAC is a good venue to bring together both states partners
- Interest in looking more broadly beyond crabs, but also would require capacity and personnel shifts/additions to move in this direction with more analytics
 - May involve different people with expertise for meetings covering different species

- Consider investment if too far outside federal priorities
- At next Ex Comm meeting we can discuss what CBSAC focus areas would benefit state agencies most

➤ **Oyster management plan**

- Nancy Butowski shared highlights from the draft plan and updated Ex Comm on the timeline for approval
 - Background: in 2017 MD passed bill directing DNR to conduct stock assessment and create management plan for oysters
 - Included MD 5 year management review, 2018 oyster stock assessment, and OysterFutures
 - Covers wide-ranging considerations with 12 sections, 77 actions listed
 - After comment period, received 36 comments (half from organizations, half from individuals) with over 500 suggestions!
 - Final report expected October 2019, but could change based on a few factors, including current legislation session
 - Plan captures a wide array of different options, giving latitude for DNR to balance all interests of sanctuaries, public fishery, aquaculture effectively
- See [Draft Maryland Oyster Management Plan](#) for updates

➤ **Invasive catfish team comments**

- Invasive catfish team has repeatedly mentioned concerns about USDA processing requirements limiting fishery growth for blue catfish
- Discussion:
 - Brought up at PRFC meeting, discussion was whether or not we can proceed with any actions as issue is regulated by US Farm Bill
 - In short-term, Marty plans to gather a meeting with processors and harvesters to bring everyone to the table and seek solutions
 - Marty will also engage with ICTF on long-term solutions
 - Important to characterize economic impact
 - With impact now in place, causing lost economic opportunity, need to quantify and use socioeconomic data to develop a compelling argument

➤ **ASMFC striped bass stock assessment**

- Bob Beal provided a summary of the initial results from striped bass stock assessment and an overview of ASMFC perspective on the issue
 - Final results and stock assessment report expected at April 30 meeting, then board will decide next steps and discuss actions
 - Stock assessment includes data through 2017 terminal year
- Discussion:
- Range of management actions will be considered in short-term fix (addendum) and long-term framework, but not likely to take effect for much of 2019 season
 - How to deal with discard mortality?
 - Declines also driven by environmental conditions affecting recruitment
 - Seasonal options variable among Atlantic coastal states

- Leading up to April management board meeting, if Ex Comm managers have thoughts or comments that may be helpful please share!
- **Chesapeake Bay Program adaptive management and science needs**
 - Sean shared a recap of the recent CBP Strategy Review System (SRS) biennial meeting in Richmond
 - Interesting science needs discussion on Day 2 – our ability to synthesize and clearly communicate priority GIT needs and how needs are linked to CBP is increasingly important in being able to access discretionary funds
 - Emphasis on cross-GIT needs e.g. Fish Habitat assessment project
 - Currently in progress for CBSAC science priorities
 - Marty was also able to attend and appreciated water quality discussions, impressed by coordination among all moving parts CBP brings together
 - When something is a priority, helpful for Management Board to know!
 - CBP made up of willing participants coming from many different organizations and agencies, including those advocating for Bay resources
- **June GIT meeting - additional topics to cover?**
 - Traditionally, June GIT meeting is blue crab focused meeting, including winter dredge survey and 2019 Advisory Report results
 - How can we get the most value from GIT meeting?
 - Discussion:
 - Have we had representative membership attending meetings?
 - Morgan will revisit meeting attendance for past 3 meetings to consider better participation, see if anyone is missing and target topics that would interest them
 - Agenda should also include blue catfish next steps, oyster issues follow-up from December, research updates related to blue crab
 - Appreciated December meeting new oyster research
 - Standing meeting agenda item looking at ongoing research or funded projects from past year
- **Member Updates**
 - Marty questions for Rob on cobia specifications for VA and James River seed production area
 - Dave DNR priority issues already covered – striped bass and oyster mgmt plan
 - Sean additional funding for oyster restoration coming out of VA legislature, will meet to discuss restoration vs activity funds, monitoring VA long-term strategy

Informational

- Upcoming Ex Comm meetings
 - April 22
 - May 20
- ***June 24-25, 2019 GIT meeting tentative dates***