

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes**

October 23, 2017 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/sustainable_fisheries_git_executive_committee_conference_call_and_stur

Participants

Allison Colden	Bob Beal	Bruce Vogt	Jay Lazar	Kara Skipper	Karl Blankenship
Lynn Fegley	Marty Gary	Nancy Butowski	Rob O'Reilly	Sara Coleman	Sean Corson

Presentation

➤ **Adaptive Management: Updating the Oyster Restoration Framework**

- Presentation:
 - Jay Lazar (NOAA) discussed the proposed revisions to the goal setting procedures for restoring oysters in tributaries under the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Oyster Restoration Outcome. For more details, find the presentation [here](#).
- Description:
 - The Oyster Interagency Teams have identified gaps in restoration logic, standards and consistency, and are proposing solutions for how we can best address these inconsistencies.
 - Solutions will target and clarify the processes for:
 - Identifying the goals
 - Developing consistent targets
 - Selecting restoration locations
 - Determining what contributes to the goal

Previous Method	Proposed Method
<p><u>Restoration Acreage Goal Setting</u> Quantify <i>Restorable Bottom</i> to determine the upper limit of what can be restored (referred to as 100%)</p> <p>Restorable bottom is determined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 4’ upper depth limit, • A tributary specific lower depth limit, and • Includes sand and muddy sand seabeds 	<p><u>Restoration Acreage Goal Setting</u> Quantify <i>Currently Restorable Oyster Habitat</i> to determine the upper limit of what can be restored</p> <p>Currently Restorable Oyster Habitat is determined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No upper depth limit, • A tributary specific lower depth limit, and • Includes sand and muddy sand seabeds that have evidence of substantive shell quantity

- Draft numbers are included below:

Numbers are in acres	Little Chop	Harris	Tred Avon	Lafayette	Lynnhaven	Piankatank
Tributary Plan RBA 100% Goal (final in MD only)	685	600	251	146	TBD	924
50% of goal	342.5	300	126	73	TBD	512
Plan target (acreage and %)	440/64%	350/58%	147/58%	80/55%	TBD	TBD
New Method (100%)	717	454	249	120	108	790
Minimum restoration target	358.5	227	125	60	54	395

Lynnhaven River numbers represent a starting point. 108 Acres are the Currently Restorable Oyster Habitat per the geodatabase and does not include any historical evidence based areas that may be included to an updated 100%

- Discussion:
 - We will bring this proposed update to the full GIT at the December meeting and request approval from the team.
 - The goal of 100% can fluctuate as we perform more ground truthing.
- Actions:
 - If you have questions regarding the proposed updates to the Oyster Restoration Framework please email Jay Lazar, jay.lazar@noaa.gov or Kara Skipper, kara.skipper@noaa.gov.

➤ **Catfish Symposium**

- Description:
 - The Invasive Catfish Task Force, which is a workgroup under the Sustainable Fisheries GIT will host a Catfish Symposium at the VCU Rice Rivers Center on November 6-7th.
 - Attendees will discuss the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery. Topics will include population dynamics, movement and habitat use, diet, and harvest. Space is limited.
- Actions:
 - Sara will change the agenda to reflect that Ryan Jiorle will present instead of Joe Cimino.
 - Sara will set up and send out webinar information for remote access.
 - Presentations will be updated on the website after the meeting.

➤ **December Full GIT Meeting**

- Kara reviewed the draft agenda for the December full Fish GIT meeting.
- Description:
 - The first day of the meeting will focus on oysters including status updates of all the selected tributaries, the selection process for the Great Wicomico and Lower York Rivers, and the Oyster Best Management Practice Expert Panel’s findings.
 - The second day of the meeting will include a recap of the biennial review, fish habitat workshop and communication efforts, blue crab ecosystem study, CBSAC update and invasive catfish symposium summary.
- Actions:
 - Kara will continue to update the draft agenda as she talks with the proposed presenters.
 - Kara will send out a request to the Ex Comm for feedback on the draft agenda.

➤ **2018-2019 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Outcome Workplans**

○ Description:

- After conducting an evaluation of the Sustainable Fisheries 2-year workplans this spring and summer, the workgroups and GIT staff are developing new 2-year workplans to guide our actions as a team and to identify priorities.

○ **Action:**

- Kara will send out request to the Ex Comm for workplan priorities and actions feedback.

➤ **Fish GIT and Ex Comm Member Updates**

- Ex Comm members were briefed on the proposed *Bay Barometer* text, Chesapeake Bay Program Menhaden webpage changes, and the fall 2017 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Newsletter.
- VMRC is meeting tomorrow and will discuss recreation permits for striped bass trophy season, tilefish and cobia. Complementary management for cobia rests with ASMFC.

Informational

➤ **Confirm upcoming Ex Comm meeting dates**

Monday, November 20, 1pm-3pm – Conference Call

Monday-Tuesday, December 18-19 – Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting

Monday, January 29, 1pm-3pm – Conference Call