

**Minutes  
MD Coastal Bays  
Science and Technical Advisory Committee  
June 25, 2014  
Horn Point Environmental Laboratory  
Main Administration Building  
Cambridge, Maryland**

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8:45 – 9:00

Knocsh and Kabitz time (aka chat, chew, drink),

9:00 - 9:05

Bill Dennison (UMCES-IAN) – Welcome and Introductions

Before the featured presentations, Mitch Tarnowski of DNR Shellfish Division updated the group on the recent shellfish survey of the coastal bays.

260 samples were taken throughout the coastal bays. Hard clam numbers seem stable except for in the upper sinespuxent where they have increased by 30%, which approaches historic numbers.

3 scallops were found. The remaining subtidal reef in Chincoteague Bay shows very little recruitment. Some of this is attributed to boring sponges and unsuitable substrate for larval settlement.

9:05 - 9:20 Dave Wilson (MCBP) – MD Herp Atlas

<http://mdcoastalbays.org/content/docs/Herp%20Atlas%20v2.pdf>

This is the fifth and final year that herpetologists, professional and amateur, have to submit records of species found in Maryland for the forthcoming book which will outline the current state of herpetofauna in Maryland. It was suggested we use this information for the terrestrial monitoring plan

9:20 –9:55 Ron Gutberlet (Salisbury University) – MD Breeding Bird Atlas

<http://mdcoastalbays.org/content/docs/ForestBirds-MDCoastalBays-STAC-25June2014.pdf>

Comparison between data sets collected from 1979-83 and data currently being collected shows a trend of declining avian biodiversity. The positive part of the story is that there are mature forests, which have aged since the 1979-83 study which show an increase in biodiversity, suggesting that if you preserve it, they may come.

It was suggested that we use this information in our terrestrial monitoring.

9:55 – 10:20 Dana Price (Salisbury University) – The Search For Living Jewels: Scarabs

<http://mdcoastalbays.org/content/docs/Coastal%20Bays%20STAC%20Summer%202014.pdf>

A bioinventory of scarab species in all 23 counties in Maryland is underway. These beetles are economically and ecologically important, and they can be a indicator of biodiversity and ecosystem health. A species accumulation curve shows that we may have all of the species on Assateague.

10:30 – 10:45 Roman Jesien (MCBP) – Coastal Bays Restoration Updates

The Bishopville Dam removal is soon to be underway. Work will begin in August or September. The preconstruction meeting took place on June 27<sup>th</sup> with representatives present from most of the stakeholder groups. There is a 5 year monitoring plan for fish passage above and below the dam. Flow and depth of flow, and wetland vegetation survivability will be monitored for 5 years. Check in with the MD Coastal Bays Facebook for updates.

10:45 – 11:00 Carol Cain (MCBP) – Results of Public Input on CCMP

<http://mdcoastalbays.org/content/docs/CCMP%20Public%20Survey.pdf>

The updated CCMP is being prepared for print. The public survey with 35 questions received 40 personal responses and 80 online responses. It seems that in general the community tends to agree with us, though there some aspects of MCBP work that the public doesn't seem to understand the need for, or why MCBP is involved with certain kinds of projects.

11:00 – 11:30 Cathy Wazniak (DNR) – 2013 SAV Update

The bays saw a 10% overall decline in SAV in 2013. Numbers were not available for the Virginia portion of Chincoteague Bay. In trying to figure out causes for the decrease it was suggested that the ammonium levels are high enough to kill off eelgrass regardless of precipitation and heat factors not being particularly terrible for eelgrass over the last year. Members of the STAC agreed that their fieldwork led them to agree with the VIMS report.

11:30 – 12:00 Carol McCullough (DNR) - State of the Bays Update

The ecosystem health assessment still needs a few authors and reviewers to get the report together by September.

12:00 - Lunch with discussion of Report Card Format