

New York Shellfish Restoration Council

Meeting Notes | 1.17.2023

Action Items

- Steering Committee and Workgroup members will address any outstanding questions or comments and incorporate feedback on both the NYS Shellfish Restoration Plan's proposed *Collective Agenda* and the 4 workgroups' plan outlines
- Facilitators send attendees the Jan 17, 2023 SRC meeting's:
 - PowerPoint: [LINK](#)
 - Notes: (*this document*)
- Shellfish Restoration Council will decide whether their June 2023 meeting will be all virtual or a hybrid of virtual and in-person

Meeting Notes

- Recap of June 2022 Shellfish Restoration Council (SRC) meeting (see [PPT slide #3](#)):
 - Collected feedback on what the NYS Shellfish Restoration Plan (NYS SRP) should address and how the Plan should be developed
 - Introduced and discussed the 4 topic-specific workgroups' charge (*Regulatory, Pre-Construction, Post-Construction, and Shellfisheries*)
- New SRC members (see [PPT slide #4](#))
 - Willy Caldwell, Southampton Baymen's Association
 - Derek Schleede, Ocean Rich Distributors
- Recap of the NYS SRP Development Progress to date
 - Recap of work from 2017 to 2023 (see [PPT slide #7](#))
 - Introduction of SRC co-chairs and NYS SRP Facilitation Team who helping lead the NYS SRP's development process (see [PPT slide #8](#))
 - The 3 committees (*Steering, Mapping, and Communications*) and the 4 topic-specific workgroups (*Regulatory, Pre-Construction, Post-Construction, and Shellfisheries*) meet monthly to collaborate on drafting the NYS SRP
- Recap of the Fall 2022 Visioning Series for the development of the NYS SRP (see [PPT slide #9](#))
 - Visioning series included 3 individual sessions in Oct and Nov 2022 where the Steering Committee, topic-specific workgroup members, and committee members convened to develop the 'Collective Agenda' for the development of the NYS SRP
 - The result of the Fall 2022 Visioning Series was the creation of the NYS SRP's Collective Agenda (see [PPT slides #11-12](#))
- Review the 4 topic-specific workgroups' outlines (see [PPT slides #14-18](#))
 - **Regulatory Workgroup** (see [PPT slide #15](#))
 - Co-chaired by Wade Carden (DEC) and Barley Dunne (East Hampton Shellfish Hatchery)
 - The Regulatory workgroup is focused on the Regulations, Permitting, and Enforcement needs for shellfish restoration in NYS marine waters
 - One of the first tasks of the workgroup was to conduct a survey of Long Island towns to better understand their shellfish restoration permitting and regulatory needs and challenges
 - Compile recommendations on how to clarify and streamline the permitting process
 - Develop a "How to" guide on permitting and stress the long term sustainability of shellfish restoration projects is central, and how projects help with water quality issues

- In the work group's work on enforcement, we would like to compile all enforcement agencies and contact information, compile challenges around enforcement and identify funding opportunities that build enforcement capacities
- **Pre-Construction Workgroup** (see [PPT slide #16](#))
 - Co-chaired by Danielle Bissett (BOP) and Gregg Rivara (CCE)
 - Pre-Construction covers all the work that occurs before equipment and shellfish "hit the water" for a project
 - Project Design includes baseline data collections, site investigations, and design feasibility to ensure projects are realistic and successful.
 - Recommendations on how to improve Pre-Construction work: improving permitting process, increase state funding opportunities, and ensure the alignment of project's design and monitoring
 - The Shell Recycling section covers the benefits and challenges of shell availability and collection processes, covers shell curing and storage, and recommendations on how to address the challenges and increase shell recycling efforts throughout the state.
- **Post-Construction Workgroup** (see [PPT slide #17](#))
 - Co-chaired by Allison Fitzgerald (NJCU and NY/NJ Baykeeper), Brad Peterson (SBU), and Mike Doall (SBU)
 - Post-Construction covers all the work after equipment and shellfish "hit the water". It is crucial that the Post-Construction work reflects the Pre-Construction work, because the monitoring is based on "why you put the project in the water"
 - Post-construction workgroup is considering how NYS marine regions affect a project's established targets/goals, considering how funding impacts a project's established targets/goals
- **Shellfisheries Workgroup** (see [PPT slide #18](#))
 - Co-chaired by Karen Rivara (Aeros Cultured Oyster Co.) and Mike Doall (SBU)
 - Description of the NYS shellfish 2 main industries and their histories: Aquaculture and Wild Harvest
 - Description of interactions between shellfish industry and restoration, both positive and negative interactions
 - Provide a list of ecosystem services that Aquaculture provides as it aligns with similar services that restoration provides
 - Identify Industry-recommended principles for restoration practitioners and specific recommendations of what is needed to support the strategic expansion of restorative shellfish aquaculture.
- In March 2021 the SRC confirmed that the first iteration of the NYS SRP will focus on hard clams and oysters, which will allow the next iteration of the NYS SRP to focus on other shellfish species (like bay scallops, ribbed mussels, etc.)
- Kevin Madley, NOAA Fisheries: Aligning the development of the NYS SRP with NOAA's National Shellfish Initiative (see [PPT slides #21-22](#))
 - NOAA's Initiative supports states interested in increasing shellfish populations through commercial production and restoration activities
 - Nine other states aligned with NOAA's Initiative (see list [HERE](#))
 - If NY agrees or does not agree to align with NOAA's Initiative, it will not inhibit access to federal funding, nor allow other entities (inc. states) to access funding or natural resources that would have an effect on NYS natural resources
 - States can learn from other states within NOAA's Initiative (like a community of practice)
 - TNC received \$ from NOAA's restoration center, which required monitoring, which was great
 - Question to Kevin: is there anything you've seen in the NYS SRP development process that does not align with NOAA's Initiative?
 - Kevin sits on the NYS SRP Shellfisheries workgroup and another NOAA colleague sits on the Regulatory workgroup

- Kevin: no requirement at the NOAA level and at this point Kevin does not see a misalignment between the NYS SRP and NOAA's Initiative
- **No opposition from SRC members to aligning the NYS SRP with NOAA's Shellfish Initiative**
- Review the Timeline and next steps for the NYS SRP (see [PPT slide #24](#))
 - Next SRC meeting: June 2023, with a possibility of hybrid in-person and virtual format
- For more information about the SRC, visit the DEC's [Shellfish Restoration Council webpage](#) for updates and details about future meetings. progress updates, etc.