

Break out Group - Legislative Ideas

- First question to ask is 'are you allowed to be involved?' as state agencies sometimes have issues working in the legislative arena
- Maryland is progressive in this aspect – can look at them for examples
- Smaller dead end creeks should be off limits – one person's benefit at the expense of the resource
- Distance from shore could be used as a threshold
 - Access to public trust waters is a concern regarding legislation on this
 - Some crabbers already stay away from terrapin hot spots near shore
 - Could try starting with state lands or refuges, but still have public trust waters
 - Would need to know what the best distance is that should be used in legislation
 - Will need to define 'shoreline' if making distance from shore a threshold
- Encourage public input on the NC report
- Need more interaction with commercial fishermen
 - Have to look through their perspective
 - Form a relationship
 - Involve them in programs (ex. VIMS clean-up)
 - Working group could work together with fishermen association in a non-governmental process
 - Talk with other groups (such as tourism) that have worked with waterman's association in the past
- Should have recommendations collected for various states to move forward as appropriate
 - Mid Atlantic used this process by writing a position paper – can use as basis
 - There is a start specific to NC at this point (LeighAnn and Jeff)
 - Mid Atlantic used a wiki with access to make comments, but committee members had the final say on changes
 - Could also have specialist for each topic assigned by the committee
 - Need to decide as a group what our message is so that it's the same message when different organizations are talking
- Regional management will be difficult with the fishery – even making one rule for the whole state could be difficult
- There are rules/regs on the books now that could be looked at to incorporate terrapin concerns
- Need to establish relationships with legislature and know what our laws are so we know what is realistic
- Different authorities have regulation abilities – need to consider
- Bulkheads are upcoming issue

Action Items:

1. SE Regional Diamondback Terrapin Working Group Position Paper
 - a. LeighAnn to get Mid Atlantic position paper and make edits as appropriate for SE
 - b. Gather edits from the working group
 - c. Work with PARC, Policy and Trace
 - d. Work within the upcoming opportunity in NC to be involved now (4-6 months)
2. Identify agencies to create a working relationship with
3. Gather crab trap removal information from NC to provide to SC and GA in effort to possibly start the same program in other states