

**DRAFT**

**SCIENCE & TECHNICAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE  
**INLAND BAYS**  
Research. Educate. Restore.

**DATE & TIME:** *December 1, 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. to noon.*

**LOCATION:** *DNREC Lewes Field Facility, end of Pilottown Road, Lewes*

*Meeting called by: Scott Andres, Chair*

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**MEETING AGENDA**

Call to order, STAC announcements ..... *Scott Andres*

CIB announcements ..... *Marianne Walch*

Developing Evidence-Based Educational Programs to Improve  
Homeowner Behavior to Protect the Inland Bays ..... *Kent Messer, Univ. of DE*

Environmental problems are generally problems with human behavior. Therefore, solutions will inevitably involve changes to human behavior. This presentation highlights recent research at UD that illustrates how experimental design and behavioral economics can be used to develop an evidence-base to guide effective educational programs to improve water quality in the Inland Bays.

Hydroacoustic Survey of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in the  
Delaware Estuary ..... *Kristin Regan and Kelly Somers, U.S. EPA*

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is an essential habitat for fish and other wildlife. It provides spawning, nursery, and protective habitat to ecologically important species. SAV is known to remove nutrients from the water column and increase dissolved oxygen concentrations. It also provides sediment stability and wave attenuation, aiding in both decreased erosion and turbidity. Despite these ecologically important attributes, the extent of SAV in the Delaware Estuary has not been quantified. In the summer of 2017, researchers from EPA began a multi-year survey to observe and quantify SAV in the Delaware Estuary. Hydroacoustic monitoring was used to determine the presence and extent of SAV in the system, species composition, density, and how these factors relate to water quality and sediment characteristics. Preliminary results will be discussed as well as the next steps for this survey.

**New Business**

STAC Leadership  
STAC Membership Updates  
CCMP/Monitoring Subcommittee Formation

**Adjourn**

*Next Meeting: March 2018 (Date TBD)*