

AGENDA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
APRIL 21, 2026

**** APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

- 1. MINUTES** of previous meeting.
- 2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.**
- 3. CLOSED MEETING FOR CONSULTATION WITH, OR BRIEFING BY, COUNSEL.**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

5. PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Petitioner Ms. Tanya O'Connor requests the following:

1. Grant this petition by adopting a temporary moratorium on purse-seine reduction fishing for menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay and initiating rulemaking to amend 4VAC 20-1270-35. 2. Maintain the moratorium until VMRC has affirmatively demonstrated, on the administrative record, compliance with all applicable statutory and public trust obligations.

6. DISCUSSION

Waterway Maintenance Fund Applications.

- 7. PERMITS** (Projects over \$1,000,000 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval).

8. ROBBINS MARITIME, INC., VMRC #2025-1590,

requests authorization to construct and backfill 66 linear feet of steel bulkhead a maximum of 10 feet channelward of the existing structure, and to install 13 mooring dolphins adjacent to 914 Pearl Street, situated along the Elizabeth River in the City of Norfolk.

9. JAMES MISHLER, VMRC #2025-2275,

requests authorization to construct a 17-foot by 36-foot open-sided boathouse onto an existing statutorily authorized private pier situated along College Creek at 110A Archers Hope Drive in James City County. This project is protested by an adjacent property owner.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed amendments to Chapter 4 VAC 20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass" to establish the recreational management measures for black sea bass, including a minimum size limit of no less than 12.5 inches, and amend the annual commercial quota determination.

AGENDA

11. License Status Request

AGENDA

PAGE 2 ITEMS

2A. SKANSKA USA, VMRC #2025-2462,

requests authorization to install and backfill a 228 linear-foot steel bulkhead, a maximum of two feet channelward of the existing structure, replace five (5) existing mooring dolphins, and to mechanically dredge up to 84 cubic yards of state-owned submerged lands to maximum depths of minus seven (-7) feet mean low water from the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River adjacent to their commercial facility at 123 Sampson Creek Road in the city of Chesapeake. Dredged material will be offloaded on-site and transported via truck to the Dominion Recycling Center. Staff recommends approval including a royalty of \$2,280.00 for the fill of 456 square feet of state-owned submerged lands at a rate of \$5.00 / square foot, \$50.40 for the dredging of 84 cubic yards of submerged material at a rate of \$0.60 / cubic yard, and \$69,862.00 for the encroachment of 34,931 square feet of state-owned submerged lands at a rate of \$2.00 / square foot. This project requires a Subaqueous permit.

2B. UPPER BRANDON FARM, LLC, #2025-1537,

requests authorization to construct an 8-foot wide by 307-foot long multi-user, open-pile pier; and to construct 610 linear feet of living shoreline consisting of three 25-foot wide riprap breakwaters (totaling 530 linear feet), a 215-foot long backshore riprap revetment, sand nourishment and wetlands plantings, and channelward extensions of an existing 15-inch pond overflow pipe and an 8-inch dry hydrant intake pipe - adjacent to 1802 Upper Brandon Road, situated along the James River in Prince George County. This project requires a Tidal Wetlands permit.

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

March 31, 2026

The meeting of the Marine Resources Commission was held at the Marine Resources Commission main office at 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, Virginia with the following present:

Joseph Grist	Acting Commissioner
Patrick Hand	
Lynn Kellum	
A.J. Erskine	
William Bransom	
Jeremy Headley	Associate Members
Jeanette Edwards	
Thomas Preston	
Preston White	
Kelci Block	Assistant Attorney General
Jamie Hogge	Recording Secretary
Gerald Pitt	1 st . Sgt., Marine Police
Randy Owen	Chief, Habitat Management
Justin Worrell	Deputy Chief, Habitat Management
Mike Johnson	Engineer, Habitat Management
Brad Reams	Engineer, Habitat Management
Ethan Simpson	Biological Survey Programs Manager
Shikra Goffe	Fisheries Management
Alexa Galvan	Fisheries Management
Adam Kenyon	Chief, Shellfish Management
Andrew Button	Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS):

Lyle Varnell

Megan Lafeyre

Dave Rudders

Others present:

Sharon Neal	Payton Eastwood	Bob Mandigo
Ben Johnson	Kyle Ashley	Matt Rembold
Charles Duke	David O'Brien	and others.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA. – Acting Commissioner Joseph Grist asked if there were any changes from the Board members or staff.

Randy Owen, Chief, Habitat Management, requested that Agenda Items #6 and #7, be removed from the agenda. Mr. Owen’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Adam Kenyon, Chief, Shellfish Management, requested that Agenda Item #15 be removed from the agenda. Mr. Kenyon’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Associate Member Bransom moved to approve the agenda as modified. Associate Member Headley seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

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MINUTES: Acting Commissioner Grist asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the February 24, 2026, Commission Meeting minutes.

Associate Member Headley moved to approve the minutes as presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0-1 Associate Member Erskine abstained.

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Acting Commissioner Grist swore in the VMRC staff and VIMS staff that would be speaking or presenting testimony during the meeting.

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2. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: There were no Consent Agenda Items presented.**

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3. **CLOSED MEETING FOR CONSULTATION WITH, OR BRIEFING BY, COUNSEL. – No meeting needed**

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4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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5. **PERMITS (Projects over \$500,000.00 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval).**

Justin Worrell, Deputy Chief, Habitat Management, reviewed the Page 2 items 2A and 2B for the Associate Members. Mr. Worrell’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

2A **VIRGINIA AMERICAN WATER, VMRC #23-0449**, requests authorization to install a new (primary) 40 million gallon per day (MGD) water withdrawal intake structure located at their existing surface water withdrawal facility downstream of the Rt 10 Bridge on the south bank of the Appomattox River, at 915 Riverside Drive in the City of Hopewell, to provide a reliable public water supply for the City of Hopewell projected for the next 50 years. Staff recommends approval of the project with the following special permit conditions and royalties:

- Time of year restriction for pile driving activities from February 15 through June 30 to protect spawning anadromous fish.
- All instream construction activities to be located within turbidity curtains.
- Steel pile installation will require the use of bubble curtains, cushion blocks, and ramp-up procedures to protect native fish populations.

- Royalty assessment of \$1,995.00 for the encroachment of pipelines over 665 linear feet of state-owned subaqueous bottom at a rate of \$3.00 per linear foot, an encroachment royalty \$600.00 for the intake structures installed over 300 square feet state-owned subaqueous bottom at the industrial rate of \$2.00 per square foot, and a dredging royalty of \$1,466.40 for the removal of 2,444 cubic yards of state-owned subaqueous bottom material at a rate of \$0.60 per cubic yard. Total royalty assessment equaling \$4,061.40.
- Permittee agrees to remove the previously existing water intake structures immediately after the new intake is operational.

2B CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VMRC #25-2288, requests authorization to mechanically dredge up to 4,057 cubic yards of state-owned submerged lands to maintain depths of minus -9 feet mean low water in the Leeward Marina Boat Channel connecting to the James River, with dredged material disposal by barge at the Craney Island DMMA facility. This project requires a VMRC Subaqueous permit.

No one spoke in support or opposition of the projects.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Erskine moved to approve the Page 2 items 2A and 2B as presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

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Removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting

6. CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VMRC #25-1823, requests authorization for a one-time exemption to the existing special permit condition requiring a time of year restriction to preclude the maintenance dredging of Crab Creek between March 1st - September 30th of any year to minimize adverse impacts on juvenile flounder - adjacent to the City’s Lynnhaven Municipal Boat Ramp facility.

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Removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting

7. **JAMES MISHLER, VMRC #25-2275**, requests authorization to construct a 17-foot by 36-foot open-sided boathouse onto an existing statutorily authorized private pier situated along College Creek at 110A Archers Hope Drive in James City County. This project is protested by an adjacent property owner.

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8. **DOCKSIDE CONDO OWNERS ASSOCIATION, NOTICE TO COMPLY #25-05, VMRC #24-1044**, Commission consideration of the Dockside Condo Owners Association and their contractor Mr. Charles Duke, II of Waterfront Development Corporation, for failure to comply with the Commission's September 5, 2025, directive to remove unauthorized boat slips, finger piers, mooring piles, floating docks, kayak launch, decking, and float-on boat lifts constructed in excess of VMRC Permit #24-1044 authorization, adjacent to property (Parcel #051/R1/9/A) situated along Sarah Creek at the terminus of Sunset Drive in Gloucester County.

Mike Johnson, Environmental Engineer, Habitat Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Mr. Johnson's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Payton Eastwood, applicant for the Homeowners Association, was sworn in and spoke. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mr. Eastwood agreed to the fines associated with the violation. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Charles Duke, owner and operator of Waterfront Development Company, was sworn in and spoke. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mr. Duke does not agree with the civil penalty set by staff. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Hand made a motion to order the removal of the unpermitted structures within 30 days and assessed a civil charge to the permittee of \$5,000. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0. Associate Member White abstained.

Associate Member Bransom made a motion to refer the agent/contractor to the Office of the Attorney General for further enforcement action for failing to agree to a civil charge of \$10,000 and to also refer the agent/contractor to the Virginia Department of Professional Occupational Regulation for construction activities without the necessary environmental permits. Associate Member Hand seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

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- 9. CHESTERFIELD COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT, VMRC #25-2436,** requests authorization to temporarily install three (3), 3-inch by 300-foot long HDPE water withdrawal pipes including an 8-foot by 8-foot submerged intake structure, four (4), 10-inch hollow steel piles, and one floating warning buoy, situated along the Appomattox River adjacent to the Point of Rocks Water Treatment Plant temporary testing facility at 1203 Point of Rocks Road in Chesterfield County. This project is protested.

Brad Reams, Environmental Engineer, Habitat Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Mr. Ream's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Matt Rembold, agent for the applicant, was sworn in and spoke on behalf of the application. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Kyle Ashley was sworn in and spoke in opposition to the application. His comments are a part of the verbatim record. His comments are a part of verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member White moved to approve the project as presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

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10. DISCUSSION

Discussion on the modification of the 2026 Oyster Replenishment and Restoration Plan (ORP).

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Mr. Button's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Before Mr. Button began, Associate Member Kellum recused herself from the discussion. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Ben Johnson, speaking as a waterman and on behalf of the Shellfish Management Advisory Committee (SMAC), was sworn in and spoke. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Headley moved to approve the update to the 2026 Oyster Replenishment Plan including acquiring a shellfish pathology report for any seed being transported from the Jail Island Area. Associate Member Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0-1. Associate. Associated Member Kellum recused herself. Associated Member Erskine abstained.

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11. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-280, "Pertaining to Speckled Trout", to establish a closed season for the recreational harvest of speckled trout in 2026, to protect the spawning stock following the 2026 cold stun mortality event

Ethan Simpson, Biological Survey Programs Manager, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Mr. Simpson's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Bob Mandigo, representing Virginia Sports fisherman association, was sworn in and spoke in support of the closure. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Chris Malgee, charter boat captain, was sworn in and spoke in support of the closure.

His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Bransom moved to approve the amended regulation to establish a closed period of recreational fishing for speckled trout from April 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026 to protect the spawning stock following two consecutive years of increased cold-stun related mortality as presented. Associate Member Kellum seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

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12. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposed amendments to Chapter 4 VAC 20-450-10 et seq., "Pertaining to the Taking of Bluefish" to increase the private and for-hire recreational bag limits.

Shikra Goffe, Fisheries Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Ms. Goffe's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Hand moved to approve the amended regulation to set the recreational possession limits at five fish for private/shore anglers and five fish for for-hire anglers as presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0. Associate Member Kellum was not present during the vote.

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13. **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass," to establish the 2026 recreational management measures for this species.

Alexa Galvan, Fisheries Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Ms. Galvan's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Bransom moved to approve to advertise for an April public hearing to amend Chapter 4VAC 20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass", with both staff options for the regular black sea bass season as presented. Associate Member Hand seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0. Associate Member Kellum was not present during the vote.

Associate Member Headley moved to advertise a closure of ten days in May-June for the February recreational black sea bass season payback as presented. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0. Associate Member Kellum was not present during the vote.

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14. EMERGENCY REGULATION

Proposed Emergency amendments to Chapter 4 VAC 20-720, "Pertaining to Restrictions on Oyster Harvest".

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides for the Associate Members. Mr. Button's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Headley moved to declare that an emergency exists. Associate Member Preston seconded the motion. The motion carried, 4-3. Associate Members Erskine, Bransom and White voted no. Associate Member Kellum was not present for the vote.

Associate Member Headley made a motion to extend the Oyster Harvest Season in the Rappahannock Area 9 by 10 working days. The closure for this area will be April 14, 2026. Associate Member Preston seconded the motion. The motion carried, 4-3. Associate Members Erskine, Bransom and White voted no. Associate Member Kellum was not present for the vote.

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Removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting

15. LICENSE STATUS REQUEST.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.
The next Commission meeting will be on **Tuesday**, April 21, 2026.

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Joseph Grist, Acting Commissioner

Jamie Hogge, Recording Secretary

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-4007

Before the Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishing.

Tonya O’Conner, Petitioner

This petition was filed on 12/31/2026 and published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on 1/26/2026. The Comment Period began 1/26/2026 and ended 2/17/2026. During which time 1266 comments were received onto the Virginia Regulatory Townhall website.

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VIRGINIA
REGULATORY TOWN HALL



Secretariat

Natural and Historic Resources

Agency

Marine Resources Commission

Board

Marine Resources Commission

Edit Petition

Petition 449

Petition Information

Petition Title	Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishing
Date Filed	12/31/2025 [Transmittal Sheet]
Petitioner	Tanya O'Connor
Petitioner's Request	1. Grant this petition by adopting a temporary moratorium on purse-seine reduction fishing for menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay and initiating rulemaking to amend 4VAC 20-1270-35. 2. Maintain the moratorium until VMRC has affirmatively demonstrated, on the administrative record, compliance with all applicable statutory and public trust obligations, including that it has: a. Determined Bay-specific menhaden abundance and Bay-specific ecological dependence, including the needs of predator species, juvenile life stages, and dependent fisheries within the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with Va. Code §§ 28.2-204.1 and 28.2-203(2); b. Demonstrated, on the administrative record, compliance with the mandatory requirements of Va. Code § 28.2-204.1 by evaluating—before authorizing industrial menhaden removal—the impacts on species and fisheries, age structure, and the abundance of the resource; c. Demonstrated compliance with all fishery management standards set forth in Va. Code § 28.2-203, including: i. Prevention of overfishing while achieving optimum yield (§ 28.2-203(1)); ii. Reliance on the best scientific, economic, biological, and sociological information available (§ 28.2-203(2)); iii. Management of individual and interrelated stocks as a unit, including forage-dependent predator species (§ 28.2-203(3)); iv. Fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory management measures that do not grant excessive fishing privileges (§ 28.2-203(4)); v. Promotion of efficient utilization of fishery resources without economic allocation as the sole purpose (§ 28.2-203(5)); vi. Consideration of variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches (§ 28.2-203(6)); and

	vii. Minimization of unnecessary regulatory burdens while still achieving conservation objectives (§ 28.2-203(7)); d. Demonstrated compliance with Va. Code § 28.2-204 by obtaining or commissioning necessary fisheries data and implementing independent monitoring, verification, and enforcement mechanisms sufficient to ensure compliance with any future authorization of industrial menhaden removals, including verification of landings, bycatch, juvenile impacts, and cumulative removals across fisheries; and e. Demonstrated satisfaction of interstate conservation responsibilities, including documented evaluation of cross-jurisdictional ecological and economic impacts within the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with Virginia's obligations under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact (Va. Code § 28.2-1000 through 28.2-1000.2). The petitioner does not request a specific numerical quota and requests that no industrial reduction fishing resume until these conditions are satisfied. Review the full petition here: https://mrc.virginia.gov/Notices/2026/Menhaden-Moratorium-Petition.pdf
Agency's Plan	The Virginia Marine Resources Commission is submitting notice of the petition for publication in the Virginia Register of Regulations and announcing a public comment period. Following receipt of comments on the petition, the Commission will review the petition, and hear the petition in a public forum on April 21, 2026. Updates on the meeting will be posted on the www.mrc.virginia.gov website under Agency Meetings.
Comment Period	Began 1/26/2026 Ended 2/17/2026 1266 comments
Virginia Register Announcement	Submitted on 12/31/2025 <u>The Virginia Register of Regulations</u> Published on: 1/26/2026 Volume: 42 Issue: 12
Agency Decision	Pending

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This petition was created by Joseph Grist on 12/31/2025 at 9:22am
This petition was last modified by Joseph Grist on 12/31/2025 at 9:23am

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-4007
Before the Virginia Marine Resources Commission

I. PETITIONER

Name: Tanya O'Connor

Status: Virginia resident

Interest: The petitioner uses and enjoys the Chesapeake Bay for recreational and environmental purposes and is directly affected by regulatory decisions governing the management of its living marine resources held in trust by the Commonwealth.

II. AUTHORITY FOR PETITION

This petition is submitted pursuant to:

- Virginia Administrative Process Act, Va. Code § 2.2-4007, authorizing any person to petition an agency to adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation and requiring the agency to issue a written decision stating its reasons;
- Virginia Constitution, Article I, § 12 (right to petition the government); and
- Va. Code § 28.2-201, granting the Virginia Marine Resources Commission ("VMRC") authority to regulate fisheries in tidal waters.

VMRC is the agency responsible for the regulation identified below.

III. REGULATION AT ISSUE

4 VAC 20-1270-35 — Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Cap

This regulation authorizes purse-seine reduction fishing for Atlantic menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay.

IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. VMRC currently authorizes industrial removal of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay under 4 VAC 20-1270-35.

2. At the time VMRC approved continued industrial menhaden removal under 4 VAC 20-1270-35, it did not have—and still does not have—a Bay-wide estimate of menhaden biomass, age structure, spatial distribution, recruitment trends, or localized depletion risk.
 3. VMRC has not conducted a Bay-specific analysis of the consumption needs, prey thresholds, or reproductive-season energy requirements of forage-dependent species, including osprey, striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, red drum, and marine mammals.
 4. These Bay-specific abundance and ecological-dependence data are necessary to evaluate the effects of industrial forage removal in the Chesapeake Bay and are required prior to authorizing such removal to fulfill VMRC's public trust and statutory management obligations.
 5. VMRC did not evaluate or document the economic impacts of industrial menhaden removal on the Chesapeake Bay bait fishery or on Bay-dependent economic activities, including sportfishing, bird watching, and crabbing, when approving reduction fishing under 4 VAC 20-1270-35.
 6. The Chesapeake Bay functions as a primary nursery for Atlantic menhaden, and effective management must ensure menhaden are not removed before reaching reproductive maturity and that older age classes are maintained to support recruitment stability and ecosystem function. VMRC's current authorization framework contains no measures designed to ensure such protection.
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V. GROUNDS FOR PETITION

A. Public Trust Obligations Governing Chesapeake Bay Resource Management

A1. Public trust obligations require prudent decision-making

Under Virginia common law, marine fisheries resources in tidal waters are held by the Commonwealth in trust for the public. See *Commonwealth v. City of Newport News*, 158 Va. 521, 164 S.E. 689 (1932); *Taylor v. Commonwealth*, 102 Va. 759, 47 S.E. 875 (1904); *Bradford v. Nature Conservancy*, 224 Va. 181, 294 S.E.2d 866 (1982).

This body of law—commonly referred to as the public trust doctrine—means that marine fisheries resources are not held for private exploitation, but are managed by the Commonwealth for the benefit of the public as a whole. Under this doctrine, the Commonwealth has an ongoing obligation to protect public marine resources from unreasonable impairment and to manage their use in a manner consistent with long-term public benefit.

Because the General Assembly has delegated regulatory authority over marine fisheries resources to VMRC, VMRC exercises that authority as the Commonwealth's designated decision-maker for purposes of managing public trust resources. VMRC's regulatory decisions

must therefore be consistent with the Commonwealth's public trust obligations when authorizing industrial use of those resources.

Authorizing industrial removal of a forage species from a nursery estuary without knowing population size or ecosystem reliance raises serious public trust concerns because it risks impairment of a public resource without sufficient information to evaluate those impacts.

A2. Public trust obligations require independent oversight

The public trust obligation requires that the Commonwealth retain independent oversight over industrial use of public marine resources, sufficient to ensure that such use remains within authorized limits and does not impair trust resources. Management frameworks that depend on information supplied exclusively by the regulated entity are inconsistent with that obligation because they do not provide the independent confirmation necessary for meaningful public trust oversight.

A3. Public trust obligations extend to protection of habitat function

Virginia law treats the Chesapeake Bay's submerged lands, tidal waters, and the habitat they support as public trust property. See Va. Code § 28.2-1200 *et seq.*; Va. Code § 28.2-201. Public trust obligations therefore extend beyond regulating harvest levels to protecting the functional integrity of public trust resources.

Menhaden function as a keystone forage species in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Industrial-scale removal of menhaden from Bay waters affects trophic structure and energy availability within nursery habitats associated with submerged lands. These impacts implicate habitat function, not merely fish harvest.

Authorizing industrial menhaden removal without accounting for effects on nursery function and submerged-land-associated habitats raises public trust concerns independent of stock-status determinations. Even where a species is designated "not overfished," VMRC's authority to manage fisheries does not extend to authorizing uses of public trust property that impair the habitat functions those resources support.

B. Interstate Considerations Reinforce the Need for Caution

Virginia is a member of the interstate compact establishing the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, codified at Va. Code §§ 28.2-1000 through 28.2-1000.2, and is obligated to cooperate in the conservation and management of shared migratory fishery resources. The Chesapeake Bay is the primary nursery area for Atlantic menhaden. Authorization of potentially localized depletion without adequate information risks undermining coast-wide management objectives, interstate conservation responsibilities, and the viability of dependent fisheries.

The Chesapeake Bay is a highly interconnected ecosystem in which ecological impacts in one jurisdiction directly affect species, habitats, fisheries, and Bay-dependent economic activities

throughout the system, including the menhaden bait fishery, as well as forage-dependent species such as striped bass and osprey, which rely on a stable and sustainable menhaden population.

In authorizing industrial menhaden removal within the Chesapeake Bay, VMRC has not evaluated the ecological or economic impacts of that activity on Maryland waters or on Bay-dependent fisheries and economic activities beyond Virginia. Because the Chesapeake Bay is jointly managed by Virginia and Maryland, interstate conservation responsibilities require that VMRC evaluate cross-jurisdictional ecosystem and economic impacts before authorizing industrial menhaden removal, reinforcing the need for precautionary management.

C. VMRC Has Authority to Obtain and Verify Fisheries Information, but Has Not Obtained Bay-Specific Data

Va. Code § 28.2-204 authorizes VMRC to collect fisheries statistics and require reporting necessary for fisheries management. That authority includes initiating, funding, or contracting for studies (i.e., commissioning) to obtain needed data; agencies are not limited to passively receiving information, and commissioning studies is a routine and legally accepted means of “collecting” fisheries data. Despite this authority, VMRC has not obtained or commissioned Bay-specific abundance or ecological-dependence information and continues to authorize industrial menhaden removals. Maintaining a regulation while declining to obtain readily identifiable and legally obtainable information leaves the regulatory record unable to demonstrate that continued authorization of the activity is lawful or justified.

In addition, when exercised in conjunction with VMRC’s public trust obligations, this statutory authority necessarily includes verification of reported data sufficient to ensure accuracy, compliance, and protection of public trust resources. VMRC relies almost entirely on landing information generated by the regulated industrial entity itself. Reliance on industry self-reported data, without independent verification, renders VMRC unable to confirm accuracy, evaluate compliance, or demonstrate fulfillment of its public trust and statutory duties.

VMRC also does not exercise independent oversight to verify compliance with key operational features of the industrial menhaden fishery, including bycatch. Although bycatch is reported as approximately one percent of the overall fishery, VMRC does not independently monitor, verify, or audit bycatch levels within the Chesapeake Bay. The issue is not the reported percentage, but the absence of independent verification sufficient to confirm its accuracy. Bycatch is a biological and ecological impact of the fishery, and absent independent verification, the regulatory record lacks reliable information to confirm whether reported bycatch levels are accurate or whether non-target species impacts are being adequately controlled.

Nor does the regulatory record demonstrate that VMRC evaluates cumulative menhaden removals from the Chesapeake Bay by combining industrial landings with harvest levels from the Bay's menhaden bait fishery. VMRC's approvals reference compliance with industrial landing limits, but there is no documented analysis showing that total Bay-wide forage extraction—across fisheries and over time—is examined or reconciled when authorizing continued industrial removals. Without such analysis, VMRC cannot demonstrate that it is accounting for cumulative impacts on the Bay's forage base.

Taken together, VMRC has adopted and continues to administer a regulation governing industrial use of Chesapeake Bay resources without obtaining Bay-specific ecological information, without independently verifying compliance with key regulatory requirements, and without demonstrating that cumulative menhaden removals from the Bay are evaluated. This absence of data collection, verification, and documented oversight is inconsistent with VMRC's statutory authority and public trust responsibilities under Va. Code § 28.2-204 and leaves the regulatory record insufficient to support continued authorization of industrial menhaden removal within the Chesapeake Bay.

D. Failure to Demonstrate Consideration of Mandatory Factors Under Va. Code § 28.2-204.1

Va. Code § 28.2-204.1 provides that, in exercising its regulatory authority, "the Commission shall consider all factors relevant to the Commonwealth's fishery management policy, including but not limited to ... (5) impact on species and fisheries; and (6) abundance of the resource."

Consideration of these mandatory factors in the Chesapeake Bay context necessarily depends on Bay-specific information regarding menhaden abundance and Bay-specific analysis of the dependence of other species and fisheries on menhaden as forage.

In the absence of Bay-specific information sufficient to assess resource abundance and impacts on dependent species and fisheries, the regulatory record cannot demonstrate that the factors enumerated in § 28.2-204.1(5)–(6) have been considered with respect to industrial menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay. Where the record does not demonstrate consideration of mandatory statutory factors, continued authorization of the activity lacks a legally sufficient basis under § 28.2-204.1.

E. Failure to Demonstrate Compliance with Va. Code § 28.2-203

Va. Code § 28.2-203 provides that *“Any fishery management plan prepared, and any regulation promulgated to implement the plan, shall be consistent with the following standards for fishery conservation and management.”* The statute then enumerates mandatory standards that govern the Commission’s exercise of discretion.

E1. Optimum yield and prevention of overfishing (§ 28.2-203(1))

Section 28.2-203(1) requires that conservation and management measures prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield, defined as the amount of harvest that provides the greatest overall benefit to the Commonwealth. In the Chesapeake Bay context, determining optimum yield necessarily depends on Bay-specific ecological conditions, including the Bay’s role as a nursery system and forage base for predator species. Absent Bay-specific abundance data and predator-dependence analysis, the regulatory record cannot demonstrate that the Chesapeake Bay menhaden cap reflects an optimum yield for the estuarine system rather than a historical landing figure untethered from current ecological conditions.

E2. Best scientific, economic, biological, and sociological information available (§ 28.2-203(2))

E2a. Statutory Standard

Virginia law requires that conservation and management measures be based upon the best scientific, economic, biological, and sociological information available. Va. Code § 28.2-203(2). This standard requires not only use of existing information, but use of information that is appropriate to the ecosystem being managed, and it requires agencies to seek out or generate better data when existing information is incomplete, outdated, or ill-suited to the management decision.

E2b. Reliance on Ocean-Based Science for a Bay-Specific Fishery

VMRC authorizes industrial menhaden removal in the Chesapeake Bay using scientific models and ecological reference points developed for the open Atlantic Ocean, specifically the 2022 ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment, not science developed for the Bay itself. The Chesapeake Bay is a confined, nursery-dominated estuarine ecosystem with ecological conditions that differ materially from the open ocean, including limited spatial buffering, concentrated forage demand, distinct predator assemblages, and different predator–prey dynamics. Scientific tools designed for coastwide ocean management do not evaluate conditions within this estuarine system.

E2c. Failure to Develop Bay-Specific Ecological Information

Additionally, VMRC has not sought to generate better data to address these known limitations. VMRC has not developed Bay-specific estimates of menhaden abundance, Bay-specific analysis of predator energetic needs or forage thresholds, or Bay-wide baseline data necessary to

evaluate the ecological sustainability of industrial menhaden removal within the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, management decisions affecting the Bay are made without any localized scientific foundation.

E2d. Failure to Protect Juveniles in a Known Nursery System

The Chesapeake Bay is the primary nursery for Atlantic menhaden, and precautionary protection of juvenile fish is therefore warranted as a matter of basic fisheries management. VMRC nonetheless authorizes industrial removals within this nursery without implementing protective measures for juveniles—such as seasonal or area restrictions—despite the Bay’s well-established nursery function and the known importance of juvenile menhaden to recruitment, forage availability, and ecosystem stability.

E2e. Reliance on Historical and Legacy Data Unrelated to Bay Ecology

Separate from its reliance on ocean-derived models, VMRC’s management decisions also rely on historical and legacy data derived from past industrial fishing activity. These long-standing landing figures and reference points were never designed to reflect Chesapeake Bay-specific ecological conditions, and in many cases trace back many decades and, in some instances, more than a century. Such data reflect past exploitation patterns and institutional inertia, not menhaden availability, predator demand, or ecosystem needs within the Chesapeake Bay. Reliance on these legacy benchmarks further disconnects management decisions from the ecological realities of the estuarine system.

E2f. Failure to Consider Relevant Ecosystem Indicators and Stressors

VMRC has also failed to consider readily available scientific and observational information documenting significant declines in Chesapeake Bay species that are heavily dependent on menhaden as forage. These include well-documented declines in osprey nesting success, the decline of the Chesapeake Bay striped bass fishery, the effective elimination of a historical bluefish fishery, and historically low blue crab abundance. While these conditions may have multiple contributing factors, they constitute relevant biological information concerning forage availability and ecosystem stress that must be evaluated when authorizing continued industrial removal of a foundational forage species.

In addition, VMRC has not evaluated the ecological effects of invasive blue catfish when determining menhaden removals. Blue catfish consume menhaden, particularly juveniles, and exert substantial predation pressure that alters food-web dynamics within the Chesapeake Bay. Failure to consider the combined effects of invasive predation and industrial forage extraction further undermines any claim that menhaden management decisions are based on the best scientific and biological information available.

E2g. Exclusion of Known Biological Impacts

In addition, VMRC's scientific framework excludes known biological effects associated with industrial fishing activity within the Chesapeake Bay. One such effect is the incidental capture of non-target species. Bycatch is a biological and ecological impact of the fishery, and without independent, Bay-level bycatch data or verification, these impacts are excluded from the scientific basis of VMRC's management decisions.

E2h. Conclusion

Taken together, VMRC's authorization of industrial menhaden removal in the Chesapeake Bay is based on science developed for a different ecosystem, on historical and legacy data that were never designed to reflect Chesapeake Bay-specific ecological conditions, and on a selective scientific record that excludes relevant ecosystem indicators and known biological impacts such as bycatch. VMRC has not sought to generate the localized, contemporary data necessary to correct these deficiencies. Accordingly, the regulatory record demonstrates that conservation and management measures are not based upon the best scientific, economic, biological, and sociological information available, as required by Va. Code § 28.2-203(2).

E3. Management of stocks as functional units (§ 28.2-203(3))

Managing an individual stock as a functional unit, as contemplated by Va. Code § 28.2-203(3), requires that management measures reflect how the stock actually functions within the Commonwealth's waters. In the Chesapeake Bay, this means treating the Bay as a distinct estuarine subunit of the Atlantic menhaden stock, characterized by concentrated juvenile abundance, limited exchange with the open ocean, and intense localized forage demand by resident and migratory predators. Proper functional-unit management therefore requires Bay-specific estimates of menhaden abundance, evaluation of internal ecological demand within the Bay, and management limits derived from those conditions, rather than reliance on coastwide stock metrics alone. Absent such Bay-specific analysis, the regulatory framework does not demonstrate that menhaden are being managed as a functional unit within Virginia's territorial waters, as required by § 28.2-203(3).

E4. Fair and equitable treatment of user groups (§ 28.2-203(4))

Section 28.2-203(4) requires that conservation and management measures not discriminate among user groups and that any allocation of fishing privileges be fair, equitable, and reasonably calculated to promote conservation. Virginia is the only Atlantic state that permits industrial reduction fishing within the Chesapeake Bay, resulting in concentrated access by a single operation to a shared public resource. The regulatory record does not demonstrate how this allocation has been evaluated for fairness, conservation benefit, or disproportionate impact

on other user groups, including recreational and commercial fisheries dependent on predator species.

E5. Efficiency without exclusive economic allocation (§ 28.2-203(5))

Va. Code § 28.2-203(5) requires that conservation and management measures promote efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources, but prohibits measures whose sole purpose is economic allocation. VMRC's continued reliance on old, ocean-based landing data that were never designed to reflect Chesapeake Bay ecological conditions to set and maintain industrial removal levels raises serious questions as to whether the current framework promotes efficient use of the Bay's forage base or instead preserves an established industrial allocation disconnected from present-day ecological realities.

VMRC has also failed to examine the economic impacts of continued industrial menhaden removal on other Bay-dependent economic activities, including the Chesapeake Bay menhaden bait fishery, recreational and charter fishing, and associated ancillary industries. Absent consideration of how industrial removals affect other lawful and dependent uses of the same forage resource, the regulatory record does not demonstrate that the current framework reflects efficient utilization of the resource rather than preferential preservation of a single industrial allocation.

E6. Consideration of variability and contingencies (§ 28.2-203(6))

Section 28.2-203(6) requires that management measures take into account variations and contingencies in fisheries, fishery resources, and catches. The Chesapeake Bay is a highly dynamic estuarine system subject to seasonal, climatic, and ecological variability. A static cap derived from historical averages does not reflect these contingencies, and the regulatory record does not demonstrate how variability in Bay conditions has been considered in continued authorization of industrial menhaden removals.

E7. Minimization of unnecessary regulatory burdens (§ 28.2-203(7))

Section 28.2-203(7) directs the Commission to minimize regulatory burden where practicable and consistent with conservation objectives. In doing so, however, it does not permit the Commission to forgo necessary ecological analysis in order to reduce administrative or industry burden. Absent Bay-specific ecological information sufficient to evaluate the effects of industrial menhaden removals, continued authorization of harvest cannot be justified as consistent with the conservation objectives required by § 28.2-203(7).

Conclusion under § 28.2-203

Taken together, the standards set forth in Va. Code § 28.2-203 require that conservation and management measures, including regulations implementing fishery management plans, be

consistent with the prevention of overfishing, achievement of optimum yield, management of stocks as functional units, equitable treatment of user groups, consideration of variability, and reliance on the best scientific, economic, biological, and sociological information available.

As applied to the Chesapeake Bay, satisfaction of these standards necessarily depends on Bay-specific information regarding menhaden abundance, ecological dependence by predator species and fisheries, and the operation of the Bay as a distinct estuarine system. In the absence of such Bay-specific information, the regulatory record does not demonstrate that continued authorization of industrial menhaden removals under the Chesapeake Bay cap is consistent with the standards mandated by § 28.2-203.

Where a regulation cannot be shown on the existing record to be consistent with the statutory standards governing fishery conservation and management, continued authorization of the regulated activity lacks a sufficient legal foundation. This deficiency supports the requested moratorium pending development and consideration of the information necessary to ensure compliance with § 28.2-203.

F. Potential Noncompliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act

Atlantic sturgeon, a federally listed endangered species present in the Chesapeake Bay, relies on available forage resources to support essential life functions. Industrial menhaden removal authorized by the Commonwealth remains subject to the federal Endangered Species Act, which prohibits any person or governmental entity from causing the take of a federally listed species through direct or indirect harm. See 16 U.S.C. § 1538(a)(1)(B).

“Take” under the Endangered Species Act includes harm through habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs essential behavioral patterns, including feeding. Harm does not require direct capture or mortality. Authorizing large-scale removal of a major forage species without Bay-specific information regarding forage abundance or predator dependence creates a foreseeable risk of impairing essential feeding and survival behaviors necessary for the recovery of a listed species.

Menhaden are a keystone forage species, and large-scale removal disrupts Chesapeake Bay food webs. That disruption reduces energy transfer, alters predator behavior, and degrades ecosystem stability. Habitat harm does not require a direct predator–prey link; ecosystem degradation alone can impair listed species by reducing prey diversity, altering benthic conditions, and placing additional stress on recovery processes. Where endangered species such as Atlantic sturgeon rely on the Bay’s forage base and habitat functions, those indirect impacts are legally relevant and must be evaluated before fishing is authorized or continued.

VI. REQUESTED RELIEF

The petitioner respectfully requests that VMRC:

1. Grant this petition by adopting a temporary moratorium on purse-seine reduction fishing for menhaden within the Chesapeake Bay and initiating rulemaking to amend 4 VAC 20-1270-35.
2. Maintain the moratorium until VMRC has affirmatively demonstrated, on the administrative record, compliance with all applicable statutory and public trust obligations, including that it has:
 - a. Determined Bay-specific menhaden abundance and Bay-specific ecological dependence, including the needs of predator species, juvenile life stages, and dependent fisheries within the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with Va. Code §§ 28.2-204.1 and 28.2-203(2);
 - b. Demonstrated, on the administrative record, compliance with the mandatory requirements of Va. Code § 28.2-204.1 by evaluating—*before authorizing industrial menhaden removal*—the impacts on species and fisheries, age structure, and the abundance of the resource;
 - c. Demonstrated compliance with all fishery management standards set forth in Va. Code § 28.2-203, including:
 - i. Prevention of overfishing while achieving optimum yield (§ 28.2-203(1));
 - ii. Reliance on the best scientific, economic, biological, and sociological information available (§ 28.2-203(2));
 - iii. Management of individual and interrelated stocks as a unit, including forage-dependent predator species (§ 28.2-203(3));
 - iv. Fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory management measures that do not grant excessive fishing privileges (§ 28.2-203(4));
 - v. Promotion of efficient utilization of fishery resources without economic allocation as the sole purpose (§ 28.2-203(5));
 - vi. Consideration of variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches (§ 28.2-203(6)); and
 - vii. Minimization of unnecessary regulatory burdens while still achieving conservation objectives (§ 28.2-203(7));
 - d. Demonstrated compliance with Va. Code § 28.2-204 by obtaining or commissioning necessary fisheries data and implementing independent monitoring, verification, and enforcement mechanisms sufficient to ensure compliance with any future authorization of industrial menhaden removals, including verification of landings, bycatch, juvenile impacts, and cumulative removals across fisheries; and
 - e. Demonstrated satisfaction of interstate conservation responsibilities, including documented evaluation of cross-jurisdictional ecological and economic impacts within the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with Virginia's obligations under the

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact (Va. Code § 28.2-1000 through 28.2-1000.2).

The petitioner does **not** request a specific numerical quota and requests that no industrial reduction fishing resume until these conditions are satisfied.

VII. VMRC'S OBLIGATIONS

Under Va. Code § 2.2-4007, VMRC is required to consider this petition and issue a written decision stating its reasons for maintaining, amending, or repealing the challenged regulation.

As described in Sections V and VI, the existing regulatory framework authorizes industrial menhaden removals in the Chesapeake Bay without Bay-specific information regarding menhaden abundance or ecological dependence, and without independent mechanisms sufficient to verify compliance with the existing Bay cap.

In the absence of such information and oversight, the existing regulatory record does not identify a sufficient basis—grounded in Bay-specific abundance and ecological-dependence considerations—to justify continued authorization of the reduction fishery. Accordingly, any response to this petition must explain what information VMRC relies upon to support continued authorization and how that information satisfies its regulatory and public trust obligations.

VIII. CERTIFICATION

I certify that this petition is submitted in good faith pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-4007.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya O'Connor

Date: January 2, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following are 1266 comments received on the Regulatory Townhall Website during the period of 1/26/2026 through 2/17/2016.

Please note that Public Comment #240228 has been identified as an unauthorized or misattributed submission. The individual who submitted this comment incorrectly represented themselves as affiliated with the referenced company. As such, this comment does not reflect the views or official position of that company.

The company's official comments are included in this document and can be found on page 334.

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Agency

Marine Resources Commission

Board

Marine Resources Commission

Chapter

Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden [4 VAC 20 - 1270]

1266 comments

All comments for this forum [Show Only Good](#)[Back to List of Comments](#)**Commenter:** Dale William Neal

1/26/26 11:21 am

Pause menhaden reduction fishing in the bay

Menhaden are a natural resource for all Virginians and users of the Chesapeake Bay. They are the primary keystone species that feeds almost all the other animals in the ecosystem. Their primary function should not be as an industrialized food pellet for Canadian fish farming. Canadian owned Omega Protein takes our resource at pennies on the dollar, lining their pockets at the expense of tens of thousands (not just a couple hundred) of Virginians who require a healthy abundant Chesapeake Bay to make a living.

Your mandate is to manage this resource for everyone. We ask that you manage it for abundance.

It is time to make sure that bay specific science tells us what is sustainable and what is not, before it is too late. www.saveourmenhaden.org

CommentID: **238973** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Steve Atkinson

1/26/26 11:41 am

Agree with petition!

There are multiple signs that menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay are in big trouble. They are the base of the food chain and osprey chicks are dying from starvation, our striped bass Which rely on menhaden have been in steep decline, The industry is having trouble meeting their quotas, and scientists have now acknowledged that the menhaden stock has been badly overstated. All of this calls for precautionary management to protect the vital ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay. Sadly, the industry continues to lobby against a menhaden study which makes me wonder, what are they afraid of? Will the VMRC board, which is dominated by commercial interest, do the right thing to protect the most important estuary in this country?

CommentID: **238974** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Breitbach

1/26/26 12:08 pm

Save the Menhaden, the most valuable fish in the sea.

Please, please, please save the bay

the bay is dependent upon Menhaden, we know this is an absolute.

we need to step up and not be bought off by the reduction industry.

CommentID: **238975** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Dobbs

1/26/26 12:09 pm

Menhaden moratorium

Most problems with the bay can be traced to over harvesting of menhaden. From crashes in the crab and stripped bass populations to even the water quality itself- they are filter feeders just like oysters. To allow harvesting at these levels is insane. Give the bay a chance to heal itself. Please ban all harvesting in the bay and for three miles offshore.

CommentID: **238976** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/26/26 12:12 pm

I agree

I agree.

CommentID: **238977** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jay Donlin

1/26/26 12:19 pm

Agree With this Petition

Support the menhanden popluation in the Bay.

CommentID: **238978** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard Spencer

1/26/26 12:33 pm

Restore Menhaden Population

I support this petition

CommentID: **238979** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/26/26 12:56 pm

DOGE TIME!!

Enough is enough.

Year after year of BS and zero accountability. An industry that caters to traitors CANADA. Stealing all Virginias bunker with ZERO oversight. Fake trips up north coming back empty, faking catch #s. A bi-catch clean up SHIP was built to cover their tracks of destruction. Stinky beaches from spills and overloaded ships.

Juvenile bunker is all that's left to rape.. no problem. Greediest set of lobbyists, and captains with a massive percentage of workers not from the United States of America.

Imagine making up your own seasons, locations and amount you can catch that is based on how well you PILLAGED the best years before with the maximum amount of ships and planes they can afford.

they need cameras on the Ships to witness all the bicatch of large predators including, striped bass, Cobia, drum and turtles.

Crooks need a real wake up call.

For years many warned them we were witnessing whole fisheries disappearing! Like croakers??? Gone , spots gone... grey trout in the bay? History. We warned them they were starting to wipe out the Virginia bio mass which is the spawning grounds for them, and eventually work themselves out of a job.

They built more ships. Paid off more politicians, and made a joke out of the VMRC, with back door agreements (MOU's). They would not let the public speak as omega bussed in families to take every seat up. Hundreds of folks left early with no chance to speak. Filibusted by omegas goons.

This is a public resource not a private one. The public deserves a say not just the ones making \$\$ of it. Get ready to be doged, it's coming.

Here we are.

CommentID: **238980** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Germain

1/26/26 1:17 pm

It is time for change

Menhaden are in trouble and harvesting should be put on pause at the moment. These fish are crucial to all east coast species that depend on them.

CommentID: **238981** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/26/26 1:19 pm

Omega must be stopped

The rape of the Chesapeake by Omega Protein must end. Protect our fisheries and watermen.

CommentID: **238982** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/26/26 2:01 pm

Not in the bay!

There is absolutely zero reason for these vessels to be in the Chesapeake bay. The Bay acts as of sanctuary for breeding of at risk species also a food source to birds of prey. I live on the bay where Osprey use to roost on a yearly basis these birds are dying and or leaving for lack of food sources

the nests have disappeared. Constantly seeing dead oversized fish that would be illegal for a recreational fisherman to keep whenever these boats come through the bay due to bycatch. These boats need to stay in the ocean Maryland and other states that have bays already refuse them let Virginia as well.

CommentID: **238983** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Brooke

1/26/26 2:35 pm

Protect the menhaden!

Menhaden are the "most important fish in the sea" as they serve as a food source for many other species of fish and birds throughout the Atlantic coastal region. In recent years we've seen an increase in bald eagles, osprey, blue heron and brown pelicans in the Chesapeake Bay especially as people move away from islands in the Chesapeake due to erosion and economic factors. While this is sad for the people who once called these islands home, it is great news for these species many of which were once in danger of extinction. All of these species depend on the menhaden as a critical food source. Please protect this keystone species from overfishing and save the bay.

CommentID: **238984** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gary Lowe

1/26/26 2:55 pm

Menhaden

Please do everything possible to block the purse seine netting of thousands of tons every year from Virginia's territorial waters. Complete ban with hopes they there is still time to recover .

CommentID: **238985** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Percy Blackburn

1/26/26 3:37 pm

Agree with this petition.

Agree with this petition. It hurts nothing to put things on pause and devote adequate, quality time to gather facts and address the issue.

CommentID: **238987** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Rogers

1/26/26 3:42 pm

Moratorium

It is time for VMRC to do their job. Since a bill was passed four years ago to have VIMS conduct a study on the impact of industrial purse seine fishing in the Bay, Omega and their lobbyists lobbied against funding this legislation and the Youngkin administration and the General Assembly refused to direct any resources to this effort. In the meantime osprey populations have plummeted and rockfish season hardly exist. Put in place a moratorium on industrial purse seine fishing in the Bay and let science dictate the outcome **NOT POLITICS.**

CommentID: **238988** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Meriwether Payne, Seaside Ecotours LLC

1/26/26 4:00 pm

I strongly agree with this petition!

This should not be a political issue, determined by Donations made by Omega protein to Va. politicians! There have already been at least 1500 jobs affected in the commercial and Charter fishery in the bay Due to overfishing. That is way more than the 3 to 400 jobs that might be affected in Reedville. The omega business can operate just fine in the ocean while a study is completed. We should also be very concerned about not only fish species that feed on Menhaden but also Marine Mammals and (birds), especially our iconic osprey.

CommentID: **238989** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** james Hedeem

1/26/26 4:36 pm

out of bay

I Agree

CommentID: **238990** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Al McKegg

1/26/26 4:37 pm

Strongly agree with this petition

Omega Protein's depletion of the Bay's menhaden is utterly destroying the Bay's life balance. They must stop.

CommentID: **238991** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joseph S. Lupton, Jr

1/26/26 4:39 pm

I strongly agree. STOP all menhaden fishing until a maximum continuous tonnage is determined.

As along time member of the Hampton Yacht Club, I used to enjoy the striper tournament we had each fall. After the winner was determined, the fish were cleaned on the dock and cooked for all to enjoy. The past three or four seasons, the fishermen all came back empty handed. No stripers. My personal largest striper was a 38 inch fish that weighed around 25 pounds. Now there is no need to even go our looking for them. It is a real shame that our state even allows this fishery to keep doing this. Even worse that that is the fact that their product is sold to Canada.

CommentID: **238992** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joseph S. Lupton, Jr

1/26/26 4:40 pm

I strongly agree. STOP all menhaden fishing until a maximum continuous tonnage is determined.

As a long time member of the Hampton Yacht Club, I used to enjoy the striper tournament we had each fall. After the winner was determined, the fish were cleaned on the dock and cooked for all to enjoy. The past three or four seasons, the fishermen all came back empty handed. No stripers. My personal largest striper was a 38 inch fish that weighed around 25 pounds. Now there is no need to even go our looking for them. It is a real shame that our state even allows this fishery to keep doing this. Even worse that that is the fact that their product is sold to Canada.

CommentID: **238993** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/26/26 5:15 pm

Menhaden Pause

Please Pause Menhaden Fishing in the Chesapeake Bay in order to more fully study the menhaden population and ascertain the true importance

of this fish to our local environment. We deserve at least this. Would like to see it stop completely/ but want it studied more in depth, at the very least...

CommentID: **238994** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Janet Hall, citizen

1/26/26 5:28 pm

Menhaden Fishing

Stop Menhaden Fishing please

CommentID: **238995** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George

1/26/26 6:17 pm

Just freaking stop.... you are killing the bay

There is NO reason on earth that those big fish factories should be in the bay. Get rid of them!

CommentID: **238996** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John

1/26/26 6:48 pm

Enact a moratorium as soon as possible

Please place a moratorium on menhaden fishing until the population can rebound to significant numbers

CommentID: **238997** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alfred Minio

1/26/26 8:06 pm

Ban manhaden fishing.

In my lifetime I have seen the decline of many species of game fish that I believe is directly related to purse seine netting.

CommentID: **238998** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Craig Freeman

1/26/26 8:21 pm

Save the Menhaden

I have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay since 1986. The last 15 years a charter captain and commercial hook and line fisherman. I'm on the water 5-6 days a week from May-September and 2-3 days a week the rest of the time. I also serve on several boards, one of which is the MMAC and I'm chair of the ASMFC multi species AP.

Over the past 12 years the fishing in the Chesapeake Bay has declined significantly. Doesn't matter the species, the fishing is dismal. From spot and croaker to flounder and cobia every category is way down. All one has to do is look at the VMRC citation data over the last 15 years and one can see the decline of a once great fishery.

Why look at citation data? It is an indicator of a fish population in trouble. When the larger fish start declining the population is declining. All the species are in decline. And one of the major factors is lack of menhaden(bait).

The menhaden that were in the bay this summer were some of the poorest in history. There was a the Bunker Fleet out of Deltaville didn't fish in the bay but a select number of days this past summer, and that's because the numbers and size of Menhaden were not what they wanted.

It is time for a moratorium, purse seine ban, or quota ban on menhaden in state waters. A moratorium would be ideal, but if not a moratorium, then ban the use of purse seines in Va waters. If that is not doable then make a quota decision. Something like if you have over 10tons of menhaden quota you cannot fish in VA state waters.

Any of those options would be sufficient to allow the overfished menhaden population to increase. With an increase in the menhaden population all fish species and some bird species will flourish once again.

Please don't sit back and do nothing. Pick one the options mentioned above or do something else, but please do something about our diminished fishing conditions.

Sincerely,

Capt. Craig Freeman

CommentID: **238999** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carrie

1/26/26 8:29 pm

Ban menhaden

Ban commercial fisherman... the depletion of menhaden has the ecosystem screwed up.

CommentID: **239000** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karen Royer

1/26/26 9:44 pm

Ban Omega - protect menhaden!!!

It is beyond stupid to let Omega Protein strip a resource that belongs to everyone just because they can. The menhaden are the crucial link in the food chain for so many of the Bay's wildlife and we let a greedy Canadian company ruin the Bay's balance for profit??? Throw out every single sleazy politician who supports Omega over our precious and fragile Bay!!!!

CommentID: **239001** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Suzanne LaPierre

1/26/26 11:22 pm

Save the fish

Please pause Menhaden purse-seine fishing in the Chesapeake. It's important to protect the ecology of our state. - A 32 year resident of Virginia.

CommentID: **239002** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris

1/27/26 8:31 am

Menhaden pause

The VMRC should pause the menhaden industry inside the Chesapeake Bay. Waters east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnel and offshore should be regulated on menhaden fishing. The waters

of the Chesapeake Bay west/ north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnels should have a no fishing ban for menhaden for the foreseeable future!

CommentID: **239003** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shelley

1/27/26 8:34 am

Methadone over fishing

Please be proactive in saving and supporting our natural resources for future generations and stop the over fishing in our waterways , which is destroying populations of Osprey and other wildlife that depends on this resource. NOW is the time before it is to late!

CommentID: **239004** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lynn Williams

1/27/26 9:00 am

Stop overfishing the bay

I have seen a drastic decrease in the number of schoolie rock in bayside creeks on the ESVA. I have also seen several large fish kills wash into Craddock Creek in the last 5 years. Pretending that the Menhaden population is a never ending resource is not responsible management of our fragile ecosystem.

CommentID: **239005** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Christopher Malgee

1/27/26 9:53 am

Protect the Bay and its inhabitants

The VMRC has a duty to protect Virginia's largest resource, the Chesapeake Bay, and has repeatedly failed to do so when there was an opportunity to determine the extent of the destruction caused by reduction-fishing of menhaden within the Bay. We need scientific baselines for menhaden populations in the Bay, and what seems obvious to watermen throughout the region needs to be studied. Until the agency responsible for the safekeeping of the Bay and its fish has any scientific data on populations and impacts, we demand a stop to reduction fishing until clear evidence of its sustainability has been provided.

CommentID: **239006** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/27/26 10:41 am

pause Menhaden purse-seine fishing in the Chesapeake

Stop overfishing menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay

CommentID: **239007** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/27/26 11:53 am

no bunker

fish in li sound no bunker at all for 3 years keep up the bad work

CommentID: **239008** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike Mounie

1/27/26 12:13 pm

Menhaden fishing in Chesapeake bay

Eliminate menhaden factory ships in the bay! Not sustainable

CommentID: **239009** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Greg Nevi

1/27/26 12:18 pm

Menhaden

The quotas are —

CommentID: **239010** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paul Anderson

1/27/26 12:38 pm

Stop menhaden netting in and near the Bay

Please stop them fishing menhaden in the bay and anywhere near the entrance to the bay. This is an important resource that belongs to all of us, not to Omega. If there is insufficient information to make sensible decisions, we should stop the netting until we do have information about how this fishery affects the Bay ecosystem.

CommentID: **239012** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ed Pacheco

1/27/26 12:39 pm

You Say What!

Save the Bay

A Legacy for Future Generations

Here's what our grandchildren will be telling their children:

"There was a time when you could catch your dinner from the waters of the bay. I can remember when the Osprey would make nests and raise their young, American Bald Eagles would soar high in the clear blue sky, and I would always see Loggerhead Turtles bobbing their heads above the water. Blue crab was so abundant we could have a crab feast each weekend with our family."

I'm not sure how this all happened, but I remember how productive the bay was. Everything is now gone. Where did they all go? Why did they leave the bay? How can we bring back the menhaden, croaker, spot, sea trout, striped bass, redfish, blue crab—all the wildlife? Will this be written in our history books like the carrier pigeon and American bison and so many others?

Why has this happened?

The answer, Ecosystem, the consequences became increasingly apparent. The decline in menhaden populations disrupted the delicate balance of marine life, impacting not only commercial fisheries but also on the health of the entire bay. It is clear now that sustainable management practices are essential to restore and preserve this vital resource for future generations.

But hope is not lost. By recognizing the mistakes of the past, we can work together to restore the bay. Protecting wetlands, reducing pollution, and supporting sustainable fishing can help bring back the creatures that once thrived here. With effort and care, your generation and those to come can once again witness the beauty and abundance of the bay—ensuring that these stories are not just memories, but a promise for the future.

There is hope.

CommentID: **239013** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: J. Wilson Enochs III

1/27/26 12:55 pm

Menhaden

The reduction fishery is destroying menhaden stocks in the Chesapeake Bay. Please stop this practice, menhaden are a primary link in the food chain for many fish and birds. I agree with this petition, science should be applied and harvest controlled to the benefit of all of Virginia's citizens, not just a wealthy few.

CommentID: **239014** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: charles jack

1/27/26 1:04 pm

menhaden

stop menhaden purse seine fishing in Virginia waters

CommentID: **239015** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/27/26 1:15 pm

Pause Menhaden fishing

It's wrong!!!

CommentID: **239016** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert S. Tulloss

1/27/26 1:28 pm

Menhaden fishery

I agree with this petition. The menhaden fishery is vitally important to the health and wellbeing of the Chesapeake Bay and the surrounding citizens. All reasonable steps should be employed, using objective, scientifically based decisions for the good of all affected.

CommentID: **239017** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Frederick Menage, Jr

1/27/26 2:08 pm

STOP NETTING!

Please stop the netting of fish in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239018** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard Godsey

1/27/26 2:47 pm

Eliminate Menhaden Catching in the Chesapeake Bay

I have been fishing in the Bay for over 50 years. As a kid, the schools of menhaden on my little creek covered the entire creek in the summer. Now I see one or no schools of menhaden most of the summer. We must completely stop commercial fishing for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239019** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George Brickley

1/27/26 3:03 pm

Menhaden fishing in the bay

I have been fishing in the bay for 12 years now. The last two years there have been very Difficult for recreational fisherman. I have never seen so few recreational boats on the water as this year. Very few days of catching.

rockfish have been entering the Bay later and later And in smaller numbers.

there are notably, fewer birds on the water.

I don't think it takes an environmental scientist to link causation to lack of bait.

I believe the Chesapeake Bay is the only estuary in the country that allows harvesting of Menhaden?

I support omega's right to fish the ocean. NOT the bay.

let's use some common sense here.

CommentID: **239020** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jack Strickland

1/27/26 3:34 pm

I agree with this petition

I've been fishing the Chesapeake bay for over 30 years and feel the menhaden fish need to be protected from overfishing. Every other state bans netting Menhaden in their bays, why not Virginia?

I understand it would cost more for the fish oil companies to harvest menhaden in the open ocean but that cost should be passed on to the fish oil users, not on our Chesapeake bay fishery.

Its time for Virginia to step up and protect our natural resources.

CommentID: **239021** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Zach Williamson

1/27/26 5:13 pm

I agree

I agree.

CommentID: **239022** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike

1/27/26 5:27 pm

I agree with petition

Save the Bay- stop menhaden fishing until the science research is done then let the facts dictate catch limits.

CommentID: **239023** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brant East

1/27/26 5:34 pm

Save our fishery

Commercial overfishing has been killing our fishery for decades! Tune to take a stand.

CommentID: **239024** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kevin Smith

1/27/26 6:11 pm

Stopping Menhaden Reduction Fishing in VA Waters

This needs to stop to help protect the Chesapeake Bay, our fisheries, mammals and birds.

CommentID: **239025** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charlie P

1/27/26 8:25 pm

In support of pause

Stop omega from removing the main forage species in the bay. We did it to save the bluefin, time to save the striped bass too.

CommentID: **239026** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/27/26 8:55 pm

I agree with this petition!

My name is Mildred Reyes-Ritter, and I am a recreational fisherwoman on Virginia's Eastern Shore and Chesapeake Bay. I am submitting this comment out of deep concern for the health of our Bay's ecosystem and the future of the fisheries that so many local families depend on.

Menhaden are a critical forage species that support striped bass, bluefish, red drum, ospreys, and the entire food web of the Chesapeake Bay. Yet Virginia continues to allow large-scale purse-seine reduction fishing in the Bay without adequate Bay-specific science to show that this practice is safe for the ecosystem.

As someone who spends time on the water, I see warning signs firsthand: fewer and smaller schools of menhaden, stressed predator species, and declining fishing opportunities for everyday Virginians. When the forage base collapses, the entire system suffers including local watermen, recreational anglers, small businesses, and families who rely on a healthy Bay for food and income.

Pausing menhaden reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay until proper scientific studies are completed is a reasonable, precautionary, and responsible step. Decisions about our natural resources should be based on sound science and long-term sustainability, not short-term economic pressure.

I strongly support this petition and urge the Commonwealth to protect the Chesapeake Bay before the damage becomes irreversible.

Thank you for considering my comment.

CommentID: **239027** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charles Strong

1/27/26 9:50 pm

Stop menhaden fishing in the bay

I have live in the bay all of my life and fished it just as long as you can see the difference in the bay in regards to predator fish. The menhaden are not there and the fish that feed on them are leaving the bay or being killed by the boats catching the menhaden. You would not believe how many times a year the shore lines are full of dead drum and other fish from the menhaden fleet. Also birds of prey are disappearing on the shore lines. Why? Maybe because they have nothing to eat as well. Stop the menhaden fishing in the bay and up to the three mile line of the shores in the ocean. Save the bay and your local fisherman over the big company that does nothing for the state.

CommentID: **239028** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jim Tolson

1/27/26 9:59 pm

Stop menhaden by Omega in Chesapeake Bay and put limits on them along east coast

Stop menhaden by Omega in Chesapeake Bay and put strick limits on them along east coast

CommentID: **239029** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Laura Mae

1/28/26 4:58 am

Yes, establish a moratorium on Menhaden reduction fishing in all Virginia waters

Yes, please “establish a moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden reduction fishing” and then *ban* Menhaden purse-seine fishing in *all Virginia waters.* The ecology of our Chesapeake Bay is suffering. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. It is a major ecological, economic, and cultural resource, providing habitat for over 300 species of fish, shellfish, and crabs. These resources belongs to 8.6 million Virginia’s. Please stop prioritizing one small company, Omega Protein, over the rest of us.

Virginia is the only state on the East Coast that permits industrial-scale purse seine reduction fishing for Atlantic menhaden in its state waters. Why have other US East Coast states and federal managers implemented bans? It has been to address overfishing, protect declining fish stocks, and prevent damage to marine ecosystems.

You are the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). You are responsible for managing and protecting Virginia's tidal habitats (wetlands, dunes, beaches), regulating commercial and recreational saltwater fishing and enforcing conservation laws - to ensure sustainable use for the public good.

For sustainable use for the public good, please establish a moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden reduction fishing” and then *ban* Menhaden purse-seine fishing in *all Virginia waters.*

- - - - -

2025 Sept: <https://www.cbf.org/news/virginians-overwhelmingly-back-reforming-industrial-menhaden-fishery-amid-troubling-signs/> “An overwhelming 92 percent of Virginia voters believe the state should leave more menhaden in the Bay, according to a poll of 600 registered Virginia voters conducted by a pair of research firms—one Republican and one Democrat—between July 30 and Aug. 5.

Menhaden in Virginia’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay are the target of Omega Protein, a subsidiary of Canadian corporation Cooke, Inc., and its partner Ocean Harvesters. In what is called a reduction fishery, this industry uses spotter planes, enormous purse seine nets, and vacuum hoses to harvest more than 100 million pounds of menhaden annually from Virginia’s Bay waters.

Longstanding concerns about the appropriate size of a menhaden fishery in Chesapeake Bay are gaining attention amid reports of plummeting menhaden catches by Maryland watermen and small-scale Virginia fishermen, as well as unprecedented levels of starving osprey chicks. Industry efforts to block science and data on Chesapeake Bay menhaden has left Virginia without enough information to effectively manage the fishery.

“Virginians resoundingly want more menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, and overwhelmingly back every single policy we tested for stricter management of the Bay’s menhaden fishery,” said Lori Weigel, a pollster with the Republican research firm New Bridge Strategy.

“We almost never see this kind of consensus across party, age, and geography,” said Miranda Everitt, a pollster with the Democratic research firm FM3.”

CommentID: **239031** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard Odom

1/28/26 6:31 am

Menhaden must be viewed in relationship to other species dependent on them for survival

Look how many east coast states allow menhaden fishing in their bays and waters. Is Virginia the only one that allows their waters to be stripped of menhaden?

Stripped Bass used to be plentiful in the southern Chesapeake Bay, but no longer. Ospreys used to be plentiful in and around Chesapeake Bay, but no longer. Scientific studies show a direct relationship between those species and the lack of menhaden in the Bay.

Virginia has a responsibility to properly manage it's natural resources, but it appears greed has become more important. It's time to step up and protect our natural resources and a necessary source of food for those resources.

CommentID: **239032** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith Koontz

1/28/26 7:21 am

Corporate greed

Stop destroying the Chesapeake Bay fish population at the expense of profits going to out of state companies. You are destroying the recreational fishing industry which provides a lot of income to the state..

CommentID: **239033** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Beth Cardwell

1/28/26 8:21 am

Expand menhaden moratorium

I support this petition and ask that you expand the moratorium to include the Chesapeake Bay and all Virginia coastal waters. It would be shame for Omega to reposition their ships to scoop up the menhaden at the entrance to the bay. I boat and fish in Mathews County and have witnessed the loss of ospreys. We had maybe one bird on Stutts Creek and a couple empty nests. This is very

unusual. It has become difficult to catch rockfish. Local crabbers are unable to get bait for their crabpots. Protecting menhaden in Virginia is essential to the health and economy of the Bay!

CommentID: **239034** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/28/26 8:24 am

Menhaden petition supporter

I agree

CommentID: **239035** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kate Ahnstrom, Artemis Sportswomen

1/28/26 8:33 am

Menhaden Moratorium

The dollars invested by Cooke/Omega is evidence enough of corporate greed and disregard for preservation of the delicate ecosystem balance in the bay. The bribe money is reaching far and wide and perverting our public servants. There must be regulations enacted immediately to save the bay and keep Cooke/Omega from further destroying Virginia waters and wildlife!

CommentID: **239036** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/28/26 8:40 am

Stop overfishing menhaden

Osprey populations are down. They rely on menhaden. We need to stop the corporate greed and overfishing which is harming our environment.

CommentID: **239037** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karen Fischer

1/28/26 10:29 am

Vote no

Stop taking the feeder fish out! It hurt all fisherman! For fish don't come where there is nothing for them to eat! You are destroying the bay!

CommentID: **239038** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason Lesniczak

1/28/26 10:38 am

Stop the overfishing of Menhaden in all waters

Stop the over fishing of Menhaden in all waters.

CommentID: **239039** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Billy

1/28/26 10:43 am

I agree

I agree with this petition

CommentID: **239040** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: VABRDR

1/28/26 10:48 am

Please vote against overfishing

Because they are producing a product that quickly goes rancid thus not even beneficial for the health of humans. At the same time endangering the wildlife and ecosystems, no wins here trading destruction for money.

CommentID: **239041** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike May

1/28/26 11:03 am

Support for this petition and closure of menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay

There is something seriously wrong in the bay fishery. I believe it is the result of overfishing of menhaden. All other species are tightly regulated. Menhaden need the same. Close the bay to menhaden harvest and omega can still fish in the ocean . The jobs will still be there given the infrastructure of reedville. I support this petition and rational regulation.

CommentID: **239042** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lea

1/28/26 11:32 am

Sustainability

This is a big word that has lots of meaning depending on where you sit. I am in favor of the shutdown of fishing for as long as needed for the population to have a chance to repopulate and feed the other east coast creatures that feed on this fish. Humans do not in all honesty need this fish. Leave it alone and stop the harvesting.

CommentID: **239043** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Joe S.

1/28/26 11:55 am

Our osprey chicks are starving and dying.

I live on a creek near Deale, Maryland. We're right on the Bay. Every summer, there are 3 osprey platforms with active nests on the creek. The nesting platform behind my house has had a nesting pair for 25 years. Usually, 2 or sometimes 3, chicks make it to adulthood on that platform. However, for the last 3 years, none of the chicks have survived in any of the nests on the creek. Zero. The mother birds constantly call for the fathers to bring fish to feed the chicks and they are unable to. The mothers have a very distinctive call when they want food for the chicks. It's a constant cry for food. I've heard reports from neighbors that they've seen ospreys resorting to hunting birds, mammals and snakes on their property. This a relatively new phenomenon and it's very sad. I don't know if the menhaden fishing situation in VA is to blame. Maybe it is. What I do know, is what I observe. The osprey chicks are starving and dying. If it is over fishing, we need some limits that everyone can live with. I think some common sense here is needed before it's too late. Thank you.

PS - how about augmenting the Menhaden with invasive blue catfish? There's no shortage of those beasts. They eat everything they can swallow and ospreys don't often catch them since they're bottom feeders and usually too large and too deep.

CommentID: **239044** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Greg B

1/28/26 12:03 pm

More science needed!

Forget greed and politics and let the experts study and advise.

CommentID: **239045** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert McLaughlin

1/28/26 12:03 pm

Agree with the petition!

It has become painfully obvious that the Chesapeake Bays menhaden fishery has been overfished. There is plenty of evidence to support this including the industries own catch data. The wishes of the residents of Virginia should have priority and much more weight than a single corporation with massive lobbying power. The menhaden fishery is the property of the residents of Virginia! The residents have clearly stated thier desire to leave menhaden in the bay (recentCBF survey).

CommentID: **239046** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Eric Olson

1/28/26 12:43 pm

Menhaden Purse Seien Netting Moritorium

I am in support of a Virginia Moratorium on Menhaden purse seine fishing in the Bay. I know it may affect people's lively hood, however that cost must be evaluated against the cost of loss of chedpeaks bay ecosystem food chain that supports crabbing, and fishing industry both commercial and recreational. Provisions could be made to support transition of menhaden industry to emerging alternative forms of fishery such as shrimp fishery and take pressure off of tjd menhaden entering tje bay.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Olson

AuggieKat - Deale Md.

CommentID: **239047** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/28/26 1:23 pm

Long time coming

The menhaden industry has decimated the migratory striped bass fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, has caused a decline in osprey populations, and trends suggest there could be several other negative effects on the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay is a natural, cultural, and environmental heritage resource that should be held in tact for equitable use, not pillaged for the gain of foreign business.

CommentID: **239049** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/28/26 2:39 pm

Support the petition

Ospreys in our area (Rappahannock River and Totuskey Creek) seem to be unsuccessful in nesting over the past three years. It's not hard to imagine that reduction fishing could be responsible. I support unbiased research to determine what is causing this possible decline. Please respect the petition

CommentID: **239051** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carolyn O'Neal

1/28/26 2:43 pm

Save the Chesapeake Bay

I support the moratorium on Menhaden fishing in Virginia. Please give this essential fish a chance to rebuild their population. The Chesapeake Bay is too important to let overfishing destroy it.

Thank you!

CommentID: **239052** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Concerned Virginian

1/28/26 3:31 pm

Omega Protein

According to the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), Omega Protein has contributed over 1.1 million dollars to both Virginia Democrat and Republican politicians, with Governor Spanberger's Inaugural Committee recently receiving 50K. This money is given so that they may be granted favor by our elected politicians. As a publicly traded company, Omega's main concern is their shareholders, and not the health of the bay or the people of Virginia and Maryland. The Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap limits the harvest of menhaden within the Bay to 51,000

metric tons annually, most of which is taken by Omega and its contractors. These fish are key component in the health of the bay, and the over fishing has hurt predators like rockfish and ospreys. As filter feeders, menhaden also play a large role in bay water quality. It is time our elected politicians stand up for Virginia and not those who line their pockets with money.

See <https://www.vpap.org/donors/137690-omega-protein/> for information on the politicians Omega gives money.

CommentID: **239053** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: 300 days a year

1/28/26 4:05 pm

menhaden

Hello - I think I speak for many anglers and voters when I petition you to limit menhaden and bycatch pound limits in the Chesapeake bay and surrounding waters. This is for several reasons. As a fisherman who is on the water, all over VA, virtually daily, I think I am expert on this subject matter and have a current pulse on the situation.

Please consider the following state of affairs, and mind you what follows is not really my opinion:

1) rockfish population with vintage less than 6 years is in critical shape due to a five fold increase in menhaden take from companies like Omega. Your solution to this is to limit rockfish catches and slots but not seriously limit the supply of what they eat. Its a stupid policy, and who suffers this outcome?: recreational and commercial anglers up and down the east coast who have to abide by other onerous regulations that are barely harmonized with other states (and their head boats), as well as the ridiculous stipulations of the all encompassing Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. If nothing is going to be done about the bottom of the food chain, repeal the Act; for without a stable menhaden population, there.....is.....no.....bay.....to.....preserve!

2) The seatrout and red drum population has been, in a word, nonexistent, for at least 2 years. I don't know a single person, myself included, that has taken ANY upper slot (meaning ZERO) of either species in two years (in bay adjacent and not brackish tributaries)! I target these species, and I know I haven't caught them all, so where the heck are they? I know; they starved, and the current ecosystem cannot support more.

3) The current rule makers and lobbyists have convinced voters that saving a few jobs in Reedville, on behalf of a Canadian company, is a wise decision. I smell a rotten fish (pun intended) and I for one would be in full support of the money trail between Omega and the politicians in favor of the ongoing menhaden policy be investigated.

4) Seasoned watermen seem to be public enemy number one in this debate. Its atrocious, and I am skeptical that disadvantaging people who live off the land and who are self sufficient (and are largely male, and vote the majority republican) isn't a large part of this. Spoiler alert, it is. And the sooner the fishery policy is stabilized by people who know this situation like the back of their hands (through good old time on the water) as opposed to some bureaucrat who may never have even seen the Chesapeake Bay, nothing is going to change. Sadly.

Thus I welcome the opportunity to weigh in, and vent my own frustrations, regarding too few productive days at the expense of people that govern things like the health of the Bay in general and the menhaden fishery in particular and the rest of us have to suffer the consequences.

CommentID: **239054** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Buklad

1/28/26 7:00 pm

and there is bad faith

I live on Gwynn's Island, and during the deep winter months of the pandemic, the blue fleet (two boats) was bottom trawling in shallow water usually fished by our natural oyster patent tongers. For a week thereafter the beaches were littered with bottom growth, the coral-type plants, dead shell fish and dead fish. There were waters they were not allowed to be in - we all thought. I supported their line but certainly no longer do. Only one school of menhaden minnows cam by Gwynn, all summer of this year. One osprey tried, but could not catch them, and gave up. Their catch each day is bad faith and deception.

CommentID: **239055** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: MARK ANDERSON

1/28/26 7:04 pm

Menhaden stock decline

I have been fishing Long Island Sound for the past 43 years and have witnessed the ups and downs of the Menhaden stock during this time. Early on during this period the menhaden population was plentiful. Then came the "Bunker (Menhaden) Boats" that decimated the population into non-existence. Rightfully these trawlers were banned form Long Island Sound, and the Menhaden population rebounded to great abundance (fueled by the Menhaden from southern waters). Enter Omega Protein! During the past 5 years the Menhaden population has steadily declined to the lowest number of fish in the last decade. It is not a coincidence that Omega spent a significant portion of the spring season in New York waters, due to lack of fish to the south. If gone unchecked, it is only a matter of time that the Menhaden population on the East Coast will cease to

exist. Politicians need to realize this will significantly impact many of their constituents negatively, and they will remember when it comes to voting. Recreational fisherman contribute millions of dollars to local economies in the form of payments to marinas, boat sales and repairs, gas taxes, mechanics, tackle shops, charter boats, hotels, and many other tourism connected business. The majority of these fisherman are targeting fish that rely on the Menhaden to survive! This is all being jeopardized due to the lack of regulation of one company, Omega Protein! I am sure names will be named if the collapse of Menhaden causes these businesses to suffer or go out of existence!!!

CommentID: **239056** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Will Gillen

1/28/26 7:45 pm

Save the Bay!

Menhaden overfishing has been an issue in our Virginia waters for several years and something must change! Future generations will never be able to experience the great fishing in our waters that I grew up on if there's nothing left to catch. It has been scientifically proven that many of our native and migratory species feed off of the menhaden. Limits need to be put into place for these commercial vessels such as a reduced quota, no spotter planes or pushing the vessels offshore!

CommentID: **239057** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kenneth

1/28/26 8:38 pm

More conservation needed right away

The over fishing of menhaden is hurting local commercial fishing companies like the Davenports on Dymer Creek.

I live in the area and observwd diminishing Osprey population around Fleets Bay due very few Menhaden.in this area.

After 2 years of unproductive recreational fishing, I have decided to sell my boat to lack of fish and unfortunately we not be teaching my grandkids the joy I experience while fishing on the Chesapeake.

The state of Virginia needs to outlaw industrial purse seine fishing.

CommentID: **239058** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chad Dameron

1/29/26 4:19 am

I do not support

The menhaden are thriving in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239061** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Stephen Saniewski

1/29/26 6:51 am

Headed for disaster

I am strongly in support of this measure. Having spent in excess of 50 years fishing along the Mid Atlantic coast it is painfully obvious that the current stocks of menhaden are in serious decline and without intervention are headed towards a future as a no longer sustainable fishery. Over the last 3 years the average size of menhaden has plummeted with full size bunker essentially unavailable, and I cannot understand the justification of allowing a Canadian company (Omega Protein) to exploit our resources to this level. This is an opportunity for the Virginia Legislature to follow the will of their constituents and at the same time do what is right for the health of the bay. Please put an end to the reduction fishery in the bay.

CommentID: **239062** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bob Mandigo

1/29/26 7:38 am

I agree

Establish a moratorium on industrial menhaden harvesting in Virginia until such time as a valid scientific study is completed on the ecological reference points AND shows the available annual sustainable harvest.

CommentID: **239063** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: S Kovacic

1/29/26 8:10 am

Save our fishery

This needs to end. Ban omega. And elect new officials

CommentID: **239064** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Al Taylor

1/29/26 10:03 am

Pause the fishery

Please pause the fishery to give fish stocks and other life time to recover. You are taking too much, and the fish eating birds are suffering, not to mention others.

CommentID: **239065** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steve S

1/29/26 11:52 am

Strongly agree

The conditions presented in the petition are common sense for fisheries, especially one such as menhaden which are a vital food source for Chesapeake Bay fisheries. And it should be noted that many of the petitions conditions are apparently required by law. Additionally, foreign companies should not be allowed to deplete this important component of our fishery's food web. We have nothing to gain by allowing it and much to lose.

CommentID: **239066** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: james mcconnell

1/29/26 12:52 pm

I support this petition

This action makes the most economic sense for all the recreational & commercial users of the Chesapeake Bay and will impact those same groups all up and down the eastern seaboard. We must place the value of menhaden above the purse seine harvesters - menhaden are worth more in place!

CommentID: **239067** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bob Schepker

1/29/26 1:20 pm

i support this petition

I support this petition. Save the bay.

CommentID: **239068** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Onesty Lady Cove LLC (Have a commercial card and leased oyster ground

1/29/26 1:23 pm

Miss the Osprey

I live on the Mobjack, mouth of Rowe Creek, Severn River. Have lived here for over 25 years. Always eagerly anticipate the return of the Osprey. Track it, usually between March 7th and 11th. Used to have lots of these beautiful birds over my house. The last several years they have declined to the point that last year we had none. This is a crime and a sin against nature.

Also, I no longer have peanut bunker in my cove. Is it possible that Menhaden return to the the same place where they were hatched and all of the Mobjack stock has been removed? We don't know by your very admission.

What's wrong with a three year moratorium so we can see and track any positive changes?

Is it true that one of the captain's of these purse seine vessels is our Congressman Whitman's son? Is it true that this company pays everyone of our state legislatures so that they can keep this damaging practice going?

I ask you to do the right, correct thing that you know is true. Most of the workers at the reduction plant are seasonal workers that receive unemployment. Think of the value in tax dollars that Factory Point would bring to the county if it was redeveloped. How much monies do the recreational fisherman spend? 10 years ago during Rockfish season you could turn in a circle and count 200 boats. How much were they worth in taxes. They are gone, no Rockfish left.

Make the correct moral and economic decision, PLEASE.

David Onesty

CommentID: **239069** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Spencer Lumpkin

1/29/26 2:09 pm

The Bay comes first

PLEASE stop menhaden fishing until much smaller and more realistic quotas can be studied and implemented. The bay is already under enough stress without a ruthless commercial fishery wreaking havoc.

CommentID: **239070** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** JD Haschert

1/29/26 2:25 pm

Foundational Species must be protected

As a life-long resident of the Eastern Shore and an avid recreational angler in both the Virginia and Maryland portions of the Chesapeake, I've seen firsthand the decline of menhaden numbers in the bay and its impacts. There are fewer predator fish, fewer Osprey on my creek every year, and less frequent visits from Bald Eagles in the winter. Please act to protect the menhaden to help restore balance to the bay.

CommentID: **239071** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Evan D

1/29/26 2:36 pm

Pause Menhaden Reduction Fishery

I support this petition. It is critical we put our natural resources first. The reduction fishery is unsustainable and having wide reaching negative impacts on the bay ecosystem.

CommentID: **239072** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Pat

1/29/26 2:42 pm

Saving menhaden

I support saving osprey by stopping over fishing menhaden!

CommentID: **239073** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kyle Franko

1/29/26 2:44 pm

Keep Omega 3 miles out

All that needs to happen is make it somewhere Omega bunker fleet is not allowed within 3 miles of the barrier islands. I'm a young watermen grew up fishing fishing in the bay is pretty good until the blue boat show up once they show up they catch everything in the bay. Nothing gets out of their nets To the people that Think they let fish go once it's in their circle and they suck it up with that pump it dies anyway they kill a lot of buy catch. Also they think they own the water one of my buddies. He was out there sport fishing he was anchored before the bunker boat got there and the bunker boat circled him while he was anchored and caught my buddy inside of his set. He still has a video of that and they make all the small water men lose more gear than anything what I could catch in my lifetime even if I loaded the boat every time wouldn't even touch one percent of their quota if they want to save the bay just make it somewhere where the bunker fleet are not allowed within 3 miles of the barrier Islands

CommentID: **239074** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Charles Breckenridge

1/29/26 5:20 pm

Kick Omega out of USA waters!

I have personally witnessed Omega killing prized gamefish and throwing them overboard in pursuit of their menhaden. Not only is it a complete waste of gamefish, it's also preventing those prized gamefish from spawning. Because well over half of the prized gamefish that are mixed in with the menhaden are of breeding size and need to be protected so they can pass on their genes to the next generation of gamefish. Omega is also completely ignoring the rule that they MUST be at least 3 miles out. I have seen them almost up on to the beach in some places. Omega is also a Canadian owned company and send over 90 percent of their menhaden to Canada to be made into fish meal. So not only is it not a USA company but USA is getting almost 0 percent of the benefits. If there are any benefits. IF TRUMP REALLY CARED ABOUT USA HE WOULD KICK THEM OUT into federal waters! EVERY SINGLE recreational fishermen I talk to do NOT want them in our bay. Let alone in USA waters. It's 500 jobs vs at least 50,000 recreational fishermen and captains AND GROWING! We need to kick them out of USA waters PERIOD! END OF STORY!

CommentID: **239075** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/29/26 6:18 pm

Over fishing

I have seen the damage 1st hand. One day you are fishing and catching fish and the next day the bait fish are gone and there's nothing to be found! With those large nets they can wipe out a school of fish in a couple of hours! Protect the fish by keeping the nets out like everyone else! Thank you, Gary

CommentID: **239076** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Jackson lewis

1/29/26 9:09 pm

I agree

I agree, help the sport fish

CommentID: **239078** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Mark Lea

1/29/26 9:27 pm

We need a full stop to evaluate the population better.

Pass this legislation

CommentID: **239079** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

1/30/26 8:58 am

Stop over fishing

Please stop over fishing of menhaden in the bay! Human greed is impacting critical food webs for eagles and other bay reliant species.

CommentID: **239082** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** John Hostalka

1/30/26 10:13 am

Stop

I agree. We need to stop! Get omega out of the Chesapeake

CommentID: **239084** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/30/26 11:14 am

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

Do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239089** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/30/26 11:17 am

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239090** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hannah Rosas

1/30/26 11:24 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition. This is going to be detrimental to a lot more people than just Omega Protein

CommentID: **239092** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alex Rosas

1/30/26 11:25 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239093** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steve Rosas

1/30/26 11:25 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239094** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lynette Wallace

1/30/26 11:26 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition. Science shows menhaden are not overfished. This is going to permanently damage the economy in this area.

CommentID: **239095** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jackii Torres

1/30/26 11:27 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239096** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kayleb Robinson

1/30/26 11:28 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239097** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dalton Jewell

1/30/26 11:33 am

I do not support this petition

I strongly disagree with this petition

CommentID: **239098** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Zach Kues

1/30/26 11:42 am

Do Not Support this Petition

Do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239099** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amanda Kues

1/30/26 11:43 am

Do not support this petition

Do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239100** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rachel Lowery

1/30/26 11:43 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239101** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tiffany W

1/30/26 11:44 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition. thanks!

CommentID: **239102** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amy Middleton

1/30/26 11:44 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239103** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kaleb Middleton

1/30/26 11:44 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239104** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carrie Jett

1/30/26 11:45 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239105** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ashley Dawson

1/30/26 11:49 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239106** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carolina E. Reynolds

1/30/26 11:59 am

VA Regulatory Town Hall - Manheden Fisheries

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239107** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brenda L Allen

1/30/26 12:00 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239108** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/30/26 12:27 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **239109** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Berkley Cash

1/30/26 12:27 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **239110** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather cash

1/30/26 12:36 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239111** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dwayne Corsey

1/30/26 1:05 pm

Do not support this petition

Do not support this petition

CommentID: **239114** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Thomas Moore

1/30/26 1:10 pm

I do not support

148 year old industry. Hard working folks making a living!!!!3

CommentID: **239115** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason L Lewis

1/30/26 1:13 pm

I don't support this petition

I dont support this petition!

CommentID: **239116** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bryce Packett

1/30/26 1:21 pm

Do NOT support this at all.

Not in support of this. Let's stop pollution and things that are really an issue.

CommentID: **239118** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amy H.

1/30/26 1:38 pm

I do not support this petition!

I DO NOT support this petition!

CommentID: **239120** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ben Packett

1/30/26 1:49 pm

I DO NOT support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239121** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Omega Protein

1/30/26 2:02 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!

Do not support!

CommentID: **239122** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: A Dawson

1/30/26 2:02 pm

Omega P

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!

CommentID: **239123** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nicole Moore

1/30/26 2:07 pm

I do not support

As an elementary schoolteacher in Northumberland County I cannot express how much Ocean Harvesters means not just to our family but our entire community. In my 25 years of teaching I cannot count the number of children that have come threw our school system and gone on to obtain degrees that hard working folks at Omega and Ocean harvesters were able to support financially.

CommentID: **239124** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Lowery

1/30/26 2:16 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239126** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Geneva Lowery

1/30/26 2:17 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239127** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bonnie Sanders

1/30/26 2:17 pm

I do NOT support

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239128** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith Ball

1/30/26 2:17 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239129** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jesse Sanders

1/30/26 2:18 pm

I do NOT support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239130** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Niki Jensen

1/30/26 2:18 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239131** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Newsome

1/30/26 2:19 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239132** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Mahan

1/30/26 2:19 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239133** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brigham Sanders

1/30/26 2:19 pm

I do NOT support this

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239134** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ida Mahan

1/30/26 2:21 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239135** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: M. Lowery

1/30/26 2:22 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239136** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ashley Marks

1/30/26 2:23 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239137** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nathan Marks

1/30/26 2:25 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239138** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mark Koslow

1/30/26 2:31 pm

Stop the fishing for menhaden in the Bay

Not unlike many other environmental issues, because there are so many monetary issues involved, we tend to put it off until it is too late. One day, the fishery will collapse, and the industry will shut down. Future generations will wonder why something was not done before it was too late. The time has come to take action!

CommentID: **239139** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rocco L.

1/30/26 2:31 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239140** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donald Blue

1/30/26 3:07 pm

I do not support

I'm a Plant Engineer at Omega Protein in Reedville and I'm opposed to this petition for a moratorium.

The 2025 ASMFC stock assessment is clear - menhaden are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Yes, the assessment found fishing mortality was above the ERP target, but the Management Board already addressed this in October by cutting the 2026 coastwide TAC by 20%. That reduction carries a 0% chance of overfishing. The science doesn't call for a complete shutdown of the fishery.

The petition asks for a moratorium until a long list of conditions are "demonstrated" but doesn't define what that actually means or looks like. Meanwhile, the Science Center for Marine Fisheries just funded a research effort with UMCES, VIMS, and NOAA to develop real Bay-specific reference points. Why impose a moratorium before that science is even completed? The existing Bay cap of 51,000 metric tons has been in place since 2006 and provides meaningful protection.

I work at this facility every day. The Reedville plant is the last menhaden reduction operation on the entire Atlantic coast. We're talking about hundreds of union jobs in a rural part of Virginia that doesn't have a lot of other options. The fishery is MSC certified sustainable. Shutting it down based on conditions that go well beyond what the peer-reviewed science recommends would be devastating to this community.

ASMFC has already taken action based on the latest assessment. A moratorium isn't warranted and I urge the Commission to deny this petition.

CommentID: **239141** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Newton

1/30/26 3:16 pm

Do not support petition

I don't support this petition

CommentID: **239142** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kristen

1/30/26 3:26 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239143** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charlotte Blackwell

1/30/26 3:27 pm

I do Not support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239144** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Monta Lee

1/30/26 3:27 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239145** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: I doLionel waddy

1/30/26 3:31 pm

I do not support the petition

I do not support the petition

CommentID: **239146** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carlos Cockrell

1/30/26 3:32 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239147** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/30/26 3:37 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239148** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lionel waddy

1/30/26 3:41 pm

I do not support the petition

I do not support the petition

CommentID: **239149** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tim Crandall

1/30/26 3:42 pm

PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239150** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kathy Lewis

1/30/26 3:44 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239151** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tim Crandall

1/30/26 3:44 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239152** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah McElroy

1/30/26 3:44 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239153** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Deondra Jones

1/30/26 3:46 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239154** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Blackwell

1/30/26 3:50 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239155** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Arlene Kilduff

1/30/26 3:50 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239156** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dawson Blackwell

1/30/26 3:51 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239157** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amanda Hall

1/30/26 3:51 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239158** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brandon Davis

1/30/26 4:02 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT!

CommentID: **239160** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: giada

1/30/26 4:02 pm

i do not support

i do not support this

CommentID: **239161** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jerius Morris

1/30/26 4:03 pm

I do not support

i do not support

CommentID: **239162** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carol Haynie Cummings

1/30/26 4:17 pm

I do NOT support

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239163** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amy E.

1/30/26 4:20 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239164** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Island Station

1/30/26 4:22 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239165** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andy Hudgins

1/30/26 4:23 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239166** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amy Hudgins

1/30/26 4:33 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition!

CommentID: **239167** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Stephen H.

1/30/26 4:35 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239168** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Isabella Hudgins

1/30/26 4:36 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239169** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gayle H.

1/30/26 4:41 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239170** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ty Hudgins

1/30/26 4:46 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239171** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bailey Lewis

1/30/26 4:51 pm

I do not support this petition!

I do not support this petition!!

CommentID: **239172** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jane B. Crowther

1/30/26 5:02 pm

Do not support this needless petition!

The Menhaden Rendering Industry in Virginia plays a vital role in supporting our communities and driving regional economic sustainability. The amount of donations from this industry given to local non-profits, schools, college scholarships and those in need, touches each one of us, every day. Personally, being deeply entrenched in the nutritional aspects of the products produced from menhaden, I am well aware of the importance of this Protein and Omega-3 rich nutrient sold to US based companies that provide nutritious feed to our companion animals and to animals that feed each of us. In addition, the menhaden provides us omega-3 supplementation for our own health maintenance. My 90+ year old parents are consumers of omega-3! It is endearing to be a part of a 100+ year old industry and a family of companies that takes great care of the natural resource, its employees, the local community and an awesome customer base.

I urge each of you to carefully consider this:

1) Come to see and understand first-hand what we do, by arranging a tour of our companies

AND

2) Do not support this needless petition!

CommentID: **239174** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Zach Hall

1/30/26 5:29 pm

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239178** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George w Ball

1/30/26 5:37 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239179** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kassidy Lewis-Buergert

1/30/26 5:38 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239180** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Buergert

1/30/26 5:38 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239181** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kierston Bell

1/30/26 5:39 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239182** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Herb Lewis

1/30/26 5:39 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239183** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nancy Lewis

1/30/26 5:39 pm

I do not support this petiton

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239184** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/30/26 5:41 pm

I do NOT support reduction of menhaden

I do NOT support a reduction! Even your studies do not prove there is a need for a reduction

CommentID: **239185** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** John lewis

1/30/26 5:43 pm

I do not support this

The science has shown no reason to enact limits. There were millions of menhaden seen in the bay in dec and january.... the population is strong

CommentID: **239186** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Juanita moore

1/30/26 5:44 pm

I do no support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239187** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Diane SHACKLEFORD

1/30/26 5:46 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239188** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Betty Ball

1/30/26 5:49 pm

I do not support this petition

I do support this petition

CommentID: **239189** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roberta Ball

1/30/26 5:50 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239190** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard Owens

1/30/26 5:50 pm

I DO support the petition to pause menhaden purse-seine fishing.

I do support the petition to pause purse-seine fishing for Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay until there has been a rebound in the population of rockfish. Rockfish support a broad base of the economy in the entire bay region not just one locality.

Additionally, it appears that populations of Osprey are falling due to a lack of Menhaden available for them to feed their young as food.

I can remember in my past seeing vast schools of Menhaden boiling on the surface and being chased by schools of striped bass. I spent a lot of time on the Bay this year and never saw this occur. It is a collapse of the food chain in the Chesapeake Bay due to the overfishing of menhaden by omega protein.

CommentID: **239191** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Cambell

1/30/26 5:52 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239192** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Omar Aleman

1/30/26 5:53 pm

Not support

I Do Not Support This Petition

CommentID: **239193** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brenda Burnett

1/30/26 5:54 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239194** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: REBECCA HAYNIE

1/30/26 5:56 pm

IDO NOT support this

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239195** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert wondson

1/30/26 6:04 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239196** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lorin Richard

1/30/26 6:07 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239197** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bryan Latham

1/30/26 6:08 pm

I support this petition

I support this petitioni

CommentID: **239198** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Caroline Richard

1/30/26 6:08 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239199** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tyler Jones

1/30/26 6:08 pm

Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishing ban.

I do NOT support this petition...

CommentID: **239200** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Vincent Pryor

1/30/26 6:10 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239201** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tim Harris

1/30/26 6:10 pm

I support the petition. This is a tragedy.

Subject: Tragedy of the Commons

Allowing a foreign-owned or domestic company to deplete the fundamental food fish that filters the water and nourishes whales, osprey, striper and many more animals, defies all logic. We spend billions trying to clean up the Bay and then allow the removal of billions of filter feeding fish? It's corrupt.

I taught our two sons this: when something doesn't make sense, money is usually involved. In this case, money and greed are ruining our fishery.

Please at least use science to guide us and not PAC money from the reduction fishery.

Virginia is better than this

CommentID: **239202** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Tyler Jones

1/30/26 6:11 pm

I do NOT support this petition...

I strongly oppose this petition.

CommentID: **239203** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Freddie Credle

1/30/26 6:24 pm

I do not support

I do not support EV

CommentID: **239204** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason Jones

1/30/26 6:56 pm

Menhaden petition

I DO NOT Support this petition

CommentID: **239208** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Vickie Jones

1/30/26 6:59 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT Support this petition

CommentID: **239209** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hailee Jones

1/30/26 7:30 pm

I DO NOT support this petition!

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239213** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lee Jones

1/30/26 7:39 pm

I do not support this petition.

I oppose this petition

CommentID: **239215** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tucker Jones

1/30/26 7:40 pm

I do not support this petition

I strongly oppose this petition

CommentID: **239216** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Jones

1/30/26 7:59 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239217** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peter Watson

1/30/26 8:12 pm

Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fis

I do not support the petition

CommentID: **239218** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: C Lee Jones

1/30/26 8:15 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239219** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard Dull

1/30/26 8:16 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239220** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dustin

1/30/26 8:27 pm

I Do Not Support

I Don not Support

CommentID: **239221** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Julio Silva

1/30/26 8:38 pm

Menhaden petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239222** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill

1/30/26 8:43 pm

Menhaden

I DO NOT SUPPORT!

CommentID: **239223** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tarlie Silva

1/30/26 8:43 pm

I DO NOT support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239224** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kimberly Johnson

1/30/26 8:54 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **239225** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trystin Thomas

1/30/26 9:36 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239226** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dennis VanCamp

1/30/26 9:42 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239228** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rob Hudnall

1/31/26 2:44 am

Menhaden moratorium

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239244** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rob Hudnall

1/31/26 2:46 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239245** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sharon Godfrey

1/31/26 3:55 am

Menhaden moratorium

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!!!

CommentID: **239246** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John T. Emery

1/31/26 6:24 am

I support this petition

Fully support

CommentID: **239247** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/31/26 10:11 am

I support the petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **239248** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jennifer M.

1/31/26 11:08 am

Menhaden is a key foundational species

Menhaden are one of the most crucial species at the base of the Bay food chain. Their abundance is key to all other life thriving. Please note the case study from New York Harbor:

NYC's Whale Population is Making a Comeback - Here's Why.

Menhaden (bunker fish) populations have surged in New York Harbor due to improved water quality and stricter fishing regulations since 2012. This abundance of prey has driven a dramatic, documented comeback of humpback whales, with sightings increasing from 3 in 2011 to over 300 in 2019.

Key Details on the Rebound

Food Source: Menhaden are a key, high-fat, schooling fish that act as a crucial food source for whales, dolphins, and birds.

Cleaner Harbor: Improvements to the Hudson River and city water quality, spurred by the Clean Water Act, have allowed the ecosystem to recover.

Population Surge: Following fishing caps in 2012, menhaden numbers have risen sharply, leading to a visible return of marine mammals to the area, with 500+ whales observed in 2019.

Whale Resurgence: Humpback whales are now frequently sighted around the Statue of Liberty and the Rockaways, with whale-watching tours becoming common.

Conservation Impact: The Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act helped protect these populations, which are now reclaiming their old habitat.

CommentID: **239249** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brandon Hamilton

1/31/26 11:08 am

I support this petition

Drastic decline of menhaden on the Atlantic coast. You cant determine the cause until a study is completed. If industrial fishing os the cause why wait until it is too late to stop it. A handful of US jobs are not worth risking the entire ecosystem of the Atlantic coast.

CommentID: **239250** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Salvatore C.

1/31/26 11:12 am

Support moratorium

I support this petition. The bay is being overfished

CommentID: **239251** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Alison F.

1/31/26 11:14 am

I support this petition

I support the moratorium on menhaden overfishing.

CommentID: **239252** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Jim Stuart

1/31/26 11:16 am

Stop Omega Protein

I support the petition to stop menhaden fishing and allow the Bay to recover.

CommentID: **239253** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Michael Reeves

1/31/26 11:19 am

Support Chesapeake Bay menhaden fishing ban.

I support this petition.

CommentID: **239254** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Katrina S.

1/31/26 11:28 am

Tragedy of the Commons

Classic example. Unregulated fishery means greedy corporations will overfish until there is nothing left. Science-supported studies must back responsible laws to keep menhaden populations healthy for future generations.

CommentID: **239255** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kyle Whitmer

1/31/26 11:35 am

Strongly SUPPORT

This was so well said that I must second this comment:

"The menhaden industry has decimated the migratory striped bass fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, has caused a decline in osprey populations, and trends suggest there could be several other negative effects on the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay is a natural, cultural, and environmental heritage resource that should be held in tact for equitable use, not pillaged for the gain of foreign business."

CommentID: **239256** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nick Sterrett

1/31/26 11:48 am

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition.

Menhaden have been harvested sustainably in this region for 148 years. The science confirms the stock is not overfished and no overfishing is occurring, with a 0% chance of overfishing, even at increased harvest levels. The fishery is also certified by MSC, which is the gold standard of global fisheries certifications; confirming a healthy stock, sustainable fishing methods, and robust fishery management.

Pushing menhaden fishing out of the Chesapeake Bay would cripple the economy of the Northern Neck and is not supported by any data or anecdotal evidence. The Menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay is at historically low levels, and the Bay cap is not supported by any science. Recent surveys over the past several years by MD DNR show record levels of juvenile menhaden (as well as other forage species) in the upper region of the Chesapeake Bay. This positive trend in menhaden and other forage fish suggest that the forage base in the Bay remains robust, supporting predators such as striped bass, bluefish, and birds. Additionally, even though rockfish are overfished, recent studies by VA, MD, and Potomac River Fisheries show the rockfish surveyed are very healthy, indicating they are well fed.

Please support our multi-generational, local, hardworking Virginia watermen, as well as our local economy and do not consider this petition.

CommentID: **239257** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah Pope

1/31/26 3:08 pm

I encourage limits on fishing menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay

There needs to be oversight on foreign business that over harvest menhaden stock in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239258** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: R. D. Hudnall

1/31/26 3:45 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

The proposed pause on Menhaden fishing is not only unnecessary for the species, but would also destroy a huge part of Virginias rural economy by forcing hundreds of people out of work.

CommentID: **239259** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Virginia Rittenhouse

1/31/26 3:51 pm

Don't support

I definitely do not support with this petition, at all.

CommentID: **239260** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dale Keyser

1/31/26 3:56 pm

I strongly do not support the petition. It will put a lot of people out of work.

I strongly do not support this petition. It is the livelihood of many families in Reidville and we are a fishing village

CommentID: **239261** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rob Beasley

1/31/26 4:11 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

I do not support this..

CommentID: **239262** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George Bowen

1/31/26 4:19 pm

Don't support

Don't support

CommentID: **239263** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Forrest Dameron

1/31/26 4:28 pm

Menhaden

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239264** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Elizabeth Parker

1/31/26 4:38 pm

Menhaden .

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239265** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/31/26 5:36 pm

Don't support

Do not support

CommentID: **239266** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gary hodes

1/31/26 5:39 pm

Petition vote

I do not support this

CommentID: **239267** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gary hodes

1/31/26 5:41 pm

I do not support this

Petition

CommentID: **239268** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

1/31/26 6:13 pm

I support this petition

Ban the menhaden reduction fishery

CommentID: **239269** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lacie Gaskins

1/31/26 6:27 pm

I do NOT support

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239270** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Goodman

1/31/26 6:43 pm

Yes I support

I support, it's to to save the food source in the bay

CommentID: **239271** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jimmy Crandall

1/31/26 6:59 pm

Do not support this petition.

Do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239272** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Haynie

1/31/26 7:32 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239273** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kara G

1/31/26 7:45 pm

I support this petition

It's time for industrial reduction fishing to move outside of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia state waters. They are destroying the nursery of the Chesapeake Bay for profits to a foreign company. Omega needs to fish outside of the 3 mile line in EEZ waters not state waters.

CommentID: **239274** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charles E. Clarke

1/31/26 7:47 pm

I fully support this potion

The health of the Chesapeake Bay should be a priority.

CommentID: **239275** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charles E. Clarke

1/31/26 7:49 pm

I fully support this petition

The health of the Chesapeake Bay should be a priority.

CommentID: **239276** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ricky Sears

1/31/26 8:36 pm

I fully support this petition

I fully support this petition

CommentID: **239277** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dylan Clay

1/31/26 8:36 pm

I 100% SUPPORT this petition

Omega has been destroying our waters for far too long they need to go. It's ashame they gotta put all their employees in here to vote on this

CommentID: **239278** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marcus Coffman

1/31/26 8:39 pm

Yes I support 100%

There should be a third party study performed before anymore fishing is done in the bay for menhaden. Once a resource is depleted it's nearly impossible to get it back.

CommentID: **239279** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: C.L. Godfrey

1/31/26 9:45 pm

I DO NOT SUPORT THIS

I DO NOT SUPPORTTHIS

CommentID: **239280** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John B. Reeves Sr.

1/31/26 10:36 pm

Yes, I support efforts to pause or greatly reduce menhaden harvest within Chesapeake Bay

I support subject efforts to pause or greatly reduce menhaden fish harvest within the Chesapeake Bay until an objective and scientific study has been done and approved that will inform decision makers on the recommended range of yearly menhaden harvesting from the Chesapeake Bay (including the Maryland portions of the main Bay).

CommentID: **239281** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard

2/1/26 4:29 am

Vaidity of comments

Just glancing at the comments it seems obvious some of them are not valid. I note many of the non-supporting comments are made within minutes of each other and due to there not being a method of validating that each comment is done by a validated user I suspect it is one person doing many entries.

I'm sure you are aware of this as well and hopefully you have some method of knowing the validity of each entry.

I've already stated I'm in favor of limiting or for a time not allowing any menhaden to be taken from Chesapeake Bay and determining the effects.

CommentID: **239282** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brenda Reed

2/1/26 6:25 am

I support this petition

Overfishing in the bay is a problem and has been for some time.

CommentID: **239283** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Josh Wittman

2/1/26 7:09 am

I Do Not Suppot

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239284** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rob Wilhoite

2/1/26 7:12 am

Menhaden Petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239285** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Lipcsey

2/1/26 8:46 am

Menhaden Fishing in the bay

Menhaden play a crucial role in supporting sport fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. The recent declines in both Stripe Bass and Blue Fish are a direct result of overfishing of Menhaden. The economic benefits of sport fishing are far greater than that of commercial Menhaden fishing. It's time to ban the commercial fishing of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239286** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hunter Tucker, HawgHunterChartersLLC

2/1/26 9:01 am

I support this petition

Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay needs to be stopped.

CommentID: **239287** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dalton Keyser

2/1/26 9:02 am

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239288** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ellie Brann

2/1/26 9:59 am

I DO NOT support this petition.

I DO NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239289** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anthony Amendolare

2/1/26 10:00 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE PETITION.

CommentID: **239290** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hannah Hayes

2/1/26 10:28 am

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239291** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Logan Hinson

2/1/26 10:29 am

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239292** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alec Sterrett

2/1/26 10:54 am

I DO NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239293** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Norris Bibbens

2/1/26 11:06 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support This petition

CommentID: **239294** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Abby Shirah

2/1/26 11:09 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support the petition. There is not enough scientific evidence to support this petition. Please protect the industry that supports a local community, local economy, and most importantly the families impacted.

CommentID: **239295** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Travis L Abbott

2/1/26 12:22 pm

Menhaden moratorium

I oppose this petition.

CommentID: **239296** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/1/26 12:26 pm

Yes, I support and agree with the petition.

Less menhaden = more water pollution + much less marine animals and fish (especially striped bass) in Chesapeake Bay. It is thousand folds more important to VA and all other states in East Coast than the gain of a company and a few hundred VA residents that work there.

Those jobs are replaceable but menhaden as a vital resource for Chesapeake Bay and Mid Atlantic Ocean are not.

CommentID: **239297** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Scott Mitchell

2/1/26 12:31 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239298** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tammy Ferver

2/1/26 12:38 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239299** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrew Dameron

2/1/26 12:39 pm

I Do not support this

This will harm hundreds of AMERICAN families that depend on this fishery to live

CommentID: **239300** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Forrest Brann

2/1/26 1:07 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

This petition is anything but fair and equitable based on its unreasonable and one sided demands. This temporary moratorium will end up being permanent because the VMRC's "best available science", will not be able to produce a trustworthy study that can be accurate on all these metrics that they will try to measure. Therefore, the ruling will favor the agenda of this petitioner, and not the menhaden fishery. Let's make it fair. If a moratorium is required, make it for all fishing including recreational.

CommentID: **239301** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robby Oder

2/1/26 1:43 pm

Menhaden

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239302** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ed C.

2/1/26 1:45 pm

I support a moratorium on Menhaden fishing

Industrial reduction fishing of Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is destroying the ecology of the bay and the other fish populations that rely on the presence of Menhaden in the food chain.

CommentID: **239303** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Dameron

2/1/26 2:23 pm

I do not support

This bill had no scientific merit and should not be supported

CommentID: **239304** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shannon Westman

2/1/26 2:37 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239305** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Stevens

2/1/26 2:40 pm

I do not support the petition

I do not support the petition

CommentID: **239306** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kimberly Stevens

2/1/26 2:41 pm

I do not support the petition

I do not support the petition

CommentID: **239307** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Liz Parker

2/1/26 3:04 pm

I do not support this petition.

I am so totally opposed to this petition.

CommentID: **239308** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Ryan

2/1/26 4:20 pm

I SUPPORT THIS PETITION

It's time we start prioritizing the recreational fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239309** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kyle Spruill

2/1/26 4:29 pm

I support this petition

Save the Chesapeake Bay. Bring back the fishing economy that's been missing from the ocean front for years.

CommentID: **239310** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kirk Brown

2/1/26 5:06 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239311** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Zachary Moore, United States Navy

2/1/26 5:56 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

My family has been involved with this industry for 150 years!!! Leave the industry alone!!!!

CommentID: **239312** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith Mason

2/1/26 6:03 pm

I do not support this petition.

Do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239313** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tyler Mitchell

2/1/26 6:04 pm

I Do Not Support

I Do Not Support

CommentID: **239314** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chip WoodAnonymous

2/1/26 6:10 pm

Please pause the Menhaden fishing

Please proceed with the pause, please make it permanent!

CommentID: **239315** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Des So

2/1/26 6:35 pm

Importance of Menhaden (absolutely yes to the petition)

VA has allowed too long for this rampage of menhaden to go on in Chesapeake Bay. The result has been pathetic. It has not only decreased the menhaden population but all species of marine animal and fish population in the Bay, as menhaden is the most important natural food source for so many of them, most importantly striped bass.

More importantly, menhaden helps to maintain the water quality of the bay by eating algae (sucking the oxygen out of the water) and filtering the water, too. Algae boom that happens in most Chesapeake Bay tributaries during the summer and kills newly hatched stripe bass fingerlings.

The most important fishery after the decline of Atlantic cod, undoubtly is striped bass. Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are the most important spawning grounds of this migrating specie; about 70% of entire striped bass stock spawning historically. It has reduced the striper population, especially in mid Atlantic states. The recent emergency regulation of limiting striped bass catch in entire eastern states is the proof of that. Therefore, this is a much bigger matter not only for VA, but all other states.

CommentID: **239316** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Elise Sterrett

2/1/26 7:00 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition! My family has been involved in the Reedville Menhaden industry for 6 generations! Please support the hardworking local watermen of Reedville and do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239317** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/1/26 7:11 pm

I support the petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **239318** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/1/26 7:20 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239319** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/1/26 9:04 pm

Menhaden Reduction Fisheries

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239320** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rodney E Fultz

2/1/26 9:23 pm

I fully SUPPORT this petition,

The trail of dead bunker they leave is abominable. Let them fish in the ocean, not in the bay.

CommentID: **239321** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Samuel Fultz

2/1/26 9:44 pm

I support this petition.

Regulation of Menhaden fishing is overdue for an ecosystem like the Chesapeake. Without further regulation, all species that rely on Menhaden for food will continue to dwindle in population. Do what is right for the Bay!

CommentID: **239322** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Emily Fultz

2/1/26 9:51 pm

I support this petition!! 100%

I have the joy of fishing here with my family in the summers. It is a sweet memory that I would like to continue one day with my own children. We must preserve the beauty of this bay.

CommentID: **239323** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Matthew Fultz

2/1/26 10:05 pm

I support this petition.

Reduce menhaden netting.

CommentID: **239324** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Garykelleyr

2/1/26 10:06 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239325** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 6:59 am

Do not support

I do not support this petition. It is unwarranted, and not supported by the science

CommentID: **239326** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/2/26 7:19 am

Do not support

I do not support this petition it does not follow the science . The menhaden fishery is sustainable that has been proven by multiple studies

CommentID: **239327** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Katie Keyser

2/2/26 7:23 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239328** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dee Fauntleroy

2/2/26 7:27 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239329** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Eric McNab

2/2/26 7:47 am

Do not Support

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239330** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alan Hinson

2/2/26 8:26 am

Menhaden

I do not Support

CommentID: **239332** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tina Caudle

2/2/26 8:53 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239333** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andy Hall

2/2/26 8:54 am

I do NOT support

This petition is not based on any sound science. In fact, the stock is extremely healthy. it is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring.

CommentID: **239334** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/2/26 9:00 am

Time for Science! I support this!

This topic has so many moving pieces that it would seem prudent to take a deep breath and get the science! I support this petition.

CommentID: **239335** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Becca Sterrett

2/2/26 9:26 am

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition!!

CommentID: **239336** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sonny abbott

2/2/26 10:38 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239340** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William abbott

2/2/26 10:39 am

Don't support

Do not support this petition

CommentID: **239341** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ben abbott

2/2/26 10:40 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239342** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peggy abbott

2/2/26 10:41 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239343** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Timothy abbott

2/2/26 10:42 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239344** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rick Rahn

2/2/26 10:42 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239345** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mathew abbott

2/2/26 10:43 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239346** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lincoln abbott

2/2/26 10:44 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239347** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Betty abbott

2/2/26 10:44 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239348** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gregory wright

2/2/26 10:56 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239349** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Darvelle kelly

2/2/26 10:56 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239350** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Clyde randolf

2/2/26 10:57 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239351** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nelson brooks

2/2/26 10:58 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239352** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ronnie butler

2/2/26 10:59 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239353** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Damon cotrel

2/2/26 11:00 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239354** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cornell palmer

2/2/26 11:01 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239355** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert williams

2/2/26 11:02 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239356** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith smith

2/2/26 11:03 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239357** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ray smith

2/2/26 11:03 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239358** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Belinda abbott

2/2/26 11:04 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239359** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Morgan jenkins

2/2/26 11:05 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239360** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Winfield doblin

2/2/26 11:06 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239361** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jamonte Norris

2/2/26 11:07 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239362** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lachone palmer

2/2/26 11:07 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239363** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marty carter

2/2/26 11:08 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239364** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marvin swann

2/2/26 11:10 am

Don't support

Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239365** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Aaron taylor

2/2/26 11:13 am

Don't support this petition

Don't support

CommentID: **239366** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: brandon tate

2/2/26 11:22 am

dont support this petition

dont support

CommentID: **239367** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Morris

2/2/26 11:53 am

Let Them fish OUTSIDE of the 3 Mile Line!

Menhaden overfishing has been an issue in our Virginia waters for several years, and something must change! Future generations will never be able to experience the great fishing in our waters that I grew up on if there's nothing left to catch. It has been scientifically proven that many of our native and migratory species feed on the menhaden. Please do the research and save our precious Chesapeake Bay!

CommentID: **239369** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 11:55 am

I agree

I agree. Kick them out.

CommentID: **239370** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 11:58 am

I'm in support

I am in support of the moratorium on menhaden reduction fisheries.

CommentID: **239371** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 12:30 pm

Stop Menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake Bay

I support the petition.

CommentID: **239372** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Jaison John Thomas

2/2/26 1:30 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239373** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anna Blackwell

2/2/26 2:21 pm

SUPPORT this petition

I fully support this petition.

CommentID: **239374** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Covington

2/2/26 2:22 pm

Support the petition

I support the petition to pause the menhaden fishery.

CommentID: **239375** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Victoria Tuthill

2/2/26 3:02 pm

I do not support this!

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239376** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George Tuthill

2/2/26 3:03 pm

I do not support this!

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239377** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/2/26 3:07 pm

I support this. Put a hold on menhaden reduction fisheries

I am in full support of this. Omega needs to be stopped.

CommentID: **239378** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Fred Covington

2/2/26 3:58 pm

Support the petition

I vehemently support the petition.

CommentID: **239379** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Martina B.

2/2/26 4:00 pm

I support the petition

We support science and the pause in menhaden fishing.

CommentID: **239380** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sandra Smiyh

2/2/26 4:04 pm

Menhaden

I am in support of the petition to stop Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239381** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: E. Eskridge

2/2/26 4:07 pm

Foreign company profits from unregulated fishing

Omega is a foreign owned company indiscriminately seine net fishing all life out of our bay for profit. Say "no" to unregulated fishing. Say "yes" to limits and regulations that will sustain life in the

bay and a thriving fishery for future generations.

CommentID: **239382** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Noel

2/2/26 4:22 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239383** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: mike mahan

2/2/26 4:27 pm

i agree

stop omega. why are they not fishijg in canada?

CommentID: **239384** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lee Robbins

2/2/26 4:50 pm

I strongly oppose this petition

I strongly disagree with this petition. There is no scientific evidence to push these boats out of the Chesapeake Bay. I have fished for menhaden as a 2 nd generation fishermen and understand how the fish migrate in and out of the Bay. With over 43 years experience in this industry I have seen more fish in the Bay than ever before. Just because we don't catch them doesn't mean that they are not there. We have more regulations on us now than ever before. The state of Va. should be proud of this industry that has been supporting the local and state businesses and communities for well over 160 years. The people that work at the Reedville plant are mostly Va residents with the exception of about 3-4 from NC.

CommentID: **239385** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michelle W Robbins

2/2/26 4:58 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition! These are hard working people and they don't deserve to have their jobs threatened by sport-fisherman. Every year they have to fight to keep a job. Politics has no place in commercial fishing.

CommentID: **239386** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ethan hall

2/2/26 5:33 pm

Moratorium

I agree

CommentID: **239387** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/2/26 5:33 pm

I agree

I agree

CommentID: **239388** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rosie Keene

2/2/26 5:51 pm

Ensure fishery for the future; regulate Omega

We want a fishery for our children and grandchildren. We strongly support this petition to pause and allow the proper study of overfishing impacts on the future health of the bay.

CommentID: **239389** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tom Keene

2/2/26 5:53 pm

Ensure fishery for the future; regulate Omega

We want a fishery for our children and grandchildren. We strongly support this petition to pause and allow the proper study of overfishing impacts on the future health of the bay.

CommentID: **239390** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Weirup

2/2/26 6:54 pm

STOP INDUSTRIAL FISHING IN THE BAY

I fully support a moratorium on industrial fishing in the bay completely. Omega had demonstrated and previous catch data is supporting claims that it is destructive to fish population and that the fishing can/should be done outside of state waters.

CommentID: **239391** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Patrick McMath

2/2/26 7:35 pm

Petition signature

Stop the menhaden fishing in the bay. Require 3NM out for fishing if at all!

CommentID: **239392** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 7:42 pm

I support this petition.

They need to be kicked out from USA water all together.

CommentID: **239393** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Danny Crabbe

2/2/26 7:48 pm

I do not support

I've been a charter boat captain for 60 years. I've worked around the menhaden fleet for all 60 of those years. They are all hard working folks. Leave them and the charter boats alone!!!! Let us work, that's all we want.

CommentID: **239394** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: P. Kennedy

2/2/26 7:53 pm

Support this petition

In support of this petition

CommentID: **239395** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Rob Lampson

2/2/26 7:57 pm

No omega in the bay!

I've seen first hand the devastation to bull drum and cobia after omega goes through. Huge spills, tons of dead loss.

CommentID: **239396** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Mark Fernandez

2/2/26 8:12 pm

I support the resolution

To limit menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake bay

CommentID: **239397** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 8:28 pm

Support the petition

I Support this petition. Omega needs to be regulated.

CommentID: **239398** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/2/26 8:59 pm

I agree

I agree

CommentID: **239400** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Britt Altizer

2/2/26 9:34 pm

I support a full moratorium

Virginia is one of the last states to allow a fishery like this. Look at other reduction fisheries around the world. It's a no brainer to stop destroying the food chain! Respect the ocean!!!!

CommentID: **239401** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeff

2/2/26 9:35 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239402** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/2/26 9:41 pm

In Favor

In favor of a moratorium.

CommentID: **239403** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Warren T Poirier

2/2/26 10:46 pm

Protect our Menhaden!

I am in support of protective measures to protect the menhaden in the Chesapeake bay and all of Virginia's tributaries and estuaries.

CommentID: **239404** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Edward Lee

2/3/26 7:48 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239405** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Maria Lee

2/3/26 7:49 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239406** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/3/26 9:41 am

Agree with moratorium

Reduction fishing vessels are forced to leave the bay due to the amount of fish being depleted. No business would choose to spend more money in fuel unless they had to due to pogies being virtually gone within the bay by the end of the season.

CommentID: **239408** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** WILLIAM A. TAYLOR, OMEGA PROTEIN

2/3/26 11:02 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239409** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** GWEN TAYLOR

2/3/26 11:03 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239410** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: JOANNA TAYLOR

2/3/26 11:04 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239411** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: BEVERLY SCOTT

2/3/26 11:05 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239412** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/3/26 11:05 am

I support this petition

We need to do something before it's too late. Put omega on a leash.

CommentID: **239413** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Allen Davis Jr

2/3/26 11:15 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239414** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William S Diller

2/3/26 11:51 am

I do not support this petition!!

I don't support this petition an hope one day more people will try being informed instead of just opinionated.

CommentID: **239415** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michelle Robbins

2/3/26 12:31 pm

I DO NOT support this petition!!

I DO NOT support this petition!

CommentID: **239416** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Ricks

2/3/26 1:06 pm

I support this petition

Menhaden are vital to the continued health and wellbeing of the Chesapeake Bay. The current reduction industry is causing harm to this ecosystem as evidenced by the severe drop in osprey and striped bass populations.

CommentID: **239417** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cathy Wash

2/3/26 1:08 pm

Stop fishing menhaven in the bay

I agree

CommentID: **239418** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tom Wash

2/3/26 1:15 pm

Stop menhaden industrial fishing in the bay

Agee with petition to stop menhaden fishing in the bay

CommentID: **239419** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sheri George

2/3/26 1:30 pm

Menhaden

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239420** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sheri George

2/3/26 1:33 pm

I do not support this reduction

I do not support this reduction

CommentID: **239421** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lori Pickett

2/3/26 1:34 pm

Menhaden fishing

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239422** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Franklin George

2/3/26 1:35 pm

I do not support the menhaden reduction

I do not support this reduction

CommentID: **239423** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kody George

2/3/26 1:36 pm

I do not support the menhaden reduction

I do not support the menhaden reduction

CommentID: **239424** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anna Belle Timberlake

2/3/26 2:14 pm

Menhaden Moratorium

I DO NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239425** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Doug Kuett

2/3/26 2:35 pm

I don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows.

I have been sailing the Chesapeake Bay for 50+ years. The Bay used to boil with Menhaden. It does not boil any longer. I used to catch plenty of Rockfish. I don't catch them any more. I used to catch Blue Fish. I don't catch them anymore. They are not there to catch. It's not rocket science. If you consistently extract 100 million pounds of protein from a Bay 150 miles long and 20 miles wide, the food chain collapses. Stop the madness.

CommentID: **239426** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Robert pollard

2/3/26 3:23 pm

Stop industrial reduction fishing in the bay

Stop all industrial reduction fishing in the bay

CommentID: **239427** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Jonathan VanBuskirk

2/3/26 3:31 pm

This Industry Needs to be Kept Accountable

I do not support a complete moratorium on menhaden fishing. However, I strongly believe that stricter regulations and greater accountability within the Omega Protein industry are absolutely essential to preserve the health and enjoyment of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

The Reedville, Virginia facility—Omega Protein's plant—is now the only remaining reduction facility on the entire Atlantic coast. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, this single plant harvests nearly 70% of all Atlantic menhaden caught along the East Coast, totaling close to 300 million pounds each year. No forage fish population can endure that level of extraction and expect to recover within our lifetimes, especially given the natural mortality rates of menhaden.

Menhaden are the foundation of the marine food web. Species such as the striped bass, bluefin tuna, dolphins, humpback whales, and even the iconic bald eagle depend on this fish as a primary food source. When menhaden are overharvested, every one of these species is put at risk, and the ecological balance that defines the Chesapeake Bay begins to unravel.

Moreover, the methods Omega uses to capture menhaden leave little opportunity for natural recovery. By removing entire schools, the company effectively wipes out local populations, creating temporary ecological dead zones. This local impact is often hidden in aggregate harvest statistics but has very real, immediate consequences for regional biodiversity. Even reducing their catch by half within a given school could help restore local populations and preserve the species' ecological role.

Beyond the ecological harm, Omega Protein's record of compliance raises serious concerns. The company has repeatedly exceeded harvest caps—with over a 30% violation in 2019 and another incident in 2013, which resulted in only minimal financial penalties, amounting to a mere 2.5% of their 2014 annual revenue. Additionally, Omega has been cited multiple times over the past decade for pollution-related violations, including the release of contaminated bilge water and toxic ammonia. These repeated offenses indicate a troubling disregard for environmental stewardship.

To make matters worse, much of the product derived from Atlantic menhaden is exported abroad to support foreign aquaculture operations, meaning that one of our most critical forage species is being exploited to benefit markets in Canada, Switzerland, and parts of Asia—hardly a fair exchange for our local ecosystems and communities.

That said, I want to be clear: I deeply respect the hardworking citizens of Reedville and those employed by Omega Protein. Their heritage, dedication, and contributions to the region's identity are invaluable. These are families and individuals who have given their time, labor, and love to sustain their community. Any new regulations must consider their livelihoods and strive for fairness and practical solutions.

Yet acknowledgment of their commitment does not excuse the company's harmful practices. We owe it to both the workers and the Bay to pursue a balanced agreement—one that preserves jobs

while protecting the irreplaceable natural resources that make those jobs possible.

CommentID: **239428** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/3/26 3:35 pm

Menhaden fishing

It's the #1 fish in the sea. Stop over fishing now. Support 100%

CommentID: **239429** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bruce Andrews

2/3/26 3:58 pm

Menhaden bill

I am totaly against this bill. The reaserch does not support this bill.

CommentID: **239430** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Radford

2/3/26 4:22 pm

Reduce the Menhaden reduction limit in the bay and the Atlantic.

I support reducing the Menhaden reduction annual catch in the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

William Radford

Lancaster, VA

CommentID: **239431** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael S Prindes

2/3/26 4:48 pm

Menhaden fishing

Please put a stop to the industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239432** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: C Appel

2/3/26 5:02 pm

Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fis

I support the petition

CommentID: **239433** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/3/26 5:26 pm

I'm in support of this petition. Protect the gamefish and osprey.

If we don't do something soon. We can kiss the striped bass, bull red drum, and cobia fisheries goodbye. I am in support of this petition.

CommentID: **239434** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andy Cortez

2/3/26 5:46 pm

I support this petition

VMRC needs to manage the Chesapeake Bay as an ecosystem, with a separate maximum mortality threshold. This petition addresses management uncertainty and aims to conserve all species in the bay. Reduction of effort inside the bay, by moratorium, will give scientists time to determine the acceptable biological catch while rebuilding ecosystem component species. The long-term benefits will far outweigh the short-term costs.

CommentID: **239435** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Misty Moss

2/3/26 7:22 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239436** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joanne Hinson

2/3/26 8:39 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239437** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Joan Pittman

2/3/26 8:45 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT!

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239438** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Ann DeVaul

2/4/26 7:40 am

I Support this petition

Menhaden are too important to the bay. We need good data to evaluate fish stock and the impacts of reduction fishing to the environment. Omega can fish in the ocean, away from the bay, while the study is ongoing.

CommentID: **239439** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Ralph Walker

2/4/26 8:11 am

I do not support!!!

These are good job in a rural community.

CommentID: **239440** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/4/26 8:25 am

I am in support

Regrouping on this topic is necessary. When local fishing people have seen a decline than it is happening.

CommentID: **239442** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike Ostrander

2/4/26 8:46 am

I support this

What are the opponents of this afraid of? It only makes sense to gather as much information as possible to make the right decision. The science that is out there now already points to a lack of menhaden and by that a very poor management of this public resources.

CommentID: **239443** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paul Glass

2/4/26 9:02 am

I support this petition

Commercial menhaden fishing is depleting the food source that many species of wildlife depend on for survival. This needs careful study to determine if any take should be allowed in the future, but it cannot continue at this rate.

CommentID: **239444** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ronald White

2/4/26 9:26 am

Please eliminate netting of menhaden and excessive bycatch in the Chesapeake Bay.

Please eliminate netting of menhaden and excessive bycatch in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239445** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peggy Clark

2/4/26 9:33 am

Protect Chesapeake Bay Ospreys

I support this petition. Recent research on the Chesapeake Bay osprey population shows evidence that menhaden overfishing is inhibiting osprey chick survival rates (not enough food available) and this is having a harmful impact on this local population.

CommentID: **239446** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Melinda C

2/4/26 1:24 pm

I support ban for research

I support ban of fishing Menhaden while research is completed to understand how overfishing is affecting our wildlife/fisheries

CommentID: **239448** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/4/26 1:43 pm

I'm in support of ban on menhaden reduction for research.

I am in full support of banning menhaden reduction fisheries. Until we at least figure out what is going on.

CommentID: **239449** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Claude Davenport

2/4/26 2:47 pm

Menhaden reduction fishing

I support this petition.

CommentID: **239451** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kevin Rose

2/4/26 3:53 pm

Do Not Support

Do Not Support

CommentID: **239452** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brad Ramsey

2/4/26 3:55 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239453** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trevor Deihl

2/4/26 10:02 pm

I Do Not Support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239454** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/5/26 5:06 pm

Remove omega from the bay!

I am in full support of this petition. Until we figure out what is going on we need to kick omega out.

CommentID: **239457** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brittany Mitchell

2/5/26 9:10 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239458** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/6/26 3:28 pm

Commercial fishing in the bay.

There is no reason to put a moratorium on bay fishing the commercial fisherman respect and understand the ecosystem they have to in order to make sure they have a way to continue work they do not over fish they are the ones people that are not on the water, a place where these men people feel at home and love, they do not want to happen to the ecosystem and they take care of the water.

The second reason is that it will destroy Northumberland it is the main industry in that county hundreds of people rely on the bay for income along with other counties the should not pass leave the waterman alone

CommentID: **239461** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chip Williams

2/7/26 7:24 am

I DO NOT support this bill

Trust the science. There isn't a problem.

CommentID: **239462** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Cole

2/7/26 8:01 am

I do not support this bill.

I do not support this bill.

CommentID: **239463** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Miles Hollingsworth

2/7/26 8:43 am

Menhaden

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239464** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/7/26 8:59 am

Menhaden

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239465** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/7/26 9:01 am

Do not support

I do not support this bill!

CommentID: **239466** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cohen Vanlandingham

2/7/26 9:12 am

I Don't Support This Bill

I Don't Support This Bill

CommentID: **239467** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/7/26 9:12 am

I do not support this bill

No

CommentID: **239468** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/7/26 9:26 am

I do not support

Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay has been occurring for over 100years in the bay proving that it can be successful and sustainable just in the nature of operation longevity. Understand that fishing with go through periods of abundance and scarcity due to multiple factors such as weather, migration patterns, water temperatures, changes in salinity and sanitation, all factors that change year to year. Any study will be extremely hard if not impossible to accurately predict future trends due in large part to the migration uncertainty and reproduction capabilities of this forage fish. To

shut down a certified sustainable fishery that has been in constant operation for over a hundred years supporting 3rd and 4th generation Virginia families is not good science.

CommentID: **239469** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah Loving

2/7/26 9:58 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL

CommentID: **239470** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Haynie

2/7/26 10:50 am

I do not support this petition

There are too many varied opinions about how the menhaden population is overfished. I have been involved in the menhaden fishing business for many years. When I was growing up there were 4 menhaden plants operating on Cockerels Creek. One on the Reedville side and 4 on the Fairport side with many vessels. Now you just have one plant operating with what 6 or 7 vessels. This is a reduction in itself.

There are many opinions and articles but it seems to me that as others have stated they are based upon unproven facts or incorrect science. A lot of families depend upon the **Menhaden Industry to feed their families plus the county depends upon the tax revenue and then you have the companies that also depend upon the fish meal, fish oil and other by-products of the menhaden.**

CommentID: **239471** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jessica Haynie

2/7/26 11:12 am

I do not support

No!

CommentID: **239472** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah Haynie

2/7/26 11:13 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239473** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lennie Rock

2/7/26 11:38 am

NO I do not support

No I don't support

CommentID: **239474** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/7/26 12:58 pm

HB1048

I do support.

CommentID: **239475** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Laura Bradley

2/7/26 1:21 pm

petition

Do not support

CommentID: **239476** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David

2/7/26 1:28 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239477** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Irvin Deihl

2/7/26 4:04 pm

Do not support.

Who's next? Crabbers? Oystermen? Pound Netters? How about a bill mandating shutting down the sewage treatment plants in D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia? It's their sewage that's killing the Bay.

CommentID: **239478** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Michael Dameron

2/7/26 4:05 pm

Do not support

There is no scientific data supporting a shutdown at this time. And to do so before there is data that supports it is jumping the gun. And will be detrimental to the people who make a living directly and indirectly from the fishery.

CommentID: **239479** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Cory Rice

2/7/26 4:09 pm

Do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239480** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Laura Rice

2/7/26 4:10 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239481** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Burgess

2/7/26 4:12 pm

I am against this legislation!!

Against it!

CommentID: **239482** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dan Ford

2/7/26 4:13 pm

Do not support

Stop the madness with this every year! The science tells you this is a non issue.

CommentID: **239483** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roger Smith

2/7/26 4:28 pm

Do not support

Do not support!!

CommentID: **239484** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Judy Jenkins

2/7/26 4:31 pm

I do not support this petition

I

CommentID: **239485** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Holdzkom

2/7/26 4:35 pm

Save menhaden

I support this petition. Virginia is the only state on the East coast to allow reduction fishing in state waters, and the Chesapeake Bay is the most important estuary on the East coast.

CommentID: **239486** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dixie Deihl

2/7/26 4:38 pm

Do Not Support Petition

Science clearly shows that Atlantic Menhaden are Not Overfished and No Overfishing is Occurring. This petition only risks people's jobs.

CommentID: **239487** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Landon Gaskins

2/7/26 4:41 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239488** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kenneth Loving

2/7/26 4:42 pm

Do not support

Menhaden fishing in the bay is at the lowest levels in 70 years and is already over regulated. This is totally unnecessary

CommentID: **239489** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carter Gaskins

2/7/26 4:42 pm

I do NOT support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239490** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Frances Loving

2/7/26 4:42 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this

CommentID: **239491** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tucker Gaskins

2/7/26 4:43 pm

I do NOT support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239492** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Deihl

2/7/26 4:47 pm

Do Not Support

People try to blame menhaden fishing for the problems with striped bass but the science says otherwise. Striped bass are OVERFISHED, primarily due to the discord mortality from recreational fishing. Read the ASMFC Striped Bass Stock Assessment. And striped bass health surveys in the Chesapeake Bay which have been done by VMRC for over 30 years, as well as by PRFC in Potomac River show that EVERY YEAR of the survey striped bass have be healthy and well fed. People should stop trying to blame menhaden fishing for this issue.

CommentID: **239493** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard C. (Dick) Smith

2/7/26 4:53 pm

I do not support this!!

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239494** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lawson Schools jr

2/7/26 4:58 pm

against any legislative restrictions on any Commercial fisheries.

Enough is enough, not sure what drives the machine to put people out of work, a specific group wants to decide why the other group does something different then them, Give it a break your group as ours depend on the migratory patters of our target species , Ours and yours , they come an they go we are doing what we have been doing for years, and the fish still prevail, We all need to get on the same page pollution, run off and other issues will hurt both sides more then each other.

CommentID: **239495** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joe Waple

2/7/26 5:01 pm

Petition to curtail/end Menhaden reduction fishery in Chesapeake Bay

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239496** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jonathan Craig Rice

2/7/26 5:26 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239497** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marina Pierce

2/7/26 5:30 pm

Move Industrial Fishing Out of the Bay

As a wildlife photographer I have had a front row seat to the decline of osprey in my area of Cape Charles, VA. The pairs are working hard to maintain in the face of development, but they can't fight the industrial fishing that is starving them and their young. It's heartbreaking to watch the chicks killing each other in hopes of getting the small amount of fish the adults can bring back. Or worse, to watch the female abandon the nest with eggs in it because she's starving. Since osprey only feed on fresh fish they are a harbinger to the greater damage being done to the Bay ecosystem by this continued depletion of a foundational species. No one wants to put the fishermen in Reedville out of a job, but they have the option of going to the ocean waters 3 miles off shore to make their catch. The local fishermen, sport fish, ospreys and other critters that depend on menhaden don't have that option. Please do the right thing and take immediate action

to stop this practice until REAL science can be done to protect our national treasure - the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239498** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Maggie Evans

2/7/26 5:35 pm

I support this bill. Limit commercial fishing of Menhaden

Save our Osprey

CommentID: **239499** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: BJ Swisher

2/7/26 5:38 pm

Not for this regulation

Not in favor of this petition

CommentID: **239500** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrew tjompson

2/7/26 5:41 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239501** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: E Allison

2/7/26 5:42 pm

Petition

Do not support

CommentID: **239502** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: AR Bailey

2/7/26 5:45 pm

Not for this regulation

Not for this petition

CommentID: **239503** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John E. Haynie

2/7/26 5:53 pm

I do not support banning menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

I am opposed to banning fishing in the Chesapeake Bay!

CommentID: **239504** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Susan Haynie

2/7/26 5:57 pm

Don't support banning menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

I absolutely do not support banning menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay!

these special interest groups should work on cleaning up pollution! The menhaden industry is a good steward to our community!

CommentID: **239505** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Susan Cecere

2/7/26 6:56 pm

Ban industrial fishing and save the osprey

Save the osprey

CommentID: **239506** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Martha Foiles

2/7/26 7:15 pm

I Support This Bill

Ospreys fought their way back from near extinction due to DDT only to have Omega Protein endanger their existence by overfishing their primary food source, menhaden, in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden is an important part of the food chain in the Chesapeake Bay for many species, and Delaware and Maryland do not allow Omega to harvest in the Bay for environmental reasons. Omega can harvest menhaden from the Atlantic Ocean. Please stop them so scientific studies can properly evaluate the risks, and please understand that many of those opposing the bill are employed or otherwise affiliated with Omega Protein.

CommentID: **239507** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lorian Gallagher-Blewitt

2/7/26 7:50 pm

I wholeheartedly support this petition!

Study After study has shown that the overfishing of menhaden are a detriment to all of our wildlife in Virginia Waters, and All of those that so desperately Depend on these fish to survive.

CommentID: **239508** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/7/26 8:10 pm

Save our Menhaden

Save the bay and our fish!

CommentID: **239509** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lydia Haynie

2/7/26 8:41 pm

Menhaden

Stop this constant attack on hard working people! I do not support a ban.

CommentID: **239510** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paige Headley

2/7/26 9:28 pm

Reduction of medhaden in Chesapeake Bay

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239511** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: jean nelson

2/8/26 2:12 am

bay need it's own menhaden count. TAC must be based on bay numbers - not ocean numbers

TAC numbers for the ches bay are based on menhaden in the atlantic not the bay. despite all evidence to the contrary and with no verifiable proof omega claims that they are not overfishing in the bay and last year they couldn't even catch their bay limit due to the lack of menhaden from years of overfishing. it's well past time that an actual study and count of bay menhaden was done and if omega is right the study will prove that. if omega wants to fish the bay they should be required to pay for the study to prove that they are not overfishing.

any future bay tac numbers must be based on bay count numbers not atlantic ocean numbers. omega is well equipped to fish in the atlantic so they will not have to end operation or cutback on numbers - they just have to pause fishing the bay until an accurate bay study and accounting can be completed. canadian owned omega is in the bay with the permission of virginia. no one else even allows them in their waters. if they wanted to be good stewards they would not only welcome a study that sets a reasoned limit that would insure they could work the bay for years to come. the way they currently operate shows that they are not invested in the health of the bay they are only there to take its bounty and make money. their loyalty is to the bottom line not the people of reedville. once they bay is emptied of menhaden they will pack up and leave.

CommentID: **239512** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George Butler

2/8/26 6:19 am

Menhaden

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239513** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joel Deihl

2/8/26 6:50 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239514** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Haley Deihl

2/8/26 6:51 am

I do NOT support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239515** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Unions are cyber bullying these petitions

2/8/26 7:48 am

Unions are cyber bullying these petitions

Not representative of the general public

CommentID: **239517** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith R. Bolek

2/8/26 8:35 am

I support this petition because it is in the best interests of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia

I write in support of this petition because a temporary moratorium on purse-seine reduction fishing for menhaden, along with the additional steps and considerations set forth in the petition, are in the best interests of the Chesapeake Bay and the State of Virginia. It also happens to be in the best interests of all of those who depend upon or rely upon the bay, whether human, animal, fish or fowl.

It is undisputed that menhaden populations have declined in the Chesapeake Bay. They are not what they were decades or centuries ago. There are multiple reasons for the decline, but many of them are within our control. So are the means of redressing these declines. If we adopt a temporary moratorium on purse-seine reduction fishing (a name that I have always found to be transparent in its effects), we can provide some time to not only get a true and verified assessment of the state of menhaden in the bay, but also develop a path forward that can lead to increased -- rather than reduced -- populations of the fish.

I am not a scientist. I don't work at the plant in Reedville. But, I am someone who loves the Chesapeake Bay. I have recently been introduced to the beauty found in the eastern shore of Virginia. One of my favorite memories from the time I spent there with my family involves watching my children try to catch fish off a dock adjacent to the bay. I watched as my kids caught menhaden. It was all of our first experience with the fish up close. Seeing those little fish in my kids' hands, with the smiles on their faces, got me to thinking about those little fish. I did my research and discovered their oversized impact upon our bay. I also looked at all sides of the issue. That is when I realized there was only one side: the side of the fish themselves.

This petition seems like a no-brainer. If the menhaden population crashes, there will be ripple effects, like the loss of striped bass, osprey and other creatures who depend upon the fish. *But there will also be the loss of the very jobs that those who oppose this petition seek to protect.* If there are no menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, then there are less fish to process in Reedville, VA. That will lead to layoffs. Vessels will have to go out further, reducing the menhaden populations farther and farther away.

We need to support the menhaden populations and, if we do, we will end up supporting everyone. The petition strikes the right balance and framework for that support. We need an honest, science-based look at the current state of the menhaden populations in the bay. We need to ensure that all who rely upon menhaden fishing, not just the reduction industry. We need to ensure that the small, family businesses who operate on the bay can continue their way of life. And, we need to make sure that the ecosystem itself remains strong, because menhaden are a cornerstone to that system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

CommentID: **239518** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joel Hudnall

2/8/26 8:45 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239519** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: PATRICK Blewitt

2/8/26 2:31 pm

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and home to thousands of species of plants and animals. Nearly one million waterfowl winter on and near the bay each year — approximately one-third of the Atlantic Coast's migratory population. More than 18 million people live and work in the Chesapeake Bay region, many depending on industries tied to the health of the watershed, including outdoor recreation, farming and fishing.

CommentID: **239520** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Hazzard

2/8/26 3:05 pm

Restrict menhaden overharvesting

Keep America's resources for Americans—unions are blindly signing people up. Omega overfishing of menhaden is destroying American sportfishing on the Chesapeake, and other species that rely on menhaden are in serious jeopardy. KEEP CANADIAN FISHING VESSELS OUT OF OUR MENHADEN.

Corporate greed, pure and simple.

CommentID: **239521** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roberta Kellam

2/8/26 5:31 pm

Restore Menhaden Population in Chesapeake Bay

The citizens of Virginia own the Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. The Atlantic Menhaden resource is held in the public trust for the good of the Commonwealth by VMRC. VMRC has failed to maintain the population of the Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay for the service and use of all Virginians and the ecology of the Bay. A moratorium on the reduction industry harvesting of Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay should now be implemented until such time that a study is completed to show that there is a sufficient supply of menhaden to restore the population to historic levels throughout the Bay, that all ecological services are satisfied, and that the reduction fishery does not cause economic harm to the independent watermen, charter fishermen, and recreational users of the Chesapeake Bay, or ecological harm to the osprey, pelicans, whales, and dolphins.

The federal government has commenced the pertinent study to determine the adequacy of the Atlantic Menhaden population in the Chesapeake Bay through funding allocated to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, of which Virginia is a member. There is ample evidence in the striped bass fishery and osprey reproduction research to demonstrate that the menhaden

population in the Bay is insufficient; the precautionary principle directs that the menhaden reduction fishery should cease until it is proven to be safe to other species and to the economies of other communities beside Reedville, VA (the location of the only reduction fishery operation). Virginians all over the Bay are sick and tired of being pushed around by one Canadian company that provides a couple of hundred union jobs, when independent watermen, guides, and tourism outfits are losing their ability to make a living due to the depletion of menhaden in the Bay. All of us are entitled to be able to take our grandkids out on the Bay and show them how to catch a fish, clean it, and cook it in the traditional way that Virginians have enjoyed for generations. It is time to put an end to the reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Roberta Kellam

CommentID: **239522** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sheri George

2/8/26 6:58 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239523** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kenny George

2/8/26 7:01 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239524** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Dent

2/8/26 7:01 pm

Stopping commercial reduction fishing

I support this petition. I've watched the Menhaden populations on a constant downcline. Scientific results ignored. Multiple accounts of Omega reduction fleet breaking laws and damaging the

Chesapeake bay Eco system.

CommentID: **239525** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kody George

2/8/26 7:02 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239526** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robyn Brann

2/8/26 7:57 pm

I do NOT support the petition.

This company is a vital part of the Northern Neck and the community would suffer without it.

CommentID: **239527** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/8/26 8:19 pm

I oppose this petition

Fisheries policy should **driven by science** and **not the speculation of environmental activists**.
The idea of stopping a historic Virginia fishery while studying the issue for years makes no sense.
Current and best available science is what created the quotas for the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal fishing. They should remain unchanged until science indicates there's a change needed.

CommentID: **239528** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/8/26 9:43 pm

Petition against menhaden fishing

I strongly oppose this petition!

CommentID: **239529** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Iris Fisher

2/9/26 2:22 am

I do not support this petition!!

I do NOT support this petition!!!

CommentID: **239530** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Preston Slaughter

2/9/26 5:04 am

Ban of fishing in Bay

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239531** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Rowe

2/9/26 6:36 am

I do not support.

I do not support.

CommentID: **239532** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jimmy Kellum

2/9/26 6:38 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239533** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roberta Jones

2/9/26 8:17 am

Petition

I do not support this ban on commercial fishing!!

CommentID: **239534** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donnie Davis

2/9/26 8:22 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239535** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Willard Roberts

2/9/26 8:50 am

Menhaden Fishing in Chesapeake Bay

I emphatically disagree with this petition. Stop trying to cripple our hard working watermen.

CommentID: **239536** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shawn Rogers

2/9/26 9:57 am

I do not support

I do not support!!!

CommentID: **239537** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather Lunsford

2/9/26 11:19 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239539** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jane B. Crowther

2/9/26 11:36 am

Do not support this needless petition!

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!

CommentID: **239540** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David J Huff

2/9/26 11:40 am

I do not support this petition

Do not support

CommentID: **239541** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/9/26 11:41 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition!

CommentID: **239542** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carl Rice

2/9/26 11:42 am

Menhaden

I Do not support this.

CommentID: **239543** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris jones

2/9/26 11:43 am

I do NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239544** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Bailey

2/9/26 11:46 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239545** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Crissy Mothershead

2/9/26 11:52 am

I DO NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239546** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Emma Dameron

2/9/26 11:57 am

Do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239547** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jabril Miller

2/9/26 11:57 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239548** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joseph Dickason

2/9/26 11:58 am

Do Not Support

I Don't support this petition

CommentID: **239549** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Casey Murrell

2/9/26 11:58 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

CommentID: **239550** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Becky Hansen

2/9/26 11:59 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239551** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kaylie Cole

2/9/26 12:01 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239552** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steve French

2/9/26 12:10 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this!

CommentID: **239553** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Cockrell

2/9/26 12:18 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239554** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Monta lee

2/9/26 12:20 pm

Don't support

Don't support

CommentID: **239555** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Monta

2/9/26 12:21 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239556** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/9/26 12:46 pm

Dont support

Dont support

CommentID: **239557** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joanne Hinson

2/9/26 2:11 pm

Do NOT Support

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239559** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brandon Davis

2/9/26 2:13 pm

DO NOT Support

DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239560** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nick cockrell

2/9/26 2:26 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239561** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/9/26 2:36 pm

Do NOT Support

Do NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239562** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Reid Williams

2/9/26 2:40 pm

Do NOT Support

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239563** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rick Dudley

2/9/26 3:21 pm

Petition

I DO NOT support this petition!

CommentID: **239564** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rick Dudley

2/9/26 3:22 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239565** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dwayne Corsey

2/9/26 4:07 pm

Do not support

Do not support this petition

CommentID: **239566** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Luke Jennings

2/9/26 4:23 pm

I do not support!!!

Let them fish!!!

CommentID: **239567** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Barnes

2/9/26 4:23 pm

I do not support

Let the fish!!!!

CommentID: **239568** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trevor Brightwell

2/9/26 4:25 pm

I do not support

Let them fish!!!

CommentID: **239569** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Pj Haynie

2/9/26 4:27 pm

I do not support

Fisherman and farmers, we need our state government's support!!!!

CommentID: **239570** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jessie Sterrett

2/9/26 4:42 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition!!

CommentID: **239571** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Capt. John Smith

2/9/26 7:02 pm

It's amazing how many fake "I do not support" comments there are.

The way this comment section is set up makes the results worthless.

CommentID: **239572** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Niara Black

2/9/26 7:30 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

No one who fishes the Chesapeake Bay wants to see it harmed. Longtime watermen, recreational anglers, and conservationists all share the same goal: a healthy, productive bay for generations to come. The disagreement isn't about protection—it's about whether an outright ban on menhaden fishing in Virginia is necessary, effective, or fair.

I believe it is not. Everyone wants a healthy Chesapeake Bay, but banning menhaden fishing in Virginia is not the solution!

CommentID: **239573** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/9/26 8:39 pm

I do not support this petition

Protecting the Bay means trusting the science, not rushing into symbolic bans. Virginia already has responsible menhaden management that works for both the ecosystem and the people.

CommentID: **239574** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Brent Samuel

2/9/26 9:15 pm

Moratorium

Stay 3 miles off shore. Moratorium til study

CommentID: **239575** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Carlisle R Bannister

2/9/26 10:59 pm

I support this proposal

It's about time the VMRC would take action on the harvesting of menhaden in the Bay and its tributaries.

I have been a recreational fisherman for most of my 82 years and seen a decline in the availability of many species in the bay and rivers.

I was happy to see VMRC take over the management the menhaden population in the bay. and now is the time to do it.

No other state that shares the bay allows this type of fishing, shouldn't VA take a page out of Marylands book?

CommentID: **239576** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Brian McAvoy

2/10/26 6:09 am

I support this legislation

I support this bill

CommentID: **239577** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Haynie

2/10/26 6:32 am

Do Not Support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239578** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kelsey Haynie

2/10/26 6:33 am

Do Not Support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239579** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Sterrett

2/10/26 10:29 am

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition!!!

CommentID: **239580** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Blackwell

2/10/26 11:06 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT this petition

Do not support

CommentID: **239581** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kristen Blackwell

2/10/26 11:07 am

Do NOT support this petition

Do Not support

CommentID: **239582** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charlotte Blackwell

2/10/26 11:08 am

Do NOT support

Do not support this petition

CommentID: **239583** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dawson Blackwell

2/10/26 11:08 am

I DO NOT support

Do not support this petition

CommentID: **239584** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: DALTON JEWELL

2/10/26 12:34 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239585** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Meredith Sterrett

2/10/26 1:56 pm

I do not support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239586** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Taylor Deihl

2/10/26 2:39 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I urge the VMRC to reject this petition. This is the 3rd petition brought before the VMRC in the past two years. The previous two were rejected due to their clear intent to harm a historic industry that has been operating for 148 years. I encourage the Commissioners to continue to approach this issue with sound judgement. This fishery is already heavily regulated and responsibly managed, and the multigenerational workforce it employs should not be forced to repeatedly defend their livelihoods against unfounded claims.

CommentID: **239587** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jack Deihl

2/10/26 2:40 pm

Do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239588** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Katherine Barrack

2/10/26 3:30 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239589** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Jones

2/10/26 3:32 pm

Do NOT suppoorr

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239590** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kyle Jones

2/10/26 3:35 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239591** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/10/26 3:39 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239592** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather Klein

2/10/26 3:39 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239593** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steve jones

2/10/26 3:39 pm

Menhaden Fisheries

I do not support this!! It would be very detrimental to our community to limit or eliminate the menhaden fishing!!

CommentID: **239594** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/10/26 3:40 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239595** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Daniels

2/10/26 4:33 pm

I Do Not Support This Petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239596** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lily Daniels

2/10/26 4:46 pm

Do NOT support

Do NOT support

CommentID: **239597** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Maddy Kelly

2/10/26 4:48 pm

Do NOT support

Do NOT support

CommentID: **239598** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ryan Daniels

2/10/26 4:51 pm

I do NOT support this petition.

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239599** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jessica Freeze

2/10/26 5:12 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT.

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239600** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Doug Freeze

2/10/26 5:14 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239601** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Debbie praytor

2/10/26 5:29 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239602** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Phil Ganius

2/10/26 5:40 pm

Chesapeake bay menhaden reduction fishing

I don't support this petition

CommentID: **239603** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shirley Hire

2/10/26 5:45 pm

I do not support this petition

I'm do not support this petition

CommentID: **239604** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/10/26 5:45 pm

I agree

I agree

CommentID: **239605** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Deihl

2/10/26 6:28 pm

I do not support this petition!

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239606** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Fawn Deihl

2/10/26 6:40 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239607** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/10/26 7:29 pm

Menhaden reduction

I do NOT support this.

CommentID: **239608** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karen Newsome

2/10/26 7:33 pm

I do NOT support this

I do NOT support this

CommentID: **239609** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Newsome

2/10/26 7:45 pm

VMRC bill

I do not support

CommentID: **239610** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Matthew Harding

2/10/26 7:59 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239611** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ashley H. LaChance

2/10/26 8:39 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition!!!!

CommentID: **239612** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roger Smith

2/11/26 5:49 am

Do not support

Do not support!!

CommentID: **239614** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gail Bondutant

2/11/26 7:27 am

I do not support this petition

I totally DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION.

CommentID: **239615** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sirena Corsey

2/11/26 7:49 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239616** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Da'Janay Corsey

2/11/26 7:51 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239617** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tina Brown

2/11/26 7:51 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239618** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Arthur Jones Sr.

2/11/26 7:53 am

do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239619** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Darryl Doggett

2/11/26 7:53 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT!!

CommentID: **239620** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dwayne Corsey Jr.

2/11/26 7:54 am

I do not support this.

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239621** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ray Raines

2/11/26 7:56 am

i do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239622** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Deena Raines

2/11/26 7:57 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239623** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tommy Cole

2/11/26 7:57 am

i do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239624** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Curtis B

2/11/26 7:59 am

i do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239625** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Clarence Combs

2/11/26 8:00 am

i do not support

i do not support this.

CommentID: **239626** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Judd Richards

2/11/26 8:00 am

i do not support

I do not support this

CommentID: **239627** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dakota Carroll

2/11/26 8:01 am

Do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239628** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Blake Toulson

2/11/26 8:01 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239629** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bailey Bucholz

2/11/26 8:02 am

do NOT support

I do NOT support

CommentID: **239630** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brice Buchotz

2/11/26 8:03 am

I do not support

I do NOT support

CommentID: **239631** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Randy Bowen

2/11/26 8:04 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239632** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Frame

2/11/26 8:05 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239633** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Billy Davis

2/11/26 8:05 am

i do not support

i do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239634** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Josh Miller

2/11/26 8:06 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239635** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Miller

2/11/26 8:06 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239636** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ches Bay Lovers

2/11/26 9:44 am

We support this bill

Menhaden are the most important fish in the Chesapeake Bay. Omega Protein is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

CommentID: **239637** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Molly Dowless

2/11/26 10:03 am

I do NOT support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239638** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Franklin Dowless

2/11/26 10:40 am

I do NOT support this petition.

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239640** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William H Turner II

2/11/26 11:50 am

Ospreys vs Corporate money

Let me tell you quite simply. This is a choice of the Osprey's survival in the Bay, or the continuation of practices filling the chauffeurs of another greed-driven corporation. The opposers to this petition are economy and money focused only. We are in the middle of the Sixth major extinction event In earth's history, and again we are choosing between survival of a species or Corporate greed!

William H. Turner II

CommentID: **239641** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** George M. Rew

2/11/26 12:02 pm

Menhaden fishing

I strongly oppose this petition. Menhaden fishing is a great part of the heritage of my community.

CommentID: **239642** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** TaumHe

2/11/26 12:20 pm

Mehaden Reduction Petition

I strongly support this petition.

CommentID: **239643** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Bruce B

2/11/26 3:20 pm

Support for Moratorium

I support implementing the moratorium now, pending further data to support a sustainable approach

CommentID: **239644** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Stacey Kitchen

2/11/26 7:14 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I DO NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239645** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/11/26 8:30 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239646** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rick Spencer

2/11/26 9:01 pm

Reduce menhaden harvest

I support eliminating commercial menhaden harvest within the chesapeake bay

CommentID: **239647** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Eileen Conboy

2/11/26 10:04 pm

I do not agree with or support this petition

I do not agree with or support this petition

CommentID: **239648** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kathleen W Pittman

2/12/26 5:34 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE PETITION

Please save our menhaden industry that has supported families for generations! I do not support your petition for bans. Omega does their research and would not intentionally harm other

resources. If you support this petition you will end up supporting families who normally support themselves with hard honest work. Thank you!

CommentID: **239649** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peter Rigterink

2/12/26 9:06 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.uug

CommentID: **239650** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason Lewis

2/12/26 11:46 am

I do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT!

CommentID: **239651** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chad Dameron

2/12/26 11:48 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239652** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trevor Deihl

2/12/26 11:56 am

I do not support this!

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239653** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gayle D. Dameron

2/12/26 12:16 pm

I do not support this!

My family has relied on this fishery for over 5 generations. I have watch my Father in-law, Husband, son and grandson support their families through this fishery forever. The family has been fishing for over 100 years.

CommentID: **239654** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Joan Millward, Virginia Osprey Foundation

2/12/26 12:35 pm

We support this petition

Atlantic Menhaden are a keystone forage fish. They are essential to the health of the Bay and to species Virginians care deeply about, Ospreys and many others. When Menhaden decline, the entire food web feels the impact. Right now, we do not have Bay specific, precautionary science that demonstrates industrial reduction fishing can continue without risk. Until we have that science, there should be a pause in Industrial reduction fishing for Atlantic Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay at the very least, and ultimately in Virginia waters. This is not about eliminating jobs or closing a fishery. It is about protecting a shared public resource and ensuring decisions are grounded in sound science rather than uncertainty. When science is lacking, caution is the responsible choice. The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are too important to gamble with. We support this petition and urge you to accept it in its entirety.

CommentID: **239655** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** W R Davenport

2/12/26 12:38 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS**I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!!!**CommentID: **239656** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** John Bello

2/12/26 12:48 pm

Pause the industrial Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake BAY

I support this action. NOAA has been allocated money to study the menhaden population in the bay and there is a bill in the General Assembly to fund a VIMS study. This action will not put them out of business, they can still fish in the ocean.

CommentID: **239657** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amy Dodson

2/12/26 12:59 pm

Do NOT support

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!

CommentID: **239658** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Johnny boothe

2/12/26 1:02 pm

Do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL FOCUS ON THE POLLUTION IN THE POTOMAC

CommentID: **239659** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Luna Nordstrom

2/12/26 1:03 pm

We SUPPORT this petition

We support this petition.

CommentID: **239660** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peter Michael Mecca

2/12/26 1:11 pm

I support the bill.

I support the bill.

CommentID: **239661** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sheryl Jordan

2/12/26 1:15 pm

I SUPPORT THIS PETITION!!

I support this petition

CommentID: **239662** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Nicholas Szobota

2/12/26 1:19 pm

I support this.

I support this.

CommentID: **239663** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kenneth Hebert

2/12/26 1:26 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I Do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239664** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peter Fahrney

2/12/26 1:40 pm

Support moratorium on menhaden fishing

I support this petition

CommentID: **239665** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Barry Millward

2/12/26 2:02 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239666** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joyce Reid

2/12/26 2:06 pm

I support this petition.

I support this petition

CommentID: **239667** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: H. Spencer, voter and taxpayer

2/12/26 2:14 pm

Support for petition

I support this petition.

CommentID: **239668** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lisa Callahan

2/12/26 2:22 pm

Pause menhaden reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

I support this petition

CommentID: **239669** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 2:53 pm

Menhaden bill

I certainly support

CommentID: **239670** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Russell Minich

2/12/26 2:55 pm

We SUPPORT this petition

We support a moratorium on menhaden fishing to enable the fish population to re-establish thereby reestablishing a fundamental part of the food chain in the Chesapeake Bay. Over harvesting has gone on way too long in Virginia, specifically in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239671** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kennedy Daniels

2/12/26 2:55 pm

Menhaden bill

I'm in full support

CommentID: **239672** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Aletha Grugan Redd

2/12/26 2:56 pm

I support a moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Fishing while a stock study is completed.

I support a moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Fishing while a stock study is completed.

CommentID: **239673** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 3:01 pm

I support this petition to pause menhaden fishing for a study period.

I support this petition to pause menhaden fishing for a study period.

CommentID: **239674** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 3:28 pm

I support this Bill

I support this bill

CommentID: **239675** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Margaret Britvec

2/12/26 3:37 pm

I support this bill!

I support this bill!

CommentID: **239676** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Tom Siracusa

2/12/26 5:01 pm

I do not support

This would put hard working Virginians out of work.

CommentID: **239677** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Lee Robbins

2/12/26 5:02 pm

I strongly disagree with this petition, puts people out of work!

I strongly disagree with this petition. I have been a Captain since 1997 and working on the boats since I graduated high school in 1982. There are only 6 boats fishing on the entire East Coast! When I first Captained a boat in 1997 there were 22 boats fishing in Reedville Va. The industry has a bay quota and a coastal quota now in place. We just took a 20 percent reduction in our Coastal quota and to not be able to catch our Bay quota is just unacceptable to me, my crew and my community. I'm all for the science. I can tell you from experience that there is no shortage of menhaden. Last season was a usually bad season which you are going to have those from time to time. There was an unusually large amount of young menhaden in the Bay this past season. That shows that the spawn was very successful and I expect are large turnout in the coming seasons. Thank you

CommentID: **239678** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** cindy ligon

2/12/26 5:04 pm

I support this

I support this

CommentID: **239679** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roxann Siracusa

2/12/26 5:11 pm

I do not support

Leave them alone!!!! 150 year old industry.

CommentID: **239680** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 5:21 pm

Menhaden

I do not support the petition to end menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay!

CommentID: **239681** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith Swift

2/12/26 5:53 pm

NO

I do NOT support this

CommentID: **239682** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike Avery VSSA

2/12/26 6:01 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition.

CommentID: **239683** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Paul Haynie, Sr.

2/12/26 6:09 pm

Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden [4 VAC 20 ? 1270]

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!

CommentID: **239684** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rob

2/12/26 6:15 pm

I fully support this

Follow existing regulation already on the books. They are overfishing the Bay!!

CommentID: **239685** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mark S Williams

2/12/26 6:16 pm

I support the petition.

I support the petition. Stop a foreign company from depleting our natural resources.

CommentID: **239686** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kazuki Ko

2/12/26 6:17 pm

In support

I support the petition

CommentID: **239687** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 6:38 pm

I support the petition.

I support the petition

CommentID: **239688** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anne H Haynie

2/12/26 6:39 pm

Menhaden Moritorium

I do not support the Bill on Morotorium of Menhaden Fishery.

CommentID: **239689** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 7:11 pm

I support the petition - Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishing

I strongly support this petition. This isn't rocket science. Open your eyes and use some common sense.

CommentID: **239690** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 7:19 pm

I DO NOT Support this Petition

The petitioners frequently misrepresent fact and regulation, cite studies that are nonconclusive as to cause, and rely more on social media hype than the science that has led the current quotas.

The establishment of Atlantic and Bay quotas were developed with best available science for decades. As the best available science matured quotas have been amended. This is the system that works and should continue to work. A complete moratorium in purse seine fishing BEFORE science indicates there is that need, if ever, is reckless and irresponsible. Federal and State agencies have applied science for the basis of recommended changes and should continue to do so.

Absolutely oppose this petition and recommend VMRC reject it.

CommentID: **239691** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 7:25 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition for the temporary moratorium for the reduction fishery of Menhaden by purse seine technique in the Chesapeake Bay.

I have personally witnessed the dramatic reduction in the appearance of menhaden and striped bass in the Bay to the point that I did not see a single school of striped bass feeding on the surface on a menhaden school this entire year of fishing and boating. This cannot be normal. Striped bass are at a historically, low number and their primary food forage is menhaden, which is being aggressively overfished. Please grant the above stated petition.

The current reduction fishery out of Reedville VA can continue to fish outside of the Chesapeake Bay so that this moratorium will not close down the fishery. It will just limit its location to outside the Bay.

Thank you!!!

CommentID: **239692** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: The Concordia Group, Inc.

2/12/26 7:47 pm

I support this moratorium

I support this moratorium

CommentID: **239693** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/12/26 7:57 pm

Menhaden petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239694** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Julie Kacmarcik

2/12/26 8:06 pm

I support this petition

It is the responsibility of the citizens of VA and decision-making bodies to maintain the health of the ECOSYSTEM of the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden are a public resource. Stop the industrial reduction menhaden fishing in VA. The only state on the east coast to allow this fishing.

CommentID: **239695** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lee Ceperich

2/12/26 8:10 pm

Save the Bay!

I support a moratorium on menhaden fishing in the Bay and VA state waters. No other state allows it. The Bay ecosystem is separate from the Atlantic Ocean. The current level of Harvest from VA waters is not sustainable. Industrial fishing needs to occur in the Ocean three miles offshore.

CommentID: **239696** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Bob Schepker

2/12/26 8:10 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition.

CommentID: **239697** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Joshua Ketnor

2/12/26 8:12 pm

Petition

I DO NOT support this

CommentID: **239698** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Zach Hall

2/12/26 8:20 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239699** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Abby Hall

2/12/26 8:21 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239700** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah Bagby

2/12/26 8:30 pm

I support the petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **239701** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sheri George

2/12/26 8:45 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239702** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kody George

2/12/26 8:46 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239703** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kenny George

2/12/26 8:47 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239704** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Travis rice

2/12/26 9:01 pm

I do not support this bill

Chesapeake bay foundation should focus more on the sewage spills and pollution in the bay rather put a 150 year old company out of business and destroy lives in the northern neck of Va!

CommentID: **239705** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Bill Rowley

2/12/26 9:07 pm

Menhaden over fishing

I support 100% limiting commercial fishing for Menhaden in all Virginia waters. This needs to stop before it's too late.

CommentID: **239706** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Joshua Verdin

2/12/26 9:34 pm

I do not support This Bill

As a former spotter pilot, I do not support this bill!

CommentID: **239707** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Hunter Pickett

2/12/26 9:45 pm

Menhaden Bill.

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239708** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Lisa Morales

2/12/26 10:25 pm

Moratorium on fishing

I support the moratorium. Please.

CommentID: **239709** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: delk_smith@msn.com

2/12/26 10:53 pm

Tired of Democrats run government

I don't support this! This unduly hampers fishermen.

CommentID: **239710** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/26 12:01 am

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239711** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Billy Fones

2/13/26 6:01 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

You would be taking jobs away from a lot of people in a rural community.

CommentID: **239712** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Debbie Oder

2/13/26 6:50 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239713** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gerald Mayer

2/13/26 7:49 am

I support this legislation

Omega and Cooke industries can afford to move the limited miles it takes to fish in the ocean. They need to stop stealing resources from here and shipping them all over the world. Local waterman and guides bring in more tax revenue and keep the money local than what Omega is producing for the state of Virginia. Once they have depleted the bay and cause irreversible harm, Omega will leave and we the people of Virginia will be left to clean up their mess

CommentID: **239714** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Evan Quinter

2/13/26 8:06 am

I support this petition

I support this petition.

CommentID: **239715** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roy Crocker

2/13/26 8:07 am

I support this

I support this

CommentID: **239716** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeff Stonehill

2/13/26 8:12 am

I DO SUPPORT..about time for this!

This effects the entire east coast. Do not let a Canadian company take our very important bay fish for their fish farms in Canada!

CommentID: **239717** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cole Basye

2/13/26 9:05 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239718** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/26 9:17 am

I support this bill!

The decimation of the Osprey, a sentinel indicator of marine health, is an environmental catastrophe.

CommentID: **239719** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/26 9:53 am

Petition

I support this petition!

CommentID: **239720** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lee Martin

2/13/26 9:54 am

I support this bill.

I support this bill. It is time that the State of Virginia bans reduction fishing within three miles of our coastline.

CommentID: **239721** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: charles adcock

2/13/26 9:58 am

i support this bill

i support this bill

CommentID: **239722** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Diane J

2/13/26 10:14 am

I support this bill. Please do the right thing to save the Chesapeake Bay.

I support this bill. Please do the right thing to save the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **239723** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Germain C

2/13/26 10:45 am

I support this Bill!

I support any and all conservation measures to protect Menhaden, this species is the keystone species of the East coast and so many other animals/fish species rely on Menhaden. The entire ecosystem collapse would happen if there were not Menhaden on the East coast. Please side with conservation to protect Menhaden.

CommentID: **239724** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Wes W

2/13/26 10:46 am

Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay

I support this petition. Something needs to happen NOW, not years from now.

CommentID: **239725** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** PATRICK CARROLL Carroll's Automotive

2/13/26 10:57 am

I SUPPORT THIS BILL

Why is Va., having a such hard time figuring out the problem with over harvesting of the menhaden

Every other state is showing the benefits of restrictions

And we have the biggest nursesey on the coast

WAKE UP VIRGINIA

CommentID: **239726** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/26 11:04 am

?????? ?????? ?????????????? ?????????????????? ?????????? ??????????????
?????? ???????????????????????!

NO FOREIGN COUNTRY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RAPE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

BAN THEM TO SAVE THE CHESAPEAKE

SPAMBERGER TOOK AT 50K DONATION / BRIBE FROM THEM

CommentID: **239727** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chad Koenig- Dog Days Charters.

2/13/26 11:04 am

100% support protecting menhaden.

Totally support this bill

CommentID: **239728** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Tweeddale

2/13/26 11:33 am

I support this bill

Menhaden are a vital food source for aquatic life in the Chesapeake Bay. Overfishing menhaden threatens the entire marine food chain in the bay.

CommentID: **239729** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tom Lundy

2/13/26 11:34 am

Stop the Menhaden Slaughter

I support this bill. The overfishing of Menhaden for fish oil is doing irreversible damage to the Bay.

CommentID: **239730** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Steve Hill

2/13/26 11:36 am

Save the Menhaden please

I have been fishing Chesapeake bay, Lower Potomac, Mobjack Bay, Elizabeth River and all surrounding tributaries in my kayak for 20 plus years and have seen a very large depopulation of Menhaden population. There used to be huge schools and baitballs everywhere, now they are occasional. There's no doubt the over netting has put a hurt on them. Please stop Omega, Please

CommentID: **239731** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Kyle Spruill

2/13/26 11:39 am

Save the Menhaden!

The lack of a proper study inside the Chesapeake Bay is a gross failure of management. Let them fish the Atlantic while a Bay study is conducted. Ensuring the overall health of the biomass. Which would allow the fish to support BOTH commercial and recreational fishing for generations to come.

CommentID: **239732** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/13/26 11:44 am

Do NOT Support this Petition

Shutting down a 150?year?old, sustainably managed fishery without scientific justification would needlessly harm working families and the coastal community while doing nothing to improve Bay ecology. Sound management must follow evidence, not unfounded claims, and the evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that menhaden fishing remains sustainable and responsibly managed.

CommentID: **239733** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Matt Smith

2/13/26 11:45 am

I support this!

I have personally witnessed Omega protein destroying our waters. Once they leave an area it takes weeks for the fishing to return to normal. All while recreational fisherman are hammered with small bag limits, slot sizing on several species, and overall poor fishing compared to years past.

CommentID: **239734** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donnie Davis

2/13/26 11:47 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT.

I do not support this. You will put people out of work in this small community.

CommentID: **239735** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Delamain

2/13/26 11:52 am

Omega Protein

I believe we need to pause the industrial menhaden fishery until such time as Cooke Bros/Omega Protein can prove they are not damaging the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Va should follow the lead of other east coast states and limit the fishing to 3mi off the coast and none in the bay

CommentID: **239736** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joe Thorpe

2/13/26 11:52 am

Save The Menhaden

I support this petition. Save the Menhaden.

CommentID: **239737** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Hardman

2/13/26 12:29 pm

Please help save the Chesapeake Bay

Please stop reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

CommentID: **239738** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Victor D'Amato

2/13/26 12:38 pm

I support this petition wholeheartedly

The State of Virginia and the VMRC have consistently kicked the can down the road as it relates to menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay, so unfortunately, this petition to impose a temporary moratorium on such harvest is sorely needed. This is a very compelling petition whose facts do not appear to be in question. It should be accepted and implemented.

CommentID: **239739** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: S. Pollock

2/13/26 12:47 pm

Save the Menhaden

I support this petition. Save the menhaden and all wildlife that depend on them for their survival.

CommentID: **239740** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/26 12:52 pm

I support the bill to manage the Menhaden harvest responsibly

I support the bill to manage the menhaden harvest responsibly.

CommentID: **239741** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Wade Beauchamp

2/13/26 12:55 pm

I support this petition

At one time the bay was crystal clear. seagrass beds everywhere. Oyster beds 5 to 6 feet above the water line. Monster rockfish and bluefish. Seagrass is gone bluefish are gone and the rockfish are dwindling. Why? Outlying growth is one reason, but mostly because the commercial fishing industry has basically wiped out the two biggest water filters the bay has and needs. Oysters and menhaden. The bay needs a break. Omega Protein needs to go back to Canada.

CommentID: **239742** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ross Kellum

2/13/26 1:01 pm

Do not support this petition.

I do not support the passage of this petition. It is absurd to place a moratorium on a fishery that is not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring. There is no scientific or economic basis for such a petition. Once again, this only amounts to a targeted attack against Omega Protein/Ocean Harvestors and has nothing at all to do with actual conservation or ecological necessity.

CommentID: **239743** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tom Blackburn, Northern Virginia Bird Alliance

2/13/26 1:02 pm

Please grant the petition and save the Bay's ecosystem

I am the Chair of the Advocacy Committee of the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, 5,500-member chapter of the National Audubon Society whose members live in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Rappahannock, and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Vienna, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Leesburg,

On behalf of NVBA, I urge you to vote for the moratorium, which will protect the Chesapeake Bay's stock of menhaden and stop the starvation of Ospreys in the lower Chesapeake.

The largest population of Osprey on the planet is located in the Chesapeake Bay. However, that population is in serious danger because nesting failures are greater than at any time since records have been kept, including during the "Silent Spring" era of widespread DDT spraying. Menhaden are the principal food of Osprey in the lower Chesapeake, and the widespread starvation of chicks and adults has been linked to the lack of availability of menhaden.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission released a stock assessment in October 2025 finding that the Atlantic Coast menhaden population was 37% smaller than the

previous assessment, indicating a rapid decline in the population. The steep decline in the menhaden population has implications for the entire Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Menhaden are a high protein forage fish that are at the bottom of the food chain. Many marine species rely on them, including striped bass (rockfish), bluefish, summer flounder and other species sought by both commercial and recreational fishing. The reduction in the number of menhaden is hurting catches of these fish, harming the livelihoods of commercial fishing operations, including day boats catering to recreational fishing parties. The entire Bay ecosystem is threatened by the loss of menhaden.

In addition, the reduction in menhaden may become permanent if the population reaches a tipping point from which it cannot recover. Shad used to be fished from the Potomac River in huge quantities -- up to 50,000 tons in one 8-week migration run. It used to be said that the supply of shad was inexhaustible -- but it wasn't. Shad were overfished, and they have never recovered despite years of efforts. Similarly, the Northwest Atlantic Cod fishery has collapsed because of overfishing and is likely to never recover. We need to adopt a moratorium on menhaden reduction fishing until we fully understand the menhaden population and determine a sustainable level of taking or we risk losing that fish forever.

CommentID: **239744** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Phil Zalesak, Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization

2/13/26 1:20 pm

End all Atlantic menhaden industrial reduction harvesting in ALL VIRGINIA WATERS

Omega Protein is overharvesting Atlantic menhaden in both the Chesapeake Bay and its entrance. Overharvesting of menhaden results in the starvation of economically important predator fish like striped bass, and birds like osprey which are dependent on menhaden for their survival. When there are insufficient menhaden in the marine ecosystem, striped bass and osprey starve to death.

Overharvesting menhaden has resulted in billions of dollars of lost revenue and thousands of jobs in the US fishing industry for both commercial bait fishermen and recreational fishermen along the Atlantic Coast. It has also resulted in an ecological disaster in the Chesapeake Bay.

Omega Protein is a subsidiary of Cooke Seafood, an international corporation headquartered in Canada. Omega Protein is the last remaining industrial reduction fishery on the Atlantic Coast. The company uses aircraft to spot schools of fish and purse seine nets to harvest entire schools of fish.

The VMRC is in violation of Virginia law as it has allocated 90% of its total Atlantic menhaden quota to Omega Protein to the detriment of Virginia and Maryland commercial bait fishermen and recreational fishermen. This clearly a "Canada First" fishing policy.

The solution to this problem is to end all industrial reduction harvesting in Virginia waters as the decline in the US fishing industry and marine ecology is ongoing.

CommentID: **239745** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paul Eidman Menhaden Defenders

2/13/26 1:28 pm

We Support this Moratorium - Keep Omega outside the 3-mile line!

Let the Bay Heal!

CommentID: **239746** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mitch Kellum

2/13/26 1:31 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239747** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/26 1:33 pm

I support this petition. 3 mile limit.

I support this petition, 3 mile limit,

CommentID: **239748** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Frank Ambrose

2/13/26 1:35 pm

No more menhaden reduction fishing in VA waters

Please join with every other state on the eastern coast in stopping bunker reduction fishing in the Chesapeake bay and costal waters. This will allow the adult bunker population to rebound, providing forage for valuable sport and commercial fish such as striped bass red drum and cobia.. it will also provide more food opportunities for Osprey, which are in decline due ck of food. to la

CommentID: **239749** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jerry Leuters

2/13/26 2:03 pm

Menhaden Petition

I Fully support this petition

CommentID: **239750** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jared vann

2/13/26 2:43 pm

I support

I fully support

CommentID: **239751** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tien Tran

2/13/26 3:01 pm

Closing down the menhaden fishery in the Baybe ban

For the long-term impact. Stop menhaden commercial harvest should be ban.

CommentID: **239752** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jameson Crandall

2/13/26 3:23 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do NOT support this petition!

CommentID: **239753** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Golembicki

2/13/26 3:26 pm

I support the ban

They can fish out in the Atlantic past the 3 mile limit. All it does is raise their operational costs, it's not the end of the industry.

CommentID: **239754** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Cathy

2/13/26 3:37 pm

I do not support this bill.

I do not support

CommentID: **239755** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** John Deihl

2/13/26 4:08 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239756** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Christi Medice

2/13/26 5:41 pm

I fully support this petition

We, the residents of Silver Beach, have been fighting the Industrial Commercial Fishing which is happening in the Chesapeake Bay. After a spill of dead fish at Silver Beach 3 years ago, we have sent letters to the local and federal government agencies, started a huge support system which covers from North Carolina to New York State, we have gotten the word out to other states, attended VMRC meetings to share our concerns and also have traveled to several places in Virginia. The problem is this...the politicians we have attempted to speak with continue to turn their heads and look the other way. Because of the Disinterested Politicians, we are still finding ourselves spinning a wheel that never gets the traction it needs to move forward.

The Chesapeake Bay is heading towards an irreversible collapse if we do not do something now!

This is one of the FEW lifelines the residents of the Eastern Shore and beyond have to keep up running as a community. Will you PLEASE hear us out!!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

CommentID: **239757** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sherre Christiansen

2/13/26 5:47 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition to protect the Chesapeake Bay, it's tributaries, and wetlands.

CommentID: **239758** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peggy

2/13/26 7:29 pm

I support petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **239759** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rick Janer

2/14/26 7:17 am

Support of menhaden harvest limit bill

Please support this action to help our water ways ecosystem.

CommentID: **239760** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gerald Mayer

2/14/26 7:36 am

I support this

This needs to be done to protect the waterman and sportfish of VA and Maryland. Omega is shipping our resources for profit out of VA. They can go out to the 3mile mark and fish. Lets save the bay.

CommentID: **239761** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: ROC

2/14/26 8:16 am

I support

I support

CommentID: **239762** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jean Buergher

2/14/26 9:09 am

I support this petition

Please support this petition to stop harvesting the menhaden. Our Ospreys need it to survive.

CommentID: **239763** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dave Scanlon

2/14/26 9:40 am

Menhaden

I do not support. Bill is discriminating against a single organization without facts.

CommentID: **239764** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chad Koenig

2/14/26 9:54 am

I support

I support. Get Omega out.

CommentID: **239765** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: E Nelson

2/14/26 9:56 am

I support this petition

I support this petition to promote the health of the Bay

CommentID: **239766** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jennifer Grimes

2/14/26 10:34 am

moratorium on menhaden fishing in VA waters.

I support the moratorium on menhaden fishing in VA waters.

CommentID: **239767** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ben Harrington

2/14/26 11:03 am

I support this petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **239768** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lori Wagman

2/14/26 11:46 am

I approve this petition

As a recreational fisherman, we have seen a sharp decline in the sport fish that rely on Menhaden. So I am for the moratorium.

CommentID: **239769** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Gebhardt

2/14/26 1:03 pm

I'm in favor for a moratorium for at least a year

I'm in favor for a moratorium for at least a year

CommentID: **239770** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/14/26 1:14 pm

I Support this petition

I am 72 years old. I have seen the schools Menhaden Decrease significantly over my lifetime and with them the other fish that feed on them. I am also concerned that without them as filter feeders the water quality of Chesapeake Bay will also be affected. Please stop purse seining.

Thank you,

John Popow

CommentID: **239771** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Popow

2/14/26 1:17 pm

Support

Support

CommentID: **239772** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Leslie

2/14/26 1:38 pm

I support...keep them out of State Waters!

Odd how the ONLY two states that allow Omega to fish in state waters are Virginia and Louisiana? Both states have an Omega plant there on their shores. How much money is being paid to local politicians to keep that going?

CommentID: **239773** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dan Zivi

2/14/26 2:06 pm

I strongly support

I am a life long Chesapeake Bay fisherman. The lack of menhaden in our area is very apparent. Our local osprey are also not finding enough to eat.

CommentID: **239774** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tony Barbini

2/14/26 2:14 pm

End it

Stop killing the bay

CommentID: **239775** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Tim Berlett

2/14/26 3:25 pm

Restore this resource

I grew up on the bay in Maryland, lived in Virginia. Been fishing the Eastern Shore for 30 years. Watched the days of catching game fish in the surf get to be fewer and fewer. These fish cannot afford to hang out in Virginia or they will starve to death.

CommentID: **239776** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Kat Romain

2/14/26 3:51 pm

I fully support

I fully support banning purse seining in the Bay.

CommentID: **239777** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Dannielle heim

2/14/26 3:56 pm

I fully support

I fully support banning all menhaden fishing in Virginia state waters

CommentID: **239778** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Brenda Nordgren

2/14/26 6:59 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition. We need to reduce the amount of menhaden being taken from the bay. There needs to be balance.

CommentID: **239779** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/14/26 7:46 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

There's a system in place to manage the Menhaden stock along the entire Atlantic coast, including the Chesapeake Bay. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The bay quota has been set by Federal regulations and monitored by VMRC. Only when science indicates revision is necessary should they mess with it.

CommentID: **239780** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Wack

2/14/26 8:24 pm

I support the Petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **239781** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Gimbel IV

2/14/26 8:58 pm

I support this

I support this, the Chesapeake and it's tributaries are being directly affected by the over fishing of menhaden, not to mention the by catch kill is a ridiculous waste of fish.

CommentID: **239782** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason Thompson

2/14/26 9:20 pm

Menhaden Petition

Strongly support this.

CommentID: **239783** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Tyson

2/14/26 10:30 pm

I support this petition

It's time to end the taking of menhaden from the bay!

CommentID: **239784** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ashley Taylor

2/15/26 1:46 am

Stop Omega

The Chesapeake Bay is worth protecting. Omega is hurting fisheries and people who rely on them.

CommentID: **239785** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brook Hughe

2/15/26 7:03 am

I am against this bill and anyone who supports it

The title says it all, fishing companies and techniques like Omega should be banned from fishing in the bay.

CommentID: **239786** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Boz Barrick

2/15/26 10:29 am

Support

I fully support this petition, as a Virginia citizen residing on one of our beautiful waterways.

CommentID: **239787** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jake Hayes

2/15/26 1:47 pm

I don't support

This company has helped myself and my family!!!! Leave us alone.

CommentID: **239788** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeff Hayes

2/15/26 1:49 pm

I do not support

Let them work!!! I thought the governor was for rural Virginia!!!

CommentID: **239789** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Fawn deihl

2/15/26 1:49 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239790** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gracey Dameron

2/15/26 1:50 pm

I do not support.

I do not support.

CommentID: **239791** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carter Deihl

2/15/26 1:51 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239792** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Clay Dameron

2/15/26 1:53 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239793** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/15/26 2:00 pm

I do not support

I love loaded shad wagons

CommentID: **239794** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Morgan Gooch

2/15/26 2:05 pm

I do not support

Don't support

CommentID: **239795** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Sara Pierce

2/15/26 2:06 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239796** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Rob Pierce

2/15/26 2:06 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239797** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Diane Pierce

2/15/26 2:07 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239798** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Grace Pierce

2/15/26 2:07 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239799** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Newsome

2/15/26 2:08 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239800** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anna Pierce

2/15/26 2:08 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239801** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carol Minor

2/15/26 2:09 pm

I do not support

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239802** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Adam Crockett

2/15/26 2:10 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239803** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bailey Loving

2/15/26 2:11 pm

Please DO NOT regulate menhaden any further erroneously.

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239804** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Emma Dameron

2/15/26 2:12 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239805** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Pete Haynie

2/15/26 2:14 pm

The governor doesn't support this!!!

Part of the governors platform was good jobs in rural areas. Ocean harvesters and Omega has done this for 150 years.

CommentID: **239806** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jervall kelly

2/15/26 2:16 pm

I don't support

I don't support

CommentID: **239807** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ian Vanlandingham

2/15/26 2:17 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239808** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 2:20 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

Just like global warming, no real science supporting this. Just a bunch of people who don't live here. Cleanup the sewage from Nova and Maryland that polluting the rivers first

CommentID: **239809** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 2:20 pm

Menhaden

Do not support

CommentID: **239810** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carlton Revere

2/15/26 2:22 pm

Proposed Menhaden fishing moratorium's

I do not support a moratorium that is not upheld by scientific data.

CommentID: **239811** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trystin

2/15/26 2:23 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239812** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dwayne Waters

2/15/26 2:26 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239813** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Aleman Omar

2/15/26 2:28 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

Do not support

CommentID: **239814** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrew thompson

2/15/26 2:31 pm

I SUPPORT THIS

I support this bill

CommentID: **239815** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steward Noel

2/15/26 2:32 pm

Menhaden fishing

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239816** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 2:39 pm

I do NOT support

I do Not support

CommentID: **239817** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 2:43 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239818** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mirga Jazbutis

2/15/26 2:43 pm

I support temporary Moratorium on reduction fishing

I support a temporary Moratorium on reduction fishing. Menhaden are critical to the lives of ospreys and bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay. Selfish corporate interests are endangering our precious irreplaceable wildlife by removing their food supply. Go chase your dollars somewhere else.

CommentID: **239819** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anjelica Crockett

2/15/26 2:45 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239820** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jack Jett

2/15/26 2:51 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239821** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 2:52 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT!

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239822** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robin Jett

2/15/26 2:53 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239823** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Marston

2/15/26 2:53 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239824** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah M

2/15/26 2:54 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239825** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lauren H

2/15/26 3:00 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239826** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Toni Wilczewski

2/15/26 3:03 pm

I support a temporary moratorium on reduction fishing

I support a temporary moratorium on reduction fishing. Menhaden are critical to the lives of ospreys and bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay. Selfish corporate interests are endangering out precious irreplaceable wildlife by removing their food supply..

CommentID: **239827** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: George Ball

2/15/26 3:19 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239828** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ocassa Thompson

2/15/26 3:20 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **239829** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Wondson

2/15/26 3:21 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239830** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jackie Clayton

2/15/26 3:22 pm

I do not support

I do not support this proposed bill

CommentID: **239831** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lorin Richardson

2/15/26 3:23 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239832** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Juanita Ball

2/15/26 3:24 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239833** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roberta Ball

2/15/26 3:27 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239834** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Betty Ball

2/15/26 3:28 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239835** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Diane SHACKLEFORD

2/15/26 3:29 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239836** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steve Minor

2/15/26 3:35 pm

I do not support.

I do not support.

CommentID: **239837** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Stephanie Hudson

2/15/26 3:43 pm

Do Not Support

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **239838** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ed Harper

2/15/26 3:47 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239839** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tyler Jones

2/15/26 3:48 pm

I do NOT support this petition.

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239840** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Alex Rogers

2/15/26 3:50 pm

I support this petition

Used to love in Virginia. Still watch the wildlife there. I'm tired of seeing birds dying because there is no fish for them to eat or feed their young. Very few fledglings from Virginia in the past few years.

CommentID: **239841** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Freddy Cradle

2/15/26 3:56 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support petition

CommentID: **239842** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Donald Jewell

2/15/26 4:01 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239843** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Julia Self

2/15/26 4:13 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239844** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Devon Wittman Gooch

2/15/26 4:18 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill.

CommentID: **239845** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Justin Bowis

2/15/26 4:26 pm

I do not support!

I do not support!

CommentID: **239846** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Scotty George

2/15/26 4:35 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239847** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kathy Schuder

2/15/26 4:52 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239848** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rachel Hinson

2/15/26 4:52 pm

I do not Support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239849** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David S Robinson Jr

2/15/26 4:53 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239850** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 4:55 pm

Do not support

Do Not support

CommentID: **239851** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donna Anderson

2/15/26 4:56 pm

I do NOT support the petition as written

I believe the petition as it is written, with the requirements noted, is unrealistic. I too want to protect our marine environment, but this is not the way to do this. I live on the water in the Northern Neck.

CommentID: **239852** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Pamela D Chapman

2/15/26 4:57 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239853** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shelley

2/15/26 5:00 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239854** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 5:03 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239855** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lindsay Robinson

2/15/26 5:04 pm

I do not support this!

Do not support this.

CommentID: **239856** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tiffany Fischer

2/15/26 5:04 pm

Do Not Support

I do not support

CommentID: **239857** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jacqueline Jones

2/15/26 5:04 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I do not support this

CommentID: **239858** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kathleen Connolly

2/15/26 5:08 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **239859** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steven Shelton

2/15/26 5:11 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239860** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 5:17 pm

Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden

I DO NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **239861** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jerry Hampton

2/15/26 5:23 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239862** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William saunders

2/15/26 5:30 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239863** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Jett

2/15/26 6:14 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239864** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paige Kellum

2/15/26 6:15 pm

I do not support

I do not support this

CommentID: **239865** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Kellum

2/15/26 6:15 pm

I do not support

I do not support this

CommentID: **239866** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Doug Bishoff

2/15/26 6:18 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239867** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jimmy Luck

2/15/26 6:29 pm

I do not support.

I do not support!

CommentID: **239868** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Len Pittman

2/15/26 6:33 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239869** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rachel Cauley

2/15/26 6:34 pm

Do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239870** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason Jones

2/15/26 6:46 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239871** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jake hayes

2/15/26 6:48 pm

I do not support

I do NOT support this.

CommentID: **239872** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kayla Price

2/15/26 6:54 pm

I do not support

I do not support.

CommentID: **239873** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lou Shelton

2/15/26 6:58 pm

Chesapeake Bay Menhaden reduction fishing

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239874** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Whitney Shelton

2/15/26 7:00 pm

I Do not support!!!

I do not support!!!

CommentID: **239875** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Danielle Price

2/15/26 7:00 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **239876** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kim Hampton

2/15/26 7:01 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239877** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Melissa Thrift

2/15/26 7:09 pm

Do not Support

I cannot support a bill that has no founded claims and hurts people's livelihood based on what ifs. The stock has been proven time and again to be stable and is regulated more harshly than any other industry already.

CommentID: **239878** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cammeron Harris

2/15/26 7:18 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239879** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Macy McNamee

2/15/26 7:21 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239880** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rosie Packett

2/15/26 7:24 pm

I DO NOT support

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239881** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brooke Brandt

2/15/26 7:25 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239882** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Parker Deihl

2/15/26 7:28 pm

I do not support this

I do not support

CommentID: **239883** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karla Smith

2/15/26 7:29 pm

I do not support this

I do not support

CommentID: **239884** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tiffany Perry

2/15/26 7:29 pm

I do not support this petition.

I am a Virginia voter and taxpayer from Reedville, and I do not support this petition for rulemaking to establish a temporary moratorium on Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishing.

CommentID: **239885** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Orry Harrison

2/15/26 7:30 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support

CommentID: **239886** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Haley Deihl

2/15/26 7:30 pm

I do NOT support this

I DO NOT support this!

CommentID: **239887** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dylan Hall

2/15/26 7:31 pm

I don not support.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239888** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Matthew Perry

2/15/26 7:31 pm

Do not support

I am a Virginia voter and taxpayer and I do not support this petition for rulemaking to establish a temporary moratorium on Chesapeake Bay menhaden reduction fishing.

CommentID: **239889** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lesly Haynie Hall

2/15/26 7:32 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239890** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joel Deihl

2/15/26 7:32 pm

I DO NOT support this

I DO NOT support this

CommentID: **239891** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mallory Revere

2/15/26 7:38 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239892** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeffrey Hall

2/15/26 7:39 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239893** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Daiger

2/15/26 7:41 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239894** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rachel Woolard

2/15/26 7:42 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239895** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Katlyn reamy

2/15/26 7:42 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239896** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anna Ranson-Williams

2/15/26 7:45 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239897** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Lewis

2/15/26 7:45 pm

Do not support

DO NOT support

CommentID: **239898** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 7:47 pm

Menhaden

I do not support this!!

CommentID: **239899** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 7:48 pm

Do not support this bill

This bill is not justified.

CommentID: **239900** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Arlene Crabbe

2/15/26 7:48 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this bill!

CommentID: **239901** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather feldmann

2/15/26 7:51 pm

I do not support

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239902** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sheila Deihl Wilson

2/15/26 7:52 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239903** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Katelyn Basker

2/15/26 7:53 pm

I do not support!

I do not support!

CommentID: **239904** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trinia Timberlake

2/15/26 7:54 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239905** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chad Dameron

2/15/26 7:56 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239906** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kelly Helmick

2/15/26 7:57 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239907** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jesse Helmick

2/15/26 7:58 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239908** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Peyton Wilmer

2/15/26 7:59 pm

i do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239909** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tony King

2/15/26 8:00 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239910** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lisa Lane

2/15/26 8:01 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239911** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Frank Lane

2/15/26 8:01 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239912** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Justin King

2/15/26 8:02 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239913** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Collin Saunders

2/15/26 8:02 pm

I Do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239914** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Erin King

2/15/26 8:02 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239915** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Meghan Shores

2/15/26 8:03 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239916** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Wyatt Helmick

2/15/26 8:04 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239917** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Skylar Dixon

2/15/26 8:04 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239918** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Amy Lamb

2/15/26 8:07 pm

I do not support

There is no need to establish a complete moratorium on Menhaden fishing at this time. This would devastate the community of Northumberland. The proper scientific research has not been completed to do this.

CommentID: **239919** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marian Leigh Walker

2/15/26 8:08 pm

Do Not Support

I do not support.

CommentID: **239920** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 8:08 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **239921** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Susan Swann

2/15/26 8:14 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239922** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Spencer Crittenden

2/15/26 8:19 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239923** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Larry Landers

2/15/26 8:21 pm

Petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239924** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: R. Richardson

2/15/26 8:24 pm

I do not support

I do not support.

CommentID: **239925** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ashley Payne

2/15/26 8:25 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239926** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Larry Landers

2/15/26 8:25 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239927** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Burton Thrift

2/15/26 8:25 pm

I Do Not Support

I do not support this legislation

CommentID: **239928** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 8:26 pm

Do not support

Do not support.

CommentID: **239929** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Valerie VanWitzenburg

2/15/26 8:26 pm

Do Not Support

This legislation is a job killer an has no scientific basis

CommentID: **239930** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Julie Barrack

2/15/26 8:29 pm

I do NOT support!

I DO NOT SUPPORT!

CommentID: **239931** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Emily Headley Center

2/15/26 8:31 pm

I do not support

I do not support this

CommentID: **239932** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sarah Bullis

2/15/26 8:32 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239933** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Edwin W Barrack

2/15/26 8:32 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239934** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jennifer Harding

2/15/26 8:36 pm

I do not Support

I do NOT support this!!!!

CommentID: **239935** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alice Harding

2/15/26 8:37 pm

I do not support

I do not support this.

CommentID: **239936** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Courtney Barrack

2/15/26 8:39 pm

I do not suppot

I do not support

CommentID: **239937** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sebastian Harding

2/15/26 8:42 pm

I do not support

I do not support this!

CommentID: **239938** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sara Newsome

2/15/26 8:43 pm

I do not support !

I do not support this petition .

CommentID: **239939** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hannah Rosas

2/15/26 8:45 pm

I do NOT support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **239940** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Samuel Haynie

2/15/26 8:51 pm

I do not support!

I do not support!!

CommentID: **239941** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Edwin Wayne Barrack Jr.

2/15/26 8:52 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239942** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alison Haynie

2/15/26 8:54 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239943** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Josh Bryant

2/15/26 9:09 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239944** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kayla C

2/15/26 9:15 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239945** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather Cockrell

2/15/26 9:26 pm

I Do Not Support

I do not support!!

CommentID: **239946** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karas

2/15/26 9:28 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239947** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kylie Robbins

2/15/26 9:30 pm

I do not support this petition

This petition is unconstitutional I disagree with its contents and the validity of its benefit to the ecosystem.

CommentID: **239948** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert France

2/15/26 9:46 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239949** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather G Conley

2/15/26 9:51 pm

I do not support.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239950** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kelsey Carlton

2/15/26 9:55 pm

I do no support

I do not support

CommentID: **239951** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Caroline Davenport

2/15/26 9:56 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239952** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Leah Ann3

2/15/26 10:04 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239953** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Shaughness

2/15/26 10:23 pm

I do not support this.

I do not support this bill.

CommentID: **239954** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Kathryn Hall

2/15/26 10:42 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239955** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Joy Hoyle

2/15/26 10:44 pm

-

I DO NOT Support

CommentID: **239956** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Zach Newman

2/15/26 10:50 pm

Do Not Support

Do not support

CommentID: **239957** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karmen Lucas

2/15/26 10:59 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239958** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/15/26 11:02 pm

Do not support!

Do not support.

CommentID: **239959** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Abby Shirah

2/15/26 11:09 pm

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition. There is not enough evidence to justify this decision.

CommentID: **239960** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Susan Haynie

2/15/26 11:19 pm

I do not support!

I do not support!

CommentID: **239961** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Melissa Roberts

2/15/26 11:26 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239962** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Veverly Williams

2/16/26 12:26 am

Regulations on Omega Protein

Do not support

CommentID: **239963** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Veverly Williams

2/16/26 12:29 am

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239964** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: hEATHER cOCKRELL

2/16/26 7:38 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239965** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Heather Huff

2/16/26 7:40 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239966** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Francisca Booker

2/16/26 7:42 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239967** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mary Buchanan

2/16/26 7:43 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239968** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gracey Smith

2/16/26 7:47 am

Menhaden

I do not support this

CommentID: **239969** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 7:47 am

I do not support this Petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239970** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Smith

2/16/26 7:48 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **239971** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: DANIEL BEAL

2/16/26 7:48 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239972** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Isabel Bleiken

2/16/26 7:51 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239973** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: M Flagg

2/16/26 7:53 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239974** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cat Long

2/16/26 7:54 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239975** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bear Jeffries

2/16/26 7:56 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239976** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tanner Cralle

2/16/26 7:58 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239977** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Katelyn Armistead

2/16/26 7:59 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239978** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Conner Huff

2/16/26 8:02 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239979** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hannah Canady

2/16/26 8:03 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239980** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Megan Scerbo

2/16/26 8:05 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239981** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gena Hay

2/16/26 8:06 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239982** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dana Welch

2/16/26 8:08 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239983** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alan Welch

2/16/26 8:09 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239984** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Giles Scott

2/16/26 8:13 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **239985** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Justin ALAN Welch

2/16/26 8:13 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239986** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: acob Thomas Mundy

2/16/26 8:16 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239987** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Elisabeth Spotswood Hudnell

2/16/26 8:20 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239988** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gina G McGhee

2/16/26 8:22 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239989** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Allison Joyce

2/16/26 8:23 am

I do not support this petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **239990** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Farrell

2/16/26 8:30 am

Protect menhaden

I support the proposal to ban commercial harvesting of menhaden.

CommentID: **239991** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jessie Garland

2/16/26 8:45 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

Do not support

CommentID: **239992** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kaylyn King

2/16/26 8:49 am

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **239993** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Emily Sprague

2/16/26 8:49 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239994** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brody Sprague

2/16/26 8:50 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239995** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charles Lewis

2/16/26 8:50 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239996** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lisa H. Lewis

2/16/26 8:51 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239997** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Huff

2/16/26 8:51 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239998** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Georgia Sprague

2/16/26 8:52 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **239999** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Margaret Zehmer

2/16/26 8:53 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240000** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Huff Sr.

2/16/26 8:53 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240001** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shelby Sprague

2/16/26 8:54 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240002** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Matthew I. Sprague

2/16/26 8:55 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240003** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sylvia Casillas

2/16/26 8:55 am

I do NOT support

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240004** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Christopher Sandoval

2/16/26 8:56 am

I do NOT support

I do NOT support

CommentID: **240005** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Caely Kloc

2/16/26 8:57 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240006** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jack Novak

2/16/26 8:58 am

I do NOT support

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240007** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrew Stewart

2/16/26 8:58 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240008** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jan Stewart

2/16/26 8:59 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240009** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dustin Westman

2/16/26 9:01 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240010** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dr. Steven T. Zalesak

2/16/26 9:04 am

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL

The insane destruction of the fish and birds in the Chesapeake Bay by Omega Protein must stop!

I ask the readers of this petition to notice that almost all of those people responding that they do not support this petition leave zero comments explaining why. I believe that they are just mindlessly doing what someone else told them to do.

CommentID: **240011** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dustin

2/16/26 9:07 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240012** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeb Thrift

2/16/26 9:10 am

Do Not Support

I do not support any further legislation based on speculation

CommentID: **240013** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Samantha VanWitzenburg

2/16/26 9:12 am

I do not support

This is 150 year old industry and there are already massive fish kills due to less fish being harvested.

CommentID: **240014** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cathy Eagles

2/16/26 9:21 am

Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay fishing

I DO NOT agree

CommentID: **240015** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Capt Al Dudley

2/16/26 9:30 am

I do not support!

I do not support. Capt Al Dudley

CommentID: **240016** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kathryn Sullivan

2/16/26 9:35 am

I DO NOT Support

There is no science to back a moratorium on fishing in the Bay.

CommentID: **240017** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Josh Sullivan

2/16/26 9:35 am

I DO NOT Support

there is no science to back a moratorium on fishing in the Bay

CommentID: **240018** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrea Mapes

2/16/26 9:35 am

I DO NOT Support

there is no science to back a moratorium on fishing in the Bay

CommentID: **240019** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Scott Mapes

2/16/26 9:36 am

I DO NOT Support

there is no science to back a moratorium on fishing in the Bay

CommentID: **240020** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Millie Sullivan

2/16/26 9:36 am

I DO NOT Support

there is no science to back a moratorium on fishing in the Bay

CommentID: **240021** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: J Brewer

2/16/26 9:51 am

Support Petition

I support Petition

CommentID: **240022** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Erica Eubank

2/16/26 9:52 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240023** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Darawn kenner

2/16/26 9:54 am

Moratorium on Chesapeake bay fishing

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240024** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Unanimous

2/16/26 9:58 am

Moratorium on Chesapeake bay fishing

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240025** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Unanimous

2/16/26 9:59 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240026** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Shirah

2/16/26 10:07 am

Menhaden

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240027** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 10:11 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240028** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Al Dudley

2/16/26 10:17 am

Additional info about not supporting

I do not support this petition, because it has the potential of destroying the heritage and livelihood of a great portion of people from the Northern Neck of Virginia. The opposition to the Menhaden industry are dealing from a position of misinformation and ignorance about the 167 year old history of the Menhaden industry on the Chesapeake Bay. If the opposition is honest with themselves, they would have to admit that they do not know enough about the Menhaden industry to destroy the lives of so many people.

CommentID: **240029** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Ronald Hudson

2/16/26 10:18 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240030** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Sharon Anthony

2/16/26 10:26 am

PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240031** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** DOUGLAS ANTHONY

2/16/26 10:27 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240032** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Teresa Bush

2/16/26 10:46 am

Menhaden

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!

CommentID: **240033** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kristy Hall

2/16/26 10:47 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT!!

CommentID: **240034** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ronnie Crockett

2/16/26 10:48 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240035** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: CATHY CROCKETT

2/16/26 10:48 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240036** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Hannah Long

2/16/26 10:53 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition. There is no evidence to support, as the stock is continuously shown to be stable.

CommentID: **240037** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rick Dudley

2/16/26 11:09 am

I do NOT support this petition

I Do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240038** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alva Jackson

2/16/26 11:20 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240039** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Aaron Taylor

2/16/26 11:40 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I so do not support this petition

CommentID: **240040** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kendall Anderson

2/16/26 11:40 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240041** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mark Hurst

2/16/26 11:41 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240042** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keegan Kellum

2/16/26 11:42 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240043** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kent Lewis

2/16/26 11:42 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240044** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donnie Davis

2/16/26 11:43 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240045** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeffrey Hall

2/16/26 11:43 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240046** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Wayne Harding

2/16/26 11:44 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240047** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Colby George

2/16/26 11:44 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240048** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Haley Eubank

2/16/26 11:44 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240049** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Arthur Bowers

2/16/26 11:45 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240050** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ada K Shepherd

2/16/26 11:45 am

I Do Not Support

I Do Not Support

CommentID: **240051** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Shepherd

2/16/26 11:46 am

I Do Not Support

I Do Not Support

CommentID: **240052** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lawrence Kelly

2/16/26 11:47 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240053** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ryan Fisher

2/16/26 11:50 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240054** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jervon Henderson

2/16/26 11:51 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240055** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: James Seagle Jr.

2/16/26 11:51 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240056** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert H. Oder

2/16/26 11:51 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240057** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marty Carter

2/16/26 11:52 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240058** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kelsey Haynie

2/16/26 11:57 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240059** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Welby Saunders

2/16/26 12:01 pm

I do not support

So many don't understand the impact the fishing industry has on our local economy. It's important we support Omega

CommentID: **240060** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Erin McIlwee

2/16/26 12:03 pm

I Do Not Support

I Do Not Support

CommentID: **240061** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Bateman

2/16/26 12:05 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

This petition would see the end to a heritage industry vital the economic wellbeing of the Northern Neck and would see the loss of hundreds of jobs, putting further strain on an already floundering workforce. I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240062** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kimberly Hinton

2/16/26 12:15 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this Petition!

CommentID: **240063** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gilbert sprague

2/16/26 12:16 pm

Do not support this bill

Do not support this bill

CommentID: **240064** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brooke Self

2/16/26 12:18 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **240065** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tyler Hudgins

2/16/26 12:18 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **240066** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Wade Self

2/16/26 12:21 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240067** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Angela Self

2/16/26 12:21 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240068** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Parker Smith

2/16/26 12:22 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240069** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lacie Self

2/16/26 12:23 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240070** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: A East

2/16/26 12:34 pm

Stop Foreign Companies Stripping VA Resources!

Ban OMEGA From Inshore VA Waters. Push them 3+ Miles OFFSHORE!

CommentID: **240071** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carol Ransone

2/16/26 12:35 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240072** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donald Brown

2/16/26 12:36 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

CommentID: **240073** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kelsey Dawson

2/16/26 12:39 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240074** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Rachael Carter

2/16/26 12:42 pm

I donot support

I donot support

CommentID: **240075** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anna Kellum

2/16/26 12:43 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

This petition would put an end to a heritage industry. This industry plays a vital economic role in our middle and impoverished families. This would mean the end of many jobs in the Northern Neck and putting further strain on families and children. In addition, the facts are skewed and misleading.

CommentID: **240076** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrew B Self Jr

2/16/26 12:56 pm

Menhaden Reduction

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240077** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gabrielle Dawson

2/16/26 1:01 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS.

CommentID: **240078** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Carrie Jett

2/16/26 1:02 pm

I do not support

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **240080** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Dawson

2/16/26 1:02 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

This has gotten to be ridiculous!! I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240079** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Meredith M. Robbins Sr.

2/16/26 1:10 pm

Strongly disagree with the petition

I do not support this petition. I will be 97 years young in May. I started menhaden fishing at the age of 27. I was a Captain for 37 years and fished from Main to Texas for menhaden for 3 different companies. We had some good years and some bad years but we always caught fish. I have had 3 sons that were Captains and the youngest is still at it. The business was very good to me and my family. There are only 6 boats fishing now and there is no way than are hurting this Bay.

CommentID: **240081** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mack Robbins

2/16/26 1:15 pm

I no not support this petition

I do not support this petition. I have fished for both bait and reduction and have Gillette's as well. There are a lot of variables involved in menhaden fishing. Weather conditions, rainfall, lack of rainfall, migration patterns just to name a few. Fish come in cycles.

CommentID: **240082** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Lane Abbott

2/16/26 1:23 pm

I don't agree with the petition

I am a weekend hook and line fisherman. We see young menhaden in the creeks and in the Bay. They were everywhere this past summer. We caught blue fish, Cobia and Spanish Mackerel almost every trip. My community depends on these fishermen and I don't think they should lose their jobs because someone says that there are not any menhaden in the Bay. It's just not the truth.

CommentID: **240083** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kevin Catlett

2/16/26 1:30 pm

I do not support this petition!

The Chesapeake Bay is a living system, and Menhaden are one of the species that hold it together. They filter the water, feed larger fish like striped bass, and support birds and marine life throughout the bay. When they are overfished it weakens the health of the ecosystem. I support stronger protections and responsible harvest limits.

CommentID: **240084** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Blake walker

2/16/26 1:30 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **240085** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Micheal Thomas

2/16/26 1:40 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240086** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Micheal Thomas

2/16/26 1:42 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240087** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Spencer Hall

2/16/26 1:43 pm

I DON'T SUPPORT THIS

I DONT SUPPORT THIS

CommentID: **240088** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: McKenna Dooley

2/16/26 1:49 pm

do not support

do not support

CommentID: **240089** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter:

2/16/26 2:25 pm

Bay menhaden

Yes. Menhaden are filter feeders; will help cleanse the water and promote fisheries for both private and commercial fishermen. There is a huge ocean for the menhaden fleet, plus all menhaden will not stay in the bay but migrate to the ocean .

CommentID: **240090** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeff Welch

2/16/26 2:27 pm

I fully Support This

Kick Omega out of the Chesapeake Bay

CommentID: **240091** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Matt Hornbaker

2/16/26 2:45 pm

Fully Support Protecting This Vital Resource

As a recreational fisherman, more bait fish is a good thing. I fully support reducing commercial harvest to more sustainable levels. Especially reduce harvesting by foreign owned ships.

CommentID: **240092** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Daniel schuder

2/16/26 3:28 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240093** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Trevor Carter

2/16/26 3:56 pm

I Don't support

I DO NOT SUPPORT!!

CommentID: **240094** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Franklin Jones

2/16/26 4:03 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240095** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Vickie Jones

2/16/26 4:05 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240096** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alexander Crittenden

2/16/26 4:08 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240097** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Glen Harding

2/16/26 4:39 pm

Do not support.

Do not support.

CommentID: **240098** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jimmy Kellum

2/16/26 4:41 pm

Menhaden petition

I do not support the petition for rulemaking. I urge the commission not to vote in favor. The petition is not based on scientific information, rather it's based on conjecture.

CommentID: **240099** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 4:44 pm

Do Not support this petition

It appears these social media and environmental groups want all fishing to stop while they have someone study their alleged issue. If this petition is approved they will be the first ones to fight any funding attempt and delay the resumption of purse seine fishing. It is the wrong thing to do!

This would decimate the few remaining purse seine bait operations who supply Virginia Watermen with bait, as well as, many of the eastern coast state fisheries. The purse seine fishery in Virginia does not need these types of obstructionist petitions moving forward.

VMRC should reject this petition!

CommentID: **240100** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Liz Kellum

2/16/26 4:44 pm

I do not support the petition

I do not support the petition for rulemaking. I urge the commission not to vote in favor. The petition is not based on scientific information, rather it's based on conjecture.

CommentID: **240101** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Patch

2/16/26 5:11 pm

I support the petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **240102** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Coleman Scott

2/16/26 5:38 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240103** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Michael Stevens

2/16/26 5:50 pm

I do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **240104** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kim Stevens

2/16/26 5:51 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240105** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Maya Stevens

2/16/26 5:51 pm

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240106** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Randell Cabbage

2/16/26 5:58 pm

I do not support this petition!

I do not support this petition!

CommentID: **240107** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ruth Seagle

2/16/26 5:59 pm

Moratorium

Do not support

CommentID: **240108** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jason Odom

2/16/26 5:59 pm

Petition

I do not support this

CommentID: **240109** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Luke Wilson

2/16/26 5:59 pm

I do Not support this petition

I do Not support this petition

CommentID: **240110** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Mike Samuels

2/16/26 6:01 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT !

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240111** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Meg G

2/16/26 6:06 pm

I support this

Time to stop all this destruction on the Bay.

CommentID: **240112** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Ray White

2/16/26 6:06 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240113** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 6:07 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240114** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robert Young

2/16/26 6:11 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **240115** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bret Scholtes

2/16/26 6:12 pm

I do NOT support

I absolutely do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240116** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Norris Bibbens

2/16/26 6:14 pm

I Do Not Agree

I Do Not Agree

CommentID: **240117** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jonathan Amico

2/16/26 6:16 pm

Petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240118** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Henry Deihl

2/16/26 6:16 pm

I do NOT support this!

I do NOT support this

CommentID: **240119** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Harrison Deihl

2/16/26 6:17 pm

I Do NOT support this

I DO NOT support this

CommentID: **240120** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dexter Bush

2/16/26 6:29 pm

Menhaden Petition

I Do Not Support Petition

CommentID: **240121** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Timothy Ledet

2/16/26 6:30 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240122** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kenny Pinkard

2/16/26 6:37 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition and urge commissioners to reject it.

CommentID: **240123** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Virginia Wardman

2/16/26 6:40 pm

I do support this bill!

I do support this bill.

CommentID: **240124** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anna Scholtes

2/16/26 6:55 pm

I Do Not Support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240125** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Madelyn Scholtes

2/16/26 6:57 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240126** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William McGee - SCLC RICHMOND

2/16/26 6:57 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL

This bill will adversely affect the lives of African-American men and women who have for generations made their living fishing and harvesting Menhaden. I trust and believe that they know how to best handle this situation in a manner that will keep their industry alive and flourishing. They don't need outside people telling them they can't fish and make a living. These people know from experience what this industry is all about and how important it is and they'll do everything they can

to make sure this industry survives, they're not going to put themselves out of business. So I trust them, I trust the people who have been doing this for generations and I do not trust the government or the Chesapeake Bay foundation or the sports fisherman or anyone else who's trying to destroy their livelihood? .

CommentID: **240127** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Elizabeth Scholtes

2/16/26 6:58 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240128** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tamara Hall

2/16/26 7:02 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support this at all

CommentID: **240129** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Caitlin Hall

2/16/26 7:05 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **240130** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Hayes

2/16/26 7:09 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240131** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bowe Rogers

2/16/26 7:11 pm

I do not support this.

Omega isn't hurting anything. Let the men work.

CommentID: **240132** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 7:17 pm

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **240133** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Duane Davis

2/16/26 7:20 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this.

CommentID: **240134** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 7:31 pm

I do not support!

I do not support!

CommentID: **240135** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Laura Shackleford

2/16/26 7:33 pm

I do not support

I do not believe a moratorium on menhaden is in the best interest of the fisheries. I regularly fish and boat on the Chesapeake bay and have seen large areas of bait fish all season long.

CommentID: **240136** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kristen Marfa

2/16/26 7:40 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240137** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Emma Dameron

2/16/26 7:41 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240138** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 7:44 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240139** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charlie Thrift

2/16/26 7:44 pm

Do not Support

I do not support this legislation

CommentID: **240140** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Maddie VanWitzenburg

2/16/26 7:45 pm

I Do Not Support

I don't support legislation on menhaden in the bay

CommentID: **240141** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ernie Marfa

2/16/26 7:45 pm

Do not support this petition!

do not support this petition

CommentID: **240142** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dennis Martin

2/16/26 7:51 pm

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency20/chapter1270>

I do not support

CommentID: **240143** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kelvin Thomas

2/16/26 8:41 pm

Do Not support this petition.

Do Not support this petition.

CommentID: **240144** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Garland S

2/16/26 9:49 pm

Fully support

I fully support this!

CommentID: **240145** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Martha

2/16/26 9:51 pm

Support

I support this effort

CommentID: **240146** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Laverne Wrenn

2/16/26 11:30 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition. And I urge commissioners to reject it.

CommentID: **240147** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/16/26 11:52 pm

Menhaden regulation

I do not support this action!

CommentID: **240148** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Donna Waddell

2/16/26 11:54 pm

Menhaden regulation

I donot support this action

CommentID: **240149** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 4:55 am

Petition Signage

"I do not support this petition and I urge commissioners to reject it."

CommentID: **240150** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike Thomas

2/17/26 4:56 am

I do not support

Good paying job in a rural town

CommentID: **240151** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Keith Mason

2/17/26 4:57 am

I do not support

Let us fish!

CommentID: **240152** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kirk Brown

2/17/26 4:57 am

I do not support

Let us fish!

CommentID: **240153** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Larry Lewis

2/17/26 5:08 am

Anyone in their right mind wouldn't support this petition!!!

Menhaden is about the only fishery that Amfc deems healthy.

CommentID: **240154** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 7:06 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT!

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240155** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrea Danner

2/17/26 7:30 am

I support this amendment

I support this amendment to look at saving the menhaden fish from overfishing and thus providing a food source once again for the ospreys who live along the Potomac River. Thank you!

CommentID: **240156** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Janet Wainwright

2/17/26 7:52 am

menhaden fishing

I do not support this petition!!

CommentID: **240157** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marcus Cockrell

2/17/26 7:55 am

I do not support this.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240158** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Robin Augst

2/17/26 7:56 am

I do NOT support this petition.

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240159** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mark Augst

2/17/26 7:57 am

I do NOT support

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240160** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cynitha Jackson

2/17/26 7:57 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240161** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Randolph

2/17/26 7:58 am

I do not support this petition.

I do NOT support!

CommentID: **240162** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mindy Kelley

2/17/26 7:59 am

I do NOT support!

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240163** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Sandra Palmer

2/17/26 7:59 am

I do not support this petition.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240164** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bryan Deal

2/17/26 8:00 am

I do NOT support.

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240165** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cathy Newsome

2/17/26 8:01 am

I do NOT support this petition.

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240166** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Sanders

2/17/26 8:02 am

Menhaden

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240167** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jessica Johnson

2/17/26 8:03 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240168** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Linwood Waller

2/17/26 8:03 am

I do not support

I do NOT support!

CommentID: **240169** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Gibson

2/17/26 8:04 am

Do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240170** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Alexis Gibson

2/17/26 8:04 am

I do not support

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240171** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: dixie kelley

2/17/26 8:05 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support this petition.

CommentID: **240172** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: tanner kelley

2/17/26 8:05 am

do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240173** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Levi Gibson

2/17/26 8:06 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240174** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cliff Davis

2/17/26 8:06 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240175** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Newsome

2/17/26 8:07 am

I do not support this petition

I do not support this.

CommentID: **240176** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: William Spiter

2/17/26 8:07 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240177** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Franchelle Morris

2/17/26 8:09 am

I Do Not Support

I do NOT support.

CommentID: **240178** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: T. Diggs

2/17/26 8:12 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240179** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Latoya Diggs

2/17/26 8:12 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240180** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Terrill Diggs

2/17/26 8:13 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240181** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kevin Edwards

2/17/26 8:14 am

do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240182** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tito Lewis

2/17/26 8:15 am

i do NOT support

i do NOT support

CommentID: **240183** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Aiyanna Polk

2/17/26 8:15 am

do not support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240184** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Billy Harding

2/17/26 8:16 am

i do not support this petition

I do NOT Support

CommentID: **240185** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marcus Cockrell

2/17/26 8:16 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240186** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mindy Kelley

2/17/26 8:17 am

do NOT support

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240187** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jonathan Harris

2/17/26 8:18 am

i do not support this petition

i do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240188** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Troy Payne

2/17/26 8:19 am

do not support

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240189** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: ronnie harding

2/17/26 8:21 am

do not support

i do NOT support

CommentID: **240190** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tiffany MacDonald

2/17/26 8:22 am

do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240191** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Karleisha Washington

2/17/26 8:23 am

Do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240192** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: wayne howard

2/17/26 8:24 am

I do not support

I do NOT support this petition

CommentID: **240193** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ernest Polk

2/17/26 8:24 am

Do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240194** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Emayah Polk

2/17/26 8:25 am

do NOT support THIS!

I do not support this!

CommentID: **240195** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Frances Polk

2/17/26 8:25 am

i do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240196** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jennifer Forrest

2/17/26 8:26 am

i do not support!!!!!!!

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

CommentID: **240197** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Cindy Taylor

2/17/26 8:27 am

do NOT support

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

CommentID: **240198** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: SAGE TAYLOR

2/17/26 8:27 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240199** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Arnett Taylor

2/17/26 8:27 am

i do not support this petition

I do NOT support

CommentID: **240200** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: KIMYA A WILLIAMS

2/17/26 8:37 am

Don't support

I do not support

CommentID: **240201** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Aimee Grugan

2/17/26 9:14 am

I Do Support!!!!

I Do Support!!!!

CommentID: **240202** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Wanda McGee SCLC

2/17/26 9:17 am

Menhaden fishermen and Ocean Harvesters

"I do not support this petition and I urge commissioners to reject it."₂₉₀

CommentID: **240203** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jill Sears

2/17/26 9:18 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this bill

CommentID: **240204** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Grayson Oder

2/17/26 9:24 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240205** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paula Stallard

2/17/26 9:29 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240206** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mike Sears

2/17/26 9:34 am

I do not support this

I do not support this

CommentID: **240207** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Derrick Peterson

2/17/26 9:37 am

I Do Not Support This.

I do not support this.

CommentID: **240208** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Annemarie Bairstow

2/17/26 9:38 am

I support the petition

I support the petition

CommentID: **240209** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Wendy Newsome

2/17/26 9:48 am

Rulemaking to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Reduction Fishing

I do not support this bill.

CommentID: **240210** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeffery Newsome

2/17/26 9:51 am

I do not support this bill.

I do not support this bill.

CommentID: **240211** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: David Ventker

2/17/26 10:03 am

Petition for Proposed Rulemaking for Moratorium on Menhaden Fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

I DO NOT SUPPORT this Petition.

CommentID: **240212** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bryan Smith / Ocean Harvestors

2/17/26 10:04 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!

I **DO NOT** support this petition!

CommentID: **240213** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Steve Joned

2/17/26 10:08 am

I do not support

I do not support

CommentID: **240214** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marissa Henderson

2/17/26 10:09 am

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition that attempts to shut out menhaden fishing in the Bay.

Best,

Marissa Henderson

CommentID: **240215** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Johnny Thrift

2/17/26 10:13 am

I Do Not Support

I do not support

CommentID: **240216** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tillie VanWitzenburg

2/17/26 10:14 am

Do not support

I don't support this legislation

CommentID: **240217** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Dillon Loving

2/17/26 10:17 am

Don't support

I do not agree with or support this petition

CommentID: **240218** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ron Loving

2/17/26 10:18 am

I do not support this petition

I don't support this action

CommentID: **240219** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Austin robbins

2/17/26 10:23 am

I do not support this petition

There is no science to prove that a 150year old fishery needs to be kicked out of the Chesapeake Bay. The science we do have is failing infrastructure causing sewage leaks into the James and Potomac river. We have an invasion of Blue cat fish that was introduced unnaturally into our state waters. We are dealing with shifts in climate and water temperatures causing fish migrations to differ from historical trends. This petition is another attack on our small fishing communities in the northern neck that have relied on menhaden since the late 1800s. It has created generational fishermen like myself that can trace back which boats my grandfather and great grandfather worked on.

CommentID: **240220** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Captain John Smith

2/17/26 10:49 am

Tons of fake "I do not support" entries. The results are worthless.

I hope whomever is running and reporting these public comments realizes that witht the lack of any verifications the results are worthless. It should have no credibility for the VMRC Board.

CommentID: **240221** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kystal Fisher

2/17/26 11:03 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support.

CommentID: **240222** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tina Reaner

2/17/26 11:04 am

do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240223** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 11:09 am

I do not support

I do not support this petition. It is absolutely ridiculous!

CommentID: **240224** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Teresa Kellum

2/17/26 11:10 am

Do not support

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240225** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Charles Dodson

2/17/26 11:11 am

I do NOT support this petition

do not support

CommentID: **240226** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: vanessa dodson

2/17/26 11:11 am

petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT

CommentID: **240227** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters

2/17/26 11:12 am

WE SUPPORT THIS PETITION

Yes, put a moratorium on the bay until we have bay specific science.

CommentID: **240228** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Marilyn Hollingsworth

2/17/26 11:12 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support

CommentID: **240229** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Barbara Slatcher

2/17/26 11:46 am

The osprey population is crashing, support this petition

I have been managing Osprey-watch.org for the Center for Conservation Biology since it launched in 2012. CCB is considered a global expert in ospreys. The Chesapeake Bay has the largest population of nesting ospreys in the world, 10,000-12,000 nesting pairs. The osprey are considered a key indicator species for the health of the environment because they are found everywhere and are sensitive to environmental changes. Osprey need high omega fatty fish to raise their chicks. They are dependent on menhaden in the Chesapeake. In the last decade, CCB has been getting reports of more and more nests failing. For the last 3 years, biologists have conducted increasingly larger scale studies to assess these reports. Through a controlled supplemented diet study, biologists confirmed that osprey chicks were dying from starvation, likely due to a lack of menhaden. By 2025, the study covered 1025 nests in 23 study areas of varying salinity. In medium and high salinity areas, where the diet is almost exclusively Menhaden, 741 nests failed completely. For the first time ever, biologists are documenting large numbers of pairs that return from South America in April and May that can't even find enough food nutrition to attempt to lay eggs. This is the first time ever documented. These results are an absolute disaster for our beloved ospreys and all the other species of birds, fish and other wildlife that depend on menhaden. Please put a stop to this fishing in the Chesapeake before it is too late.

CommentID: **240230** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chesapeake Legal Alliance and Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Org

2/17/26 11:51 am

In support of the O'Connor petition

COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR RULEMAKING: TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON CHESAPEAKE BAY MENHADEN REDUCTION FISHING

Submitted by the Chesapeake Legal Alliance and the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) are a keystone forage species in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast. Their ecological function as primary prey for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, red drum, marine mammals, and seabirds places them at the center of ecosystem stability. Peer-reviewed research demonstrates that forage fish generate greater long-term economic and ecological value when managed conservatively and when predator support is prioritized over industrial reduction extraction (Pikitch et al. 2012, 1146–1147; Konar et al. 2019, 226–229).

The Chesapeake Bay serves as the primary nursery ground for Atlantic menhaden (SEDAR 2020, 12–15). Concentrated purse-seine harvest within this nursery creates elevated risk of localized depletion that is not fully captured in coastwide stock assessments.

- Coastwide harvest levels are too high to sustain predator needs. ERP modeling shows predator biomass declines as menhaden harvest increases beyond ecosystem-based targets (ASMFC, 2025, pp. 1–247).
- The most recent stock update, 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Single-Species Stock Assessment Update borders on a finding of ‘overfishing’. The ASMFC found high fishing mortality, low fecundity, and low juvenile abundance (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2025a).
- Chesapeake Bay experiences localized depletion. Potomac River Fisheries Commission landings data demonstrate dramatic regional reductions compared to long-term averages, suggesting nursery-area impacts not captured in coastwide biomass indices (PRFC, 2024, p. 1).
- Regional predator populations show measurable stress. Osprey demographic collapse and striped bass condition studies provide independent biological indicators of forage limitation (Watts et al., 2024, p. 108).
- Previous stock assessments likely understated fishing pressure. The correction of natural mortality rates significantly alters inferred fishing mortality and suggests harvest pressure has been higher than previously believed (Ault & Luo, 2025, p. 41). The Ault & Luo study conclusively shows that the natural mortality rate (M) used in the SEDAR 69 benchmark (1.17 yr⁻¹) was likely substantially overstated, with corrected estimates near 0.52 yr⁻¹ (Ault and Luo 2025, 25–31). Inflated M artificially increases recruitment and biomass estimates and masks fishing mortality (Mannini et al. 2020, 4–6).

Simultaneously, osprey reproductive collapse in the lower Chesapeake Bay is strongly correlated with menhaden abundance decline (Watts et al. 2024, 6–10). Striped bass growth and condition are highly dependent on menhaden availability (Hartman and Brandt 1995, 826–829; Walter et al. 2003, 63–66).

The scientific record supports precautionary action.

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY AND PUBLIC TRUST DUTY

Under Virginia Code § 28.2-203, fisheries management measures must: 1) Be based upon the best scientific information available; 2) Prevent overfishing; 3) Maintain abundant, self-sustaining stocks; 4) Promote conservation; and 5) Be equitable to all users, so that no single entity captures a disproportionate share.

The Commonwealth holds marine fisheries in public trust for present and future generations. When scientific uncertainty exists concerning stock status or ecosystem impacts, precaution is required

under well-established fisheries management principles (Virginia Code § 28.2-203; National Marine Fisheries Service 2016, 9–12; FAO 1995, Article 7.5).

Failure to act in the face of structural uncertainty and documented menhaden and predator impacts would conflict with statutory duties.

II. ECOLOGICAL ROLE OF ATLANTIC MENHADEN

Atlantic menhaden function as energy converters in marine ecosystems, transforming plankton production into lipid-rich forage biomass. Because they school densely and possess high caloric content, they provide efficient energetic return to predators relative to dispersed alternative prey (Hartman and Brandt 1995, 818–822). Essington et al. (2006) describe forage fish as trophic “energy conduits” linking lower and upper food web levels (Essington et al. 2006, 3172–3173). Pauly et al. (1998) characterize forage fish as central to food web structure and resilience (Pauly et al. 1998, 861–862).

Pikitch et al. (2012) conclude that forage fish warrant precautionary harvest rules because of their disproportionately large ecosystem impact (Pikitch et al. 2012, 1147; Chagaris et al. (2020) model menhaden–striped bass trophic coupling, showing measurable predator response to forage variation; Anstead et al. (2021) outline ecosystem-based forage management pathways that prioritize predator stability over single-species yield maximization). The 2020 SEDAR 69 Benchmark Stock Assessment confirms that Chesapeake Bay is the most important nursery area for Atlantic menhaden along the U.S. East Coast (SEDAR 2020, 12–15).

Industrial removal from nursery habitat increases risk beyond coastwide averages.

III. CURRENT STOCK STATUS

The update shows elevated fishing mortality through 2023 (ASMFC, 2025 Update, pp. 100–102). Sustained high fishing mortality reduces the stock’s reproductive buffer and increases dependence on strong recruitment years.

The 2025 Atlantic Menhaden Single-Species Stock Assessment Update (ASMFC 2025a) reports:

- F above ERP target (ii; Fig. 14, 24).
- Fecundity below ERP target and declining since 2012 (ii; Fig. 13, 23).
- Recruitment variability and declining reproductive output (11–13).

Although the stock is not classified as overfished under ERP thresholds, exceeding F target reduces precautionary buffer. Declining fecundity is particularly concerning in a short-lived forage species whose resilience depends on reproductive surplus.

Fishing mortality for the reduction fleet (north and south) remains significant (ASMFC, 2025 Update, pp. 110–120). Reduction fishing constitutes the majority of total removals and disproportionately targets large schooling biomass.

When ERP targets are applied, fishing mortality exceeds ecosystem-based targets in recent years. This exceedance indicates that harvest levels acceptable under single-species MSY may still be ecologically excessive.

Projected analyses indicate substantial reductions (>50%) are necessary to maintain predator biomass targets (ASMFC, 2025, sensitivity analyses). Such reductions would align fishing mortality with ERP thresholds designed to sustain striped bass recovery.

IV. NATURAL MORTALITY (M) UNCERTAINTY

Natural mortality (M) is one of the most influential parameters in age-structured stock assessment models (Mannini et al. 2020, 1–2).

Ault & Luo identify five major errors in Liljestrand et al. (2019): Overstated tag releases. Inflated release counts distorted survival estimates; Underreported tag recoveries (13%). Recovery undercounting biases mortality calculations; Overstated magnet recovery efficiency. Incorrect efficiency assumptions inflated M; Underreported fishing effort (–47.8%). Underestimated effort masks true fishing pressure.

These errors inflated $M = 1.17 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Ault & Luo, 2025, p. 29), instead of the corrected estimate: $M = 0.52 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Ault & Luo, 2025, p. 41). Lower M implies:

- True fishing mortality is higher than previously believed. Adjusted calculations shift responsibility for stock removals toward fishing rather than natural causes.

Because overestimation of M leads to underestimation of F (Ault & Luo, 2025, p. 9), previous stock health conclusions were overly optimistic. The natural mortality (M) adopted by SEDAR 69 ($M = 1.17 \text{ yr}^{-1}$; SEDAR 2020, 189) exceeded acceptable M estimates by fourteen standard deviations. This is analogous to seeing a 6-foot man and insisting he is over 9-feet tall.

The result is that harvest pressure was underestimated, and resulted in quotas based on an inflated M, which allowed for excessive catch levels. That is, reduction quotas were set too high.

V. ECOLOGICAL REFERENCE POINT (ERP) BENCHMARK

The ERP benchmark explicitly states that stock status should be evaluated by comparing single-species outputs to ecosystem-derived ERPs (ASMFC, 2025, p. 3). This statement recognizes that traditional MSY-based targets may allow harvest levels that compromise predator biomass objectives.

Key conclusions:

- Predator biomass declines as menhaden harvest increases. The models show that increasing menhaden fishing mortality reduces striped bass biomass relative to target levels, indicating direct trophic linkage (ASMFC, 2025, pp. 160–170).

- ERPs require maintaining higher menhaden abundance than single-species MSY. Ecosystem reference points are more precautionary than MSY because they incorporate predator forage requirements rather than maximizing yield (ASMFC, 2025, pp. 180–190).

- Ecosystem-based targets are more precautionary than historical harvest levels. Historical quotas often exceeded ERP-derived fishing mortality thresholds, particularly during peak reduction years.

These values are the benchmark's quantified expression of "how much menhaden harvest pressure is compatible with striped bass meeting biomass objectives," i.e., the practical "recommendation" for menhaden abundance/availability to striped bass in the ERP framework. Because the 2019 harvest was inflated, sending the stock toward overfished status, F must be reduced.

VI. STRIPED BASS DEPENDENCE ON MENHADEN

Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) exhibit strong trophic dependence on Atlantic menhaden.

Striped bass consume large quantities of menhaden (Uphoff, 2003; Chagaris et al., 2020), and Scharf et al. (2004) documented Atlantic menhaden as primary prey of large striped bass (Scharf et al. 2004, 1147–1149). Hartman and Brandt (1995) demonstrated that striped bass growth and bioenergetic efficiency are maximized when menhaden dominate diet composition (Hartman and Brandt 1995, 826–829). Uphoff (2003) linked striped bass condition factor directly to menhaden availability (Uphoff 2003, 190–192).

Regionally, menhaden frequently dominate adult striped bass diet biomass in Chesapeake Bay, and Walter et al. (2003) found that menhaden comprised the dominant biomass fraction of striped bass diet in Chesapeake Bay (Walter et al. 2003, 63–66).

Hartman and Brandt (1995) demonstrated that striped bass growth and bioenergetic efficiency are maximized when menhaden dominate diet composition (Hartman and Brandt 1995, 826–829). Uphoff (2003) linked striped bass condition factor directly to menhaden availability (Uphoff 2003, 190–192). Reduced menhaden abundance forces striped bass to shift to lower energy prey, reducing growth and potentially affecting recruitment.

VII. OSPREY DEMOGRAPHIC COLLAPSE

Watts et al. (2024) documents a direct link between reduced regional menhaden availability with dramatic declines in osprey reproductive rates:

- 35-fold menhaden abundance fluctuation (1).
- Decline in reproductive rate over study period (6–8).
- Brood reduction and nest failure exceeding 50% in higher salinity areas (8–10).
- Transition from source to sink population (11).

These findings align with Cury et al. (2011), who found seabird reproductive collapse when forage fish biomass falls below approximately one-third of historical levels (Cury et al. 2011, 1704–1705). Menhaden historically comprised ~75% of osprey diet by weight (Watts et al., 2024, p. 11). Such dietary specialization increases vulnerability to forage decline and reduced fish delivery frequency directly affected chick survival (Watts et al., 2024, p. 37). This corresponded with results of experimental supplementation, which restored nest productivity (Watts et al., 2024, p. 33).

This experimental evidence establishes causality between forage supply and reproductive success.

VIII. LOCALIZED DEPLETION IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

Localized depletion is defined by ASMFC as a reduction in population size or density below levels sufficient to maintain ecological functions. Concentrated industrial harvest within nursery habitat increases localized depletion risk even if coastwide biomass appears adequate.

A. Nursery Importance

The SEDAR 69 Atlantic Menhaden Benchmark Stock Assessment Report identifies Chesapeake Bay as the most important nursery region along the Atlantic coast (SEDAR 2020, 12–15). Juvenile recruitment indices are heavily influenced by Bay conditions.

Industrial removal within nursery habitat disproportionately affects future year classes.

B. Potomac River Evidence

Recent data from the Potomac River demonstrate a dramatic reduction in menhaden landings compared to long-term averages (PRFC, 2024, p. 1). The 2024 Potomac River Fisheries Commission Commercial Finfish Landings Report documents 2024 menhaden landings of 692,078 pounds compared to a historical maximum of 20,820,945 pounds and historical average of 7,028,354 pounds (PRFC 2024, 1). Although landings do not perfectly measure abundance, long-term contraction in availability within tributaries suggests spatial depletion relative to historical distribution.

Localized nursery depletion disproportionately affects resident predators that rely on Chesapeake Bay forage rather than coastwide biomass.

C. Spatial Concentration of Effort

Reduction fishing is spatially concentrated in Virginia waters and the Chesapeake Bay mainstem. Purse-seine harvest occurs primarily within three nautical miles of shore, particularly within nursery habitat (NOAA Fisheries 2021, 4–6).

Forage fish industrial harvest also alters school structure and predator foraging efficiency (Pikitch et al. 2012, 1146–1147). Concentrated purse-seine harvest may disproportionately remove older age classes or densely aggregated schools, potentially affecting predator encounter rates. That is,

spatially concentrated removal also increases the probability that local predator communities experience forage insufficiency despite previous (and incorrect) coastwide biomass assumptions.

IX. BYCATCH AND INDUSTRIAL HARVEST IMPACTS

Peer-reviewed industrial purse-seine fishery studies document bycatch rates between 2–5 percent (e.g., Smith et al., Fisheries Research; NOAA technical reports). Given Chesapeake Bay annual removals in hundreds of millions of pounds, 2–5% implies tens of millions of pounds of predator species lost annually, representing additional unaccounted mortality.

Removal of predator species compounds forage depletion ecosystem effects.

X. ECONOMIC VALUE OF MENHADEN LEFT IN THE WATER

The economic analysis of Atlantic menhaden must extend beyond dockside value of reduction landings and incorporate ecosystem service valuation, predator-supported industries, and long-term intersectoral impacts.

A. Forage Fish Economic Theory

Pikitch et al. (2012) argue that forage fish generate greater long-term economic value when left in the ecosystem to support predator species rather than removed for industrial reduction (Pikitch et al. 2012, 1146–1147). The authors conclude that forage fish harvest control rules should be substantially more conservative than traditional single-species MSY frameworks because their ecological leverage magnifies downstream economic consequences.

Konar et al. (2019) estimated that ecosystem services provided by forage fish—including predator support, tourism, and non-market ecosystem functions—exceed direct industrial harvest value (Konar et al. 2019, 226–229). The authors emphasize that reduction fisheries often underestimate opportunity costs associated with predator-dependent industries.

Pikitch et al. (2014) further stress that ecosystem-based management of forage fish must incorporate indirect economic benefits through predator support and food web stabilization (Pikitch et al. 2014, 45–49). These findings apply directly to Atlantic menhaden in Chesapeake Bay, where striped bass and associated recreational industries dominate economic output.

XI. RECREATIONAL VS. REDUCTION ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Recreational striped bass fisheries supported by menhaden generate vastly greater economic activity than reduction fishing, both nationally and in the Bay region. In 2016, American recreational striped bass fishing supported 104,867 jobs and \$7.7 billion in GDP, compared to 2,664 jobs and \$103 million GDP from commercial landings (Southwick Associates 2019, 1–2).

The economic asymmetry between predator-supported industries and reduction fishing is substantial:

- Recreational striped bass fishing supported 104,867 jobs (Southwick Associates 2019, 2).
- Recreational striped bass fishing generated \$7.7 billion in GDP (Southwick Associates 2019, 2).
- Commercial striped bass landings supported 2,664 jobs and \$103 million GDP (Southwick Associates 2019, 2).

Even if only a portion of striped bass productivity depends directly on menhaden availability, the economic leverage effect is enormous. By contrast, Virginia's industrial reduction operations generate approximately \$100 million annually and employ roughly 400 workers, many seasonal.

When evaluated on employment, GDP, and economic multiplier basis, predator-supported industries exceed reduction sector value by orders of magnitude.

In Virginia, striped bass recreational fishing supports:

- Marinas — through docking fees, maintenance, and storage services.
- Boat manufacturers — via vessel sales and upgrades.
- Charter fleet — providing guided fishing experiences.
- Hospitality — including hotels and restaurants tied to fishing tourism.
- Tackle retailers — supplying gear and bait to anglers.

Reduction industry employment is concentrated and limited. Omega Protein employs fewer than 300 full-time workers regionally, according to corporate filings.

Recreational angling supports tens of thousands of jobs in the Bay region, distributing economic benefits across coastal communities rather than concentrating them within a single industrial sector, within a single county.

XII. COMPARATIVE STATE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

Several Atlantic states prohibit purse-seine reduction fishing within state waters, including New Jersey and New York. Spatial restrictions in those states have coincided with notable increases in visible menhaden aggregations and predator presence, including humpback whale occurrences. Although correlation does not prove causation, spatial harvest controls reduce localized depletion risk and provide ecological buffer.

Virginia remains the only Atlantic coastal state permitting large-scale purse-seine reduction fishing in state waters. To date, the VMRC has not regulated the industry.

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CommentID: **240231** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Monty Deihl

2/17/26 12:02 pm

I do not support this petition

This Petition is just more of the same, brought by people who are either uninformed or refuse to believe in the current best available science. Atlantic menhaden is already conservatively managed and the only forage stock in the U.S. managed for its ecosystem role using ecological reference points (ERPs). The fishery is also certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council, the world's leading conservation certification organization. The latest stock assessment, produced in October 2025, reinforces that the stock is not undergoing overfishing and is not overfished. Additionally, for the Chesapeake Bay, there is already a precautionary 'Cap' of 51,000 metric tons which is approximately one-third of the historical average harvest in the Bay, this despite the fact that there is no scientific evidence that there is a shortage of menhaden inside the Bay. Humans (fishermen) only catch about one percent (1%) of the estimated coastwide number of Atlantic menhaden, and the current 'Cap' inside the Bay represents approximately one-quarter of one-percent (0.28%) of the total number of estimated Atlantic menhaden. A few other scientific facts that people ignore are:

1. Menhaden are not the only, nor most important, forage in Chesapeake Bay. NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Forage Action Team, which studies forage status in the Bay, reported "Diet analyses determined that polychaetes were the most important prey taxa for a suite of Chesapeake Bay fish predators..." In fact, menhaden did not make the 'Top-10' most important forage in the Bay. Read the Report.
2. Menhaden are a major food source for striped bass, however striped bass health surveys taken by VMRC and PRFC, some going back 1990 covering over 35 years and nearly 300,000 fish samples, have recorded that in every single year going back to 1990 the striped bass population in the Bay has been noted as either 'Normal', or 'Very Healthy', and in no year were they cited as 'Stressed'. It is clear that striped bass are finding plenty of food. One of the challenges for striped bass is low recruitment, which obviously is not tied to inadequate forage but more likely other environmental factors. Additionally, science points to fishing pressure and high release mortality which often kills more fish than both commercial and recreational harvests combined. Scientists have gone on record to say that ALL menhaden fishing could stop in the Atlantic and striped bass numbers would not fully recover until fishing pressure on that species is controlled. When striped bass numbers declined in the 1980s, a moratorium on striped bass fishing was enacted from 1985 to 1995 and in that time that biomass completely recovered because the overfishing of that stock was stopped. During that time period, menhaden fishing coastwide was two times what it is now, and menhaden fishing inside the Chesapeake Bay was three times what it is now, clearly demonstrating that menhaden fishing was not the problem with striped bass numbers.

3. Unlike striped bass recruitment in the Bay, menhaden recruitment in the Bay is increasing, with the past three years, 2023-2025, having the highest recruitment since the early 1990s. The Report released in October 2025 stated that “***Atlantic menhaden and bay anchovies were widespread in the Bay for the third consecutive year.***”
4. Science has documented that there are other predatory fish species in the Bay whose numbers are growing including spiny dogfish, red drum, spotted sea trout, cobia, Spanish mackerel and, of course, blue catfish. These species would not be in the Bay if they were deprived of food.
5. There is also no credible science pointing to lack of menhaden due to purse seine fishing in the Bay as the reason for declines in Osprey populations around the Bay. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), osprey nest failures are occurring in many places around the country including California, Washington state, Florida, South Carolina, and numerous other areas where menhaden or menhaden fishing are not present. Osprey numbers were up 1,800 percent in the Bay from 1960s to 2022 and have seen a 5-8 percent decrease the past few years. As a reminder, most of the 1,800 percent increase in numbers occurred while menhaden fishing in the Bay was three times (3X) higher than today, before the precautionary harvest restrictions. USGS noted that there could be many causes for these challenges including predation by competitors like eagles, excessive heat, environmental contaminants, and that more information is needed to determine the cause. Additionally, USGS does not cite menhaden as the primary food source for osprey in any area of the Bay. In the fresher water areas of the Bay they cite catfish as the primary food source. In the Popular Island, mainstem of the Bay, they cite striped bass as the primary food source, with menhaden as second. And in the higher salinity lower Bay area they cite spotted sea trout as the primary food source with menhaden as secondary. These were not new studies, but some go back over 15 years before osprey started experiencing nesting failures. Finally, osprey typically lay eggs between mid-April and mid-May, with many nest failures occurring before the purse seine fishery even starts their seasonal fishing efforts.

Menhaden fishing in the Bay is at the lowest level since the early 1900s due to precautionary restrictions. The overall biomass is extremely healthy and NOT OVERFISHED and NO OVERFISHING is occurring. If people would look at the currently available science, and the long history of all these interrelated species, they would see that six menhaden boats fishing today at highly restricted catch levels are not the cause of every issue facing the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **240232** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Suzy 24

2/17/26 12:15 pm

Zero fish or small size fish caught in VA ChBay. The facts speak for themselves.

We have fished in Ch Bay from Virginia Beach to Point Lookout, MD for over 35 years. Each year our catch gets fewer and smaller. 2025 was by far our worst year yet.

No Spanish mackerel caught at all in 2025.

Zero blue fish caught in Virginia Ch Bay waters, only two 19" bluefish caught in MD waters.

One 14" flounder caught, (haven't caught a keepable sized flounder in years!)

We were able to catch a 38" cobia but still below keepable limit.

ZERO striper caught in any waters! Not even seen during hours of trolling.

Only rockfish seen caught was on facebook in upper Potomac and upper MD Ch Bay.

Facts should speak for themselves:

MD canceled their spring rockfish season for 2025.

What happened to Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shoot-out? Why was last one in 2022?

Lynnhaven Marine canceled their striper tournament years ago due to lack of fish.

Why did our local bait shop have to get frozen menhaden from New Jersey instead of from their own backyard?

There is more than one large international business in VA providing jobs from fishing in the Bay. Please also take into consideration all the small businesses and local people in Virginia also making a living from the Bay and how it affects their local communities and economies.

Talk to the charter boat captains who have canceled charters or moved to MD waters. Talk to the small local bait and tackle shops, talk to the marinas selling gas and bait. Talk to the local seafood shops and restaurants. How has their business been affected the past couple years?

I am all for people making a living but when it is clear as day there is an overfishing problem in the VA Ch Bay it should be investigated SERIOUSLY!

Don't just say we will look into it and get back to you in a few years. It's been declining for YEARS now!

CommentID: **240233** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brandon murphy

2/17/26 12:22 pm

Corruption at its core.

It's absurd that va is the only state allowing the destruction of state waters by this one company. Very evident of the corruption when looking at omegas political donations and even their employees connections to political figures. Sadly no one seems to have a spine enough to stand up to stop the destruction and make them fish 3 miles off the beach(which they do already when they overfish the bay)

CommentID: **240234** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 12:22 pm

Opposed to this petition

I oppose this petition and any proposal to suspend purse seine fishing in Virginia. I would support an effort to fund additional studies but NO SUSPENSION OF FISHING!

CommentID: **240235** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Divaris Redmond

2/17/26 12:24 pm

Disagree

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!!!!!!

CommentID: **240236** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tynika Risher

2/17/26 12:26 pm

Don't Support

I DO NO SUPPORT THIS PETITION!!!!

CommentID: **240237** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 12:27 pm

Petiton

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240238** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Krishawn Wiggins

2/17/26 12:27 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240239** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Audrey Sears

2/17/26 12:36 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support this bill!!!

CommentID: **240240** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Shannon Redmond

2/17/26 12:39 pm

Don't support

Don't support

CommentID: **240241** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bill Knapp

2/17/26 1:11 pm

Purse sien destruction of the Bay- Menhaden

Do the right thing VRMC for once! Shut them down!!!

CommentID: **240242** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: DeAndra Redmond

2/17/26 1:34 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240243** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Krik Lee

2/17/26 1:51 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

I do NOT support this petiton!

CommentID: **240244** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Casey Davis

2/17/26 1:58 pm

Oppose

i do not support this petition

CommentID: **240245** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Stacey Kellum Jr.

2/17/26 2:00 pm

Disagree

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240246** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gaynell Bondurant

2/17/26 2:04 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do not support this petition in the least bit.

CommentID: **240247** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Paula Van Alstine

2/17/26 2:19 pm

I support the petition

I support the moratorium. Stop the fishing immediately.

CommentID: **240248** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 2:26 pm

Please give the fishery a breather

Please give the fishery a much needed break; this will help the fish, recreational and commercial watermen in the long term. We have seen what loose regulation with nearly zero oversight has gotten us.

CommentID: **240249** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 2:52 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition

CommentID: **240250** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 2:59 pm

Petition

I do not support

CommentID: **240251** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tom Wayland

2/17/26 3:00 pm

Stop overfishing Menhaden

I am 55 years old, I have fished the east coast my whole life from Maine to the Carolinas and currently the menhaden are very small and scarce when I do see them. The bay is obviously a breeding ground for menhaden and should not be commercially fished along with the whole east coast. There are many species that rely on menhaden for survival. Blue crabbing is down, blue fishing is down, striped bass is down, Tuna are way down. Whales are dying and Osprey do not stick around for their season as long as they used to. These are effects I have noticed firsthand that I believe are related to the reduction of menhaden due to commercial fishing. Please stop or you'll destroy many species that rely on them. Thank you for your consideration.

CommentID: **240252** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/17/26 3:02 pm

I do not support

Do not support

CommentID: **240253** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** William Dunn

2/17/26 3:23 pm

I agree with this petition

Virginia needs to wake up to the steady reduction of menhaden in Virginia waters and eliminate the wholesale slaughter of them by the reduction industry. Why do you think that every other state on the eastern seaboard has already done this.

CommentID: **240254** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Reid Williams

2/17/26 3:30 pm

I do not support

I do NOT support.

CommentID: **240255** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 3:31 pm

I do NOT support!

I do NOT support!!!!

CommentID: **240256** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: ZD

2/17/26 3:36 pm

Support

Old science is all we have, but modern observation deems the need to update the science and fishing should be slowed until new science supports.

CommentID: **240257** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jeff Payne

2/17/26 3:43 pm

Limit the harvest

Limit the harvest. Do what's right

CommentID: **240258** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Mathieu ouellet

2/17/26 3:59 pm

Pls stop

Please stop harvesting our baitfish.

CommentID: **240259** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Taylor Deihl, Ocean Harvesters/Omega Protein

2/17/26 4:18 pm

Comments in Opposition to the Petition

Ocean Harvesters and Omega Protein submit these comments in opposition to the fourth Petition filed in fewer than three years asking the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for relief it has consistently denied. Specifically, the Petition seeks to ban Ocean Harvesters' vessels from continuing a more than 150-year tradition of harvesting Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. The VMRC should follow prior precedent and use its unreviewable discretion to deny this petition too.

This Petition one is uniquely flawed. Its basic structure is that of a legal brief, alleging that all measures the Commission has taken to manage menhaden (including provisions formerly enshrined in law) are illegal. Even the relief requested – a “moratorium” on harvest of menhaden for reduction purposes in the Chesapeake Bay – is structured like a judicial injunction with a remand to the VMRC to “correct” the alleged legal infirmities. The proper forum for these grievances is not the VMRC, but a court of competent jurisdiction. Unfortunately for Petitioner, the statute of limitations for challenging the regulations governing the regulations at 4 VAC 20-1270-35 has long passed. Even had it not, Petitioner's arguments fail both on the law and facts.

The Petition does not even attempt to make the case that a moratorium is consistent with the Commission's legal responsibilities under the Virginia Code, much less the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact. As to its fisheries management duties, the VMRC is not guided by the “Public Trust Doctrine.” VMRC is created by statute and is guided by law which, among other things, instruct the Commission to “promote the general welfare of the seafood industry.” Va. Code § 28.2-201(1). How a measure that would destroy a historic fishery and fishing community meets this objective is unexplained, as is how such a measure is consistent with the standards for fisheries management set forth in Virginia Code § 28.2-203. As explained below, it is not.

Atlantic menhaden is the most conservatively managed forage stock in the United States, the only one managed for its ecosystem role under a state-of-the-art ecological model. The fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. The stock is not undergoing overfishing (*i.e.*, not harvested at an excessive rate) and is not overfished (*i.e.*, menhaden fecundity is above threshold levels of concern). As to the portion of harvest that occurs in Chesapeake Bay, a precautionary cap constrains harvest to their lowest levels over which data is available. The overall quota for the resource has kept harvest levels at the lowest sustained levels since the Depression era, similar to the period from 1880 to 1898.

This is not a case in which VMRC and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have ignored their management responsibilities. Both within the Bay and throughout the range of the stock, measures have been taken to keep harvest levels well below historic levels (19% of peak landings and a third of harvest during the 1980s and 1990s), periods when everyone recognizes the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem was healthier.

Finally, the ASMFC is currently reviewing the Chesapeake Bay cap and has been appropriated \$2.5 million to study the Bay fishery. A team of leading menhaden researchers are developing a research

“roadmap” under the auspices of the Science Center for Marine Fisheries. It would not be appropriate for the VMRC to get ahead of these processes. Given that the relief Petitioner requests would devastate Virginia’s historic menhaden reduction fishery and cause grave economic harm to the Northumberland community at a time when jobs are scarce and Virginia citizens are struggling with inflation, the precautionary approach is to maintain the status quo.

The Companies’ Detailed Arguments in Opposition

The Petition relies on two flawed premises. The first is that the Public Trust Doctrine “requires” the Virginia Marine Resource Commission to undertake specific actions, beyond those set forth in the Commission’s governing statutes. It does not. When the General Assembly wants the VMRC to employ this doctrine it specifies so in statute and has not done so with respect to the Commission’s fisheries management responsibilities.

Secondly, Petitioner claims the Commission has failed to meet its obligations under the statute. As the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond recently held, VMRC’s management of the menhaden resource is compliant with the law, acting within its legal authority according to information in the record. As long as the VMRC continues to base its decisions on the best scientific information available – which includes that developed by the ASMFC – and, when it *chooses* to enact a regulation governing the menhaden fishery, is satisfied that the standards set forth in Section 28.2-203 are met, such decisions are lawful.

The “choosing” to regulate is important. The Petition alleges the current menhaden regulatory program is unlawful. Petitions for a new or amended regulation under the Virginia Administrative Process Act (“VAPA”), Va. Code, § 2.2-4007, are not the means for challenging a regulation. If the Petitioner believes the VMRC’s regulatory program is contrary to law, the remedy is to challenge implementing regulations within the time limits set forth in law. Petitioner seeks to evade this burden and the statute of limitations (the 30-day window for challenging 4 VAC 20-1270-35 having expired years ago) and put Commissioners in an untenable position. VMRC members are not judges.

The burden of a person petitioning for a rule is to show that the regulatory action request is consistent with law and, in the case of a fishery regulation, is supported by the “best scientific, economic, biological and sociological information available.” Va. Code 28.2-203(2). This Petition does not even attempt to meet this burden.

The Commission should reject the Petition and its suppositions about impacts of the fishery which defies over a century-and-a-half of experience. It should instead rely on the experts who advise both it and the ASMFC, as well as the legal advice provided by the Virginia Attorney General’s office.

I. The Public Trust Doctrine Does Not Apply

Petitioner wrongly argues the “public trust doctrine” limits how the Commonwealth manages migratory menhaden while in Virginia waters. As the Virginia Supreme Court noted, “The common rights in a public fishery are at all times subject to the disposal of the legislature, and it may deprive the public of the right at its pleasure. This may be done by granting exclusive rights to individuals, or by dealing with the water in such a way that the fishery is destroyed.” *Commonwealth v. Newport News*, 158 Va. 521, 552-53 (1932) (citation omitted).

No commissioner nor anyone in the menhaden sector seek to “destroy” the fishery. Rather, Atlantic menhaden is the most conservatively managed forage fishery. It is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council based on the fact it is the only forage stock explicitly managed for its role in the ecosystem; is governed by precautionary catch limits (including the Bay cap); and has been proven to have low bycatch.

The public trust doctrine is not a source of law that trumps Virginia’s laws or constitution. When the General Assembly wants the doctrine to be applied, it says so specifically. As the Virginia Court of Appeals, Norfolk Division, recently noted:

The General Assembly did not include any “public trust” or “public interest” language in Code § 28.2-600, even though it has expressly directed VMRC to consider the public interest in other related statutes, such as when the agency issues general oyster leases, see Code § 28.2-607 (requiring VMRC to consider whether “the assignment is in the public interest”), and issues permits for other bottomland uses, see Code § 28.2-1205(A) (requiring VMRC to “consider the public and private benefits of the proposed project” and that it “exercise its authority under this section consistent with the public trust doctrine”). It declined to include comparable language in Code § 28.2-600. “[W]hen the General Assembly has used specific language in one instance, but omits that language or uses different language when addressing a similar subject elsewhere in the Code, we must presume that the difference in the choice of language was intentional.”

City of Virginia Beach v. VMRC, Rec. No. 1648-17-1 (Aug. 21, 2018) (citation omitted). The same holds true for Chapter 2 of Title 28.2, which, among other things, sets forth the Commission’s authority to manage fisheries and sets forth the standards governing that process. Nowhere in these laws is the Commission directed to apply the doctrine.

Petition claims to find a “public trust” duty in § 28.2-201, but the very first subsection states that one of its duties is to “[a]dopt regulations ... necessary to promote the general welfare of the seafood industry.” *Id.* § (1). Conservation is an important objective, but equally important mandates are to promote the commercial fishing industry and reap economic benefits from the Commonwealth’s marine resources. *See, e.g.*, § 28.2-202(2) (VMRC should “[p]rovide for the development of programs designed to enhance and improve commercial and sport fisheries in Virginia’s tidal waters.”); § 28.2-203(1) (achieve “optimum yield” or “the amount of fish or shellfish which will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Commonwealth”) *id.*

§ (7) (regulations “shall, where practicable, minimize regulatory burdens which inhibit innovation, expansion, and normal business operations”).

The Public Trust Doctrine has no application to this matter.

II. Petitioner’s Requested Relief is Unlawful

Petitioner’s most misguided arguments relate to alleged violations of the standards for management in Virginia Code § 28.2-203. Not only is the Petition wrong on the law and facts, the relief requested – a moratorium on reduction harvest in the Chesapeake Bay – is inconsistent with the standards the law requires the Commission to apply.

Fishing in the Bay is a vital element of Ocean Harvesters’ fishing and business plans. There are not enough days with sufficiently calm weather in the ocean for its vessels to safely harvest menhaden in sufficient quantities to remain viable. The Chesapeake Bay became the menhaden reduction industry’s center 150 years ago not only because of the amount of fish annually migrating in, but also due to the relative shelter the Bay provides. Additionally, this is a “sight fishery” where spotter planes and vessels must be able to see menhaden schools. Windy, stormy, and overcast conditions that make operations impossible are much more frequent in the ocean.

Given that Atlantic menhaden are not overfished or subject to overfishing, *in an ecosystem context* no less, the first standard requires the VMRC to obtain “optimum yield,” or “the amount of fish . . . which will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Commonwealth.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(1). Depriving the Commonwealth millions of dollars in revenues and hundreds of jobs from a sustainable fishery falls short of this standard.

Petitioner prefers the Commission define optimum yield solely in terms of that part of the population inhabiting the Bay at any given time. Even if, as a matter of science, it were possible to determine biological reference points for a subset of a population (a matter actually being investigated by the ASMFC), there is no scientific basis for doing so now.

The second standard requires VMRC to base decisions “upon the best scientific, economic, biological and sociological information available.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(2). The best science, based on years of research, is that Atlantic menhaden are a single migratory stock that is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

The Chesapeake Bay cap is not based on scientific evidence but is rather a “compromise” instituted as a precautionary measure to avoid the harms with which Petitioner is concerned. While not based on scientific evidence, it has reasonably been determined to provide such protection by maintaining levels of harvest at the lowest end of the range of harvests that *have been continuously occurring in the Bay for 150*

years. Under this standard, the Commission may rely on the fact that, over this stretch of time, the Bay ecosystem has supported both menhaden harvests magnitudes larger *and* higher populations of predator species.

Lastly, the law requires VMRC to also consider “economic” and “sociological” information. Thus, a decision not to eliminate a historic, as well as culturally and economically important, fishery is entirely consistent with this standard.

Petitioner asserts that the Commission must conduct studies and concoct information to manage the fishery. This is not the law. Federal courts have interpreted the equivalent federal standard as requiring only “that rules issued by the [agency] be based on a thorough review of all the relevant information available at the time the decision was made, and insures that the [agency] does not ‘disregard superior data’ in reaching its conclusion.” *The Ocean Conservancy v. Gutierrez*, 394 F. Supp. 2d 147, 157 (D.D.C. 2005). “Absent some indication that superior or contrary data was available and that the agency ignored such information, a challenge to the agency’s collection of and reliance on scientific information will fail.” *N. Carolina Fisheries Ass’n v. Gutierrez*, 518 F. Supp. 2d 62, 80 (D.D.C. 2007). VMRC complies with these standards.

The third standard requires that “[t]o the extent practicable, an individual stock of fish shall be managed as a unit throughout the territorial waters of the Commonwealth, and interrelated stocks of fish shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(3). This is how menhaden are managed. The Commonwealth’s allocation is distributed among user groups and, for the largest sector, the reduction fishery, it distributes catch between the Bay and the ocean. The “unit” of menhaden in the Bay is not a different “unit” from those in Virginia’s ocean waters. They are all part of one stock which is managed as forage (*i.e.*, in “close coordination” with “interrelated stocks of fish”). The law requires nothing more. Treating menhaden in the Bay differently may run afoul of this standard.

The fourth standard requires allocations to be “fair and equitable to all fishermen..., promote conservation..., and [be] carried out in such manner that no person acquires an excessive share of such privileges.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(4). Petitioner claims the reduction sector’s allocation (just over 90% of Virginia’s share) is “unfair” and “excessive.” It is not unfair that the General Assembly allocated each sector the proportion of harvest it historically landed any more than it was for the ASMFC to allocate Virginia the proportion of quota it historically harvested.

The allocation standard does not require equal shares. It must be read in conjunction with the other standards, like use of the “best information” and achieving optimum yield. Like Virginia, federal and interstate fisheries managers look at historic and current use of, and dependence on, a resource when allocating resources. It’s an objective way of making such decisions rooted in data and to ensure fairness. The opposite would be to arbitrarily distribute resources, such as to favored groups. This the law does not allow.

Distributing allocations based on use is the best means of attaining optimum yield. Here, allocating the bait sector much larger shares would prevent the VMRC from maximizing the fishery's "overall benefit to the Commonwealth" because the allocation would go underutilized. Jobs and economic activity in the reduction sector would be lost with no counterbalancing gains in the bait sector. Granting Petitioner the relief requested – preventing Ocean Harvesters from operating in the Chesapeake Bay – would effectuate an enormous reallocation that is inconsistent with this standard.

The fifth and seventh standards are interrelated and each weighs heavily against granting Petitioner relief. The first provides: "Conservation and management shall, where practicable, promote efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources, except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose." Va Code § 28.2-203(5). Purse seining is an extremely efficient means of harvesting menhaden, in terms of volume and in avoiding incidental catch. The Bay fishery is even more efficient because it takes far less fuel, food, and time to harvest a given amount of menhaden there compared to the ocean. Prohibiting the Chesapeake Bay fishery would do the opposite of what this standard requires – mandating inefficiency by regulation.

The seventh standard instructs VMRC to "minimize regulatory burdens which inhibit innovation, expansion, and normal business operations." Va. Code § 28.2-203(7). There is little need to belabor this point. Ending the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery would be an enormous regulatory burden that would not "inhibit" Omega Protein's and Ocean Harvesters' normal operations, it would end them.

The final standard provides that "[c]onservation and management measures shall take into account variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches." Va. Code § 28.2-203(6). Petitioner's claim is that a "static cap" does not consider the dynamic Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. First, the cap is not "static." It has been reduced three times from over 100,000 mt to 51,000 mt, and the ASMFC is considering measures that may reduce it further. Second, the fact that there is a cap is a recognition of the "variations" and "contingencies" in the fishery and the fishery resources. This standard requires no more than recognizing that fisheries are dynamic and that new information should be incorporated into management decisions. This is exactly how the VMRC manages this resource in conjunction with the ASMFC. The law requires nothing more.

In summary, a decision to terminate the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery, and with it an industry which is an integral part of Virginia's history would be arbitrary, capricious, and inconsistent with the standards by which the Commission is charged with carrying out its duties. It would violate the requirement to obtain optimum yield and be based on no scientific information whatsoever. In fact, by imposing a ban, the VMRC would have to ignore economic facts and socioeconomic impacts. It would manage menhaden while in the Bay differently than when in Virginia's coastal waters, constitute an excessive and unfair allocation to the bait sector, mandate inefficiency, maximize regulatory burdens, disrupt business operations, and quash innovation and expansion. In short, the relief sought is simply inconsistent with the law.

For all these reasons, the Companies respectfully request the Commission to deny the Petition. More detailed comments have been submitted directly to VMRC.

CommentID: **240260** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 4:40 pm

Stop catering to corporations

The science is perfectly clear. Reduction fishing is putting the entire bay ecosystem in jeopardy. The ONLY reason to allow it to continue is to support business over the interests of the citizens and taxpayers. Stop rubber-stamping the rape of our resources for private gains.

CommentID: **240261** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Ed Minor

2/17/26 5:04 pm

Oppose

Strongly oppose this . No science to prove what you all are trying to do

CommentID: **240262** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richmond VA Branch NAACP

2/17/26 5:05 pm

Opposing this

We stand in opposition to this

CommentID: **240263** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 5:07 pm

Stop the slaughter

I have seen the destruction of the slaughter of Menhaden for 55yrs

321

CommentID: **240264** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: John Talley

2/17/26 5:07 pm

Stop the slaughter

I have seen the destruction of the slaughter of Menhaden for 55yrs

CommentID: **240265** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Fleeton Point Fisheries

2/17/26 5:11 pm

I do not support this petition

Menhaden Fishing has been going on for 150 years in the Chesapeake Bay. The Menhaden stocks are extremely strong. The Chesapeake Bay is in a terrible state of health because of Sewage, Farm Runoff, and just too many homes being built too close to the waters edge. The Fisherman are not the problem. In January I personally recorded more Menhaden Bodies in the Chesapeake Bay on my Sonar and Depth Recorder than I have ever seen in my 40 years of being a Commercial Menhaden Captain. Thats a FACT, not a made up story. You will hear stories of the starving Ospreys and Rockfish. Not true. They are in abundance also. I spend most of my life actually on the Chesapeake Bay. Not googling the false info that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation constantly puts out there for anyone gullible enough to believe.

Thank you,

Capt Bert Lewis

CommentID: **240266** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Bobby Crutsinger

2/17/26 5:13 pm

Save our Menhaden

Stop the harvesting our Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay & Ocean.

Omega has overfished menhaden for years. I have fished these areas for 40 years & have seen the demise of our natural resources.

Stop now before it's too late!!!

CommentID: **240267** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 5:40 pm

Save the bay

Save the bay

CommentID: **240268** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Craig Freeman

2/17/26 5:40 pm

Support

Please let there be a moratorium until more scientific data can share the health of the stock.

the #MIN Hayden are in trouble and have been for years and the reduction fishery is harming the health of the Bay.

CommentID: **240269** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: E. Russell Haynie

2/17/26 5:42 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240270** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Back River Rods

2/17/26 5:42 pm

Support the moratorium

Please ban menhaden Fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. I make fishing rods, and my sales have declined dramatically over the last several years due to the lack of rockfish and Cobia in the bay.

It's a direct line to the lack of forage fish. The reduction fishery is just that, it reduces the population too points that are unsustainable. Please put a moratorium on the menhaden until a study can be done to say the health of the stock is good.

CommentID: **240271** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Grading Scales Fishing

2/17/26 5:47 pm

Ban bunker fishing in state of Va

A moratorium is necessary to ensure the health of the bay. Several species are dependent upon the menhaden, and are failing to thrive. Rockfish, cobia, and osprey to name just a few. Surely it is not too much to ask for a moratorium while a scientific study occurs to determine whether or not these fish are in trouble.

Remember, Virginia is the only state that allows a reduction fishery to the extent that Omega and Ocean harvesters have. A ban in state waters will not hurt the reduction fishery as they fish outside the state more times than not.

Please make this moratorium happen while a study is done.

Sincerely,

Capt. Craig Freeman

CommentID: **240272** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Brian Harris

2/17/26 5:56 pm

Do not support.

Do not support.

CommentID: **240273** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 5:57 pm

Do not support

Do not support.

CommentID: **240274** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kim Reid

2/17/26 6:02 pm

4 VAC 20-1270

I do not support this

CommentID: **240275** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kimberly C Reid

2/17/26 6:03 pm

I do not support this

I do not support this!

CommentID: **240276** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: TACKLE BOX NJ

2/17/26 6:06 pm

Need to reduce!!

This needs to stop once and for all! They are overfishing menhaden EVERYWHERE!

CommentID: **240277** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tim

2/17/26 6:18 pm

Reduction moratorium

At least show support for American fisheries ,crab striped bass and pelagics that depend on a healthy source of food. Omega rapes this coast every time the opportunity presents the means for them to overharvest!!

CommentID: **240278** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Roman Boell

2/17/26 6:22 pm

Need to recuce

Menhaden is the most important fish in the sea and we need to reduce harvest more than it has been.

CommentID: **240279** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Saggese

2/17/26 6:31 pm

Stop commercial bay fishing for menhaden

Stop the fishing in the bay for menhaden

CommentID: **240280** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Wright

2/17/26 6:40 pm

Support -- stop omega before its too late.

Stop Omega before it's too late. I have a 2 yr old that deserves to enjoy the bay when he grows up.

CommentID: **240281** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Libbie Mitchell

2/17/26 6:48 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

I do not support!!

CommentID: **240282** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 7:08 pm

Oppose the petition

This petition is unnecessary, I oppose it, and ask that VMRC reject it. Science HAS been applied to establish the quotas over decades. To target one method of fishing while environmental groups want to study what hey think is a problem is simple WRONG!

CommentID: **240283** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 7:15 pm

I support this

I support this proposition to limit fishing

CommentID: **240284** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Diane Massa

2/17/26 7:44 pm

I support this petition.

I support this petition.

CommentID: **240285** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Morelle

2/17/26 7:45 pm

Menhaden

I support this bill.

CommentID: **240286** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Richard Owens

2/17/26 7:51 pm

I DO SUPPORT THIS PETITION TO FURTHER LIMIT MENHADEN FISHING IN THE BAY

I do support this petition to establish a temporary moratorium on the fishing of menhaden by the purse seine technique for a period of time until studies can be performed that establish the safe number of Manhattan that can be removed from the Chesapeake Bay. Currently the level of menhaden fish being removed from the Chesapeake Bay exceeds the amount to support the ecology of the bay and a healthy fishery for larger fish.

Commercial and sport fishing for larger fish supports the economy and families up and down the entire length of the bay.

CommentID: **240287** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Jami seagle

2/17/26 7:52 pm

I do not support this bill

I do not support

CommentID: **240288** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Chris Braly

2/17/26 8:01 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240289** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anthony Martin

2/17/26 8:11 pm

Petition to stop Menhaden fishing in the bay

I support this petition.

CommentID: **240290** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andy Huthoefer

2/17/26 8:13 pm

I support this petition!

I am fully supportive of this petition. Very concerned about our ospreys not finding enough food.

CommentID: **240291** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Thomas Powell

2/17/26 8:30 pm

I SUPPORT THIS. KICK ALL

We're not trying to shut it down — we're trying to shift it offshore.

328

It's not anti-business to say the most valuable fish in the Bay shouldn't be pumped out. Omega Protein can thrive without treating the Chesapeake Bay as a sacrifice zone. We need this bill until we can push Cooke / Omega fisheries out of the Chesapeake Bay. We are the only state on the East coast that lets them in state waters. They use spotter planes and huge nets that don't give the fish a fighting chance. I've lived on the Bay majority of my life. Used to catch rockfish off my dock every night and now can't catch one. They used to fill the bay. This over fishing has taken a beating on the rockfish, Cobia, osprey etc that need this fish to survive. I don't think it's asking too to halt their operation until scientific data can be reached and eventually get them out the bay. If the workers are paid on how many pounds of menhaden they bring in sounds like that is a companies problem and maybe they need to be paid hourly or a salary. I would like my son and his friends to be able to enjoy the bay like I did but we are going in the opposite direction and tiring a blind eye. Thank you for your time and hope you all do the right thing.

CommentID: **240292** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 8:38 pm

Reject/Oppose the petition

This petition represents the most anti-business and targeted attempt by environmental groups and misguided fishing associations to study a problem they imagine exists. MRC should reject this petition as they have done from these groups numerous times before.

I do not support this petition or any petition that would cause harm to our Virginia Watermen and fishery businesses.

CommentID: **240293** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Andrea Danner

2/17/26 8:47 pm

I support this amendment

I support this amendment to help save the menhaden population.

CommentID: **240294** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Tomeka Kelley

2/17/26 8:58 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT this Petition

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION.

CommentID: **240295** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Curtis Reed

2/17/26 9:07 pm

I support this petition.

I am in support of this petition to put a moratorium on Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **240296** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Kevin Smith

2/17/26 9:09 pm

Rules Petition

I support this petition 100%

CommentID: **240297** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 9:53 pm

I do not support this petition!

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: **240298** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 9:55 pm

Do NOT support, this would take away jobs from AMERICANS

Do not support this.

CommentID: **240299** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Darby

2/17/26 9:58 pm

I support this petition

I support this petition.

CommentID: **240300** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 10:16 pm

Reject this petition

Completely opposed to this petition. It's another attempt by these social media groups and groups from out of state to interfered with Virginia's commercial fisheries. It would cost Virginia jobs, disrupt a traditional Virginia fishery, and risk fisheries along the Atlantic coast that rely on our bait fishery. It's a terrible idea that must be put down.

CommentID: **240301** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Gary Kelley

2/17/26 11:13 pm

Petition

I do not support this petition

CommentID: **240302** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Anonymous

2/17/26 11:19 pm

Do Not Support This Petition

This petition is ridiculous! As are the claims of these groups bringing it forward with regard to the plight of menhaden. Do not accept this petition for rule making.

CommentID: **240303** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)

Commenter: Luther Anderson, SCLC

2/17/26 11:30 pm

I do not support the petition

I do not support the petition

CommentID: **240304** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Tom Burkett, Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

2/17/26 11:49 pm

I Support This Petition, Enact a Moratorium

I support the petition. Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and members of the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission can not provide scientific assurance that the spatial or seasonal stock of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is healthy. VMRC should take conservative measures now to protect our fishery and enact a moratorium on menhaden reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay until science is conducted and can be reviewed.

Plummeting ERPs and key predator indicators such as Striped Bass and Osprey are indicating that Atlantic menhaden have dropped below critical thresholds in the Chesapeake Bay. By design, industrial extraction methods at the scale and frequency occurring in the Chesapeake Bay are causing a local depletion of menhaden. With the use of spotter airplanes, the industry quickly covers the entire Virginia area of the Chesapeake Bay in a matter of hours, locates the menhaden schools, dispatches multiple vessels to the schools, and extracts the schools of menhaden with purse seines. The repetition of the industry's daily aerial surveillance based large scale extraction campaigns in a confined area like the Chesapeake Bay causes localized depletion. VMRC should pause all industrial purse seining of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay until VMRC can provide evidence that regional overfishing and localized depletion of menhaden is not occurring, and Atlantic menhaden are at a stable threshold to support key predators in the Chesapeake Bay.

CommentID: **240305** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)**Commenter:** Anonymous

2/17/26 11:51 pm

No support for this petition

It would foolish for VMRC to accept this petition. It's full of baseless assumptions of menhaden stock health and claims of overfishing. It should be rejected the same as all the other petitions to shut down or limit the Virginia menhaden fishery. The Federal government has determined menhaden stocks are fine, the federal fisheries agencies have determined the Atlantic stock is not over fished and overfishing is not occurring, even the Maryland DNR has stated they seen the highest growth of menhaden since 1990 in recent surveys. This petition is baseless and should not be accepted.

CommentID: **240306** [Flag as Inappropriate](#) [Move Comment](#)



February 6, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Joesph Grist
Acting Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road - Building 96
Ft. Monroe, VA 23651

RE: Opposition to Ms. Tanya O'Connor's Petition for Rulemaking

Dear Acting Commissioner Grist:

Ocean Harvesters and Omega Protein submit this letter in opposition to the fourth Petition filed in fewer than three years that seeks action by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (“VMRC” or “Commission”) that it has consistently denied. Specifically, the Petition seeks to ban Ocean Harvesters’ vessels from continuing a more than 150-year tradition of harvesting Atlantic menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. The VMRC should follow its prior precedent and use its unreviewable discretion to deny this petition as well.

Among all the petitions, this one is uniquely flawed. Its basic structure is that of a legal brief, setting forth allegations that all measures the Commission has taken to manage menhaden (including provisions formerly enshrined in law) are illegal. Even the relief requested – a “moratorium” on harvest of menhaden for reduction purposes in the Chesapeake Bay – is structured like a judicial injunction with a remand to the VMRC to “correct” the alleged legal infirmities. The proper forum for these grievances is not the VMRC, but a court of competent jurisdiction. Unfortunately for Petitioner, the statute of limitations for challenging the regulations governing the regulations at 4 VAC 20-1270-35 has long passed. Even had it not, Petitioner’s arguments fail both on the law and facts, as explained in depth below.

Meanwhile, the Petition does not even attempt to make the case that a moratorium is consistent with the Commission’s legal responsibilities under the Virginia Code, much less the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact and Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. With respect to its fisheries management duties, the VMRC is not guided by the “Public Trust Doctrine.”¹ Rather, the VMRC is created by statute and guided by law which, among other things, instruct the Commission to “promote the general welfare of the seafood industry.” *Id.* § 28.2-201(1). How a measure that would destroy a historic fishery and fishing community meets this

¹ As shown below, when the General Assembly wants the Commission to apply this doctrine, it specifically directs VMRC to do so, such as in the section governing the issuance of certain bottomland permits. *See* Va. Code § 28.2-1205(A)).

objective is unexplained, as is how such a measure is consistent with the standards for fisheries management set forth in Virginia Code § 28.2-203. As we explain below, it is not consistent with these standards or the law generally.

Atlantic menhaden is the most conservatively managed forage stock in the United States, the only one managed for its ecosystem role under a state-of-the-art ecological model. The fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council, the world's leading conservation certification organization. The stock is not undergoing overfishing (*i.e.*, not harvested at an excessive rate) and is not overfished (*i.e.*, menhaden fecundity is above threshold levels of concern). As to the portion of harvest that occurs in Chesapeake Bay, a precautionary cap constrains harvest to their lowest levels over which data is available. (Figure 1.) The overall quota for the resource (established in 2012) has kept harvest levels at the lowest sustained levels since the Depression era, similar to the period from 1880 to 1898. (Figs. 2 and 3.)

Figure 1

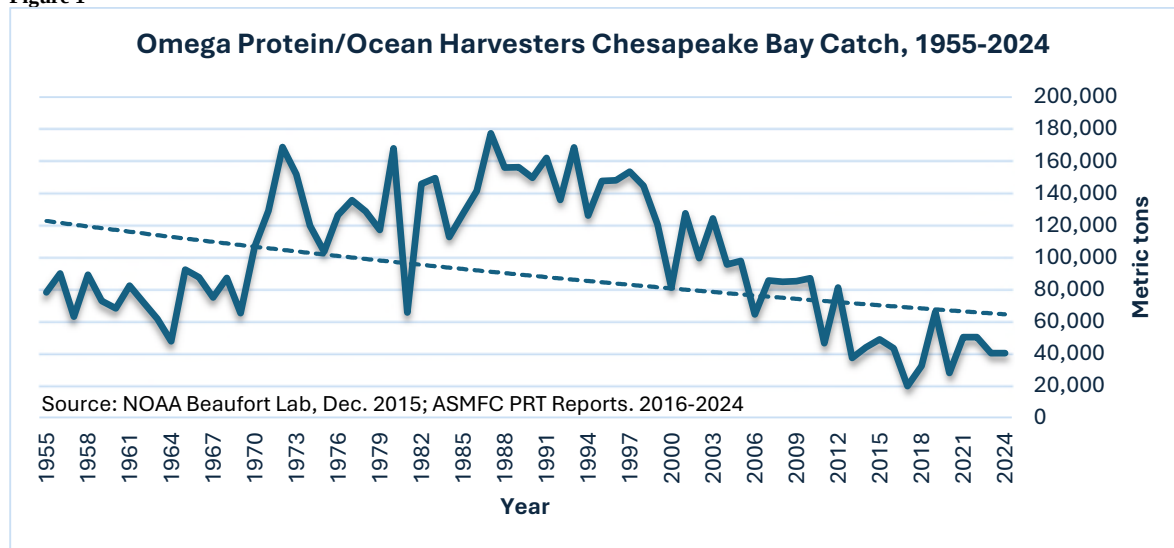


Figure 2

Figure 4.2. A comparison of commercial catch statistics taken from *Historical Reports* (linearly interpolated by region) with reduction landings statistics maintained at NOAA Fisheries at Beaufort, NC.

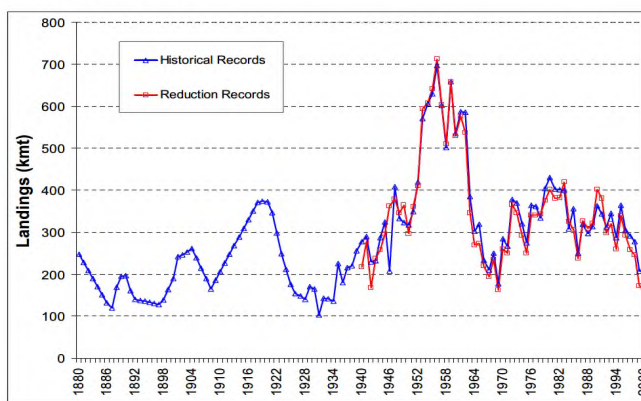
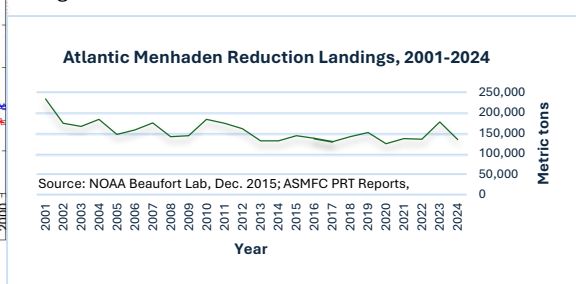


Figure 3



This is not a case in which VMRC and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (“ASMFC”) have turned a blind eye to their management responsibilities. In fact, both within the Bay and throughout the range of the stock, active measures have been taken to keep harvest levels well below historic levels (19% of peak landings and a third of harvest during the 1980s and 1990s), periods when everyone recognizes the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem was in far better shape. No one can credibly argue that management of this resource has been irresponsible nor that the reduction sector has not made significant sacrifices to conserve menhaden.

As a final introductory matter, the ASMFC is currently undertaking a review of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap and has been appropriated \$2.5 million to study the Bay fishery, while additional research funding is being considered by the General Assembly. A team of leading menhaden researchers are developing a research “roadmap” under the auspices of the National Science Foundation-affiliated Science Center for Marine Fisheries. It would not be appropriate for the VMRC to get ahead of these processes. Given that the relief Petitioner requests would devastate Virginia’s historic menhaden reduction fishery and cause grave economic harm to the Northumberland community at a time when jobs are scarce and Virginia citizens are struggling with inflation, the precautionary approach is to maintain the status quo.

Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters respectfully request that the Commission deny the Petition.

The Companies’ Detailed Arguments in Opposition

The Petition relies on two fundamentally flawed premises. The first is that the amorphous Public Trust Doctrine “requires” the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (“VMRC” or “Commission”) to undertake specific actions, beyond those set forth in the Commission’s governing statutes. It does not. When the General Assembly wants the VMRC to employ this doctrine it specifies so in statute and has not done so with respect to the Commission’s fisheries management responsibilities.

Secondly, Petitioner claims the Commission has failed to meet its obligations under the statute. As the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond has just recently held, VMRC’s management of the menhaden resource is fully compliant with the law; that is, the Commission has both acted within its legal authority and its actions are supported by information in the record. As long as the VMRC continues to base its decisions on the best scientific information available – which explicitly can be that developed and utilized by the ASMFC – and, when it *chooses* to enact a regulation governing the menhaden fishery, is satisfied that the standards set forth in Section 28.2-203 are met, such decisions are lawful.

The “choosing” to regulate is important. The Petition contains a series of allegations that the current menhaden regulatory program is unlawful. Petitions for a new or amended regulation under the Virginia Administrative Process Act (“VAPA”), Va. Code, § 2.2-4007, are not an appropriate means of challenging a regulation. If the Petitioner believes a particular element of the VMRC’s regulatory program is contrary to law, the remedy is to challenge the implementing regulation within the time limits set forth in law and the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Petitioner seeks to evade this burden and the statute of limitations (the 30-day window for

challenging 4 VAC 20-1270-35 having expired years ago) and put Commissioners in an untenable position. VMRC members are not judges and should not be put in the position of second guessing the legal determinations of the Attorney General's office.

The burden of a person petitioning for a rule under VAPA is to show that the regulatory action request is consistent with law and, in the case of a fishery regulation, is supported by the "best scientific, economic, biological and sociological information available." Va. Code 28.2-203(2). This Petition does not even attempt to meet this burden.

The Commission should reject the Petition on the grounds that it fails to demonstrate that the action requested is compliant with the law and is not supported by anything more than supposition about impacts of the fishery the defy over a century-and-a-half of experience. The VMRC should instead rely on the experts who advise both it and the ASMFC, as well as the legal advice provided by the Virginia Attorney General's office.

What follows are the Companies' detailed responses to Petitioner's Claims.

I. The Detailed Claims Petitioner Makes Are Supported by Neither Law Nor Fact

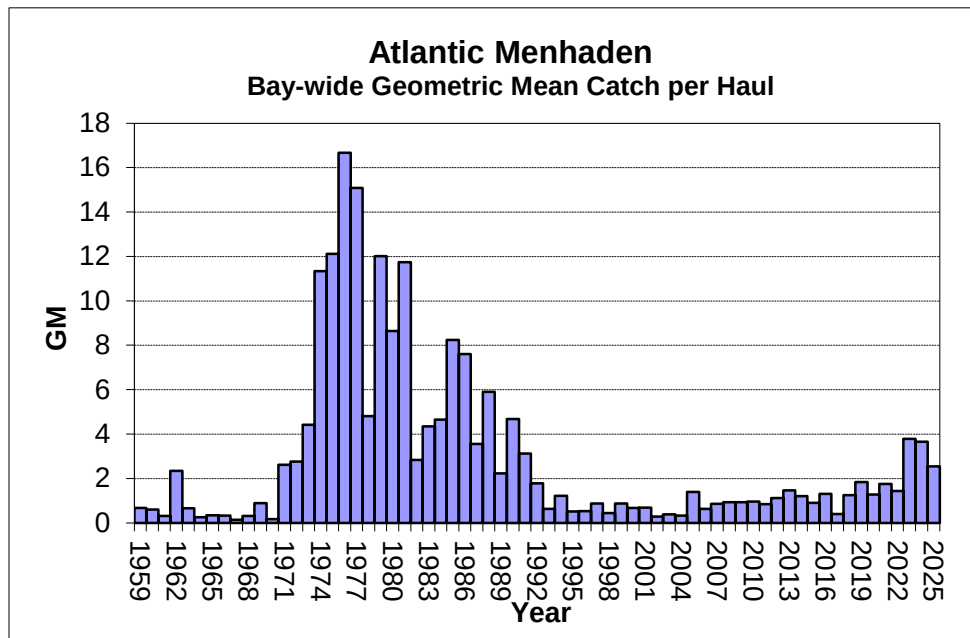
Claim 1: "At the time VMRC approved continued industrial menhaden removal under 4 VAC 20-1270-35, it did not have—and still does not have—a Bay-wide estimate of menhaden biomass, age structure, spatial distribution, recruitment trends, or localized depletion risk."

This is false and/or misleading on several counts:

- The VMRC did not "approve continued industrial menhaden removal." The right of the fishery to harvest menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay has been enshrined in Virginia law for over 150 years. When it was given authority over the fishery in 2020, the VMRC simply codified existing law into the regulations. There certainly was no basis for eliminating the Bay cap, which itself came to the VMRC as a precautionary recommendation of the ASMFC.
- Scientists actually have a good idea of the "age structure" of menhaden and "recruitment trends" in the Bay. In fact, the longest-term "young-of-year" indices used in the stock assessment all come from the Chesapeake Bay.² Moreover, it has been long established that the migratory menhaden stock stratifies by age when it begins its northly migration in spring. Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay are comprised primarily of juveniles (age-0), ages-1 and -2, and some age-3 fish.³
- Not only does the VMRC have access to recruitment trends, but recruitment of juvenile menhaden has recently returned to levels not seen since 1990 when the striped bass stock was well into its recovery.

² SEDAR 102, Atlantic Menhaden and Ecological Reference Points Final Stock Assessment Report, at 17 (Oct. 2025).

³ Smith, J. & Vaughn, D., in Menhaden Species Team Background and Issue Briefs, at M/1-23-24, available at <https://www.mdsg.umd.edu/sites/default/files/files/EBFM-Menhaden-Briefs.pdf#page=33.13>.



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- It is true that there are no estimates of “Bay-wide menhaden biomass.” However, the concept itself is difficult to apply given that other than the juveniles that recruit to the Bay, the population varies with the annual migration – an event which has been occurring later in the past few years than historically – as well as immigration into and out of the Bay during the year. The cap itself is the means for allocating menhaden to predators.
- What is not true is that the issue of so-called “localized depletion” has not been studied. The original Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap, implemented in 2006, was instituted as a precautionary measure to allow time for researchers to study the potential for localized depletion.⁴ The Menhaden Technical Committee developed a set of research questions and a series of studies were funded to address these questions, ending with a peer review in 2009. While the research was not able to definitively determine if harvest did or did not cause “localized depletion,” the reviewers were able to conclude that “given the high mobility of menhaden, the potential for localized depletion could only occur on a ‘relatively small scale for a relatively short time.’”⁵

Claim 2: “VMRC has not conducted a Bay-specific analysis of the consumption needs, prey thresholds, or reproductive-season energy requirements of forage-dependent species, including osprey, striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, red drum, and marine mammals.”

⁴ Notably, that cap was set at the five-year average of Omega Protein’s Bay harvest from 2001-2005, which was 109,020 mt. That is well more than twice the current 51,000 mt cap.

⁵ ASMFC, Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan, at 24 (Nov. 2017), *available at* <https://asmfc.org/resources/management-plan/atlantic-menhaden-amendment-3/>.

There has been enormous amounts of research on the forage base in the Chesapeake Bay. Just to name a few:

- NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, Forage Action Team. “Forage status and trends report for the Chesapeake Bay.” (2023): This report represented the culmination of ten years of study by experts and activists (including a Chesapeake Bay Program representative). They reported: “Diet analyses determined that polychaetes were the most important prey taxa for a suite of Chesapeake Bay fish predators, but relative contributions of Atlantic menhaden and bay anchovy to diets have increased over time. Insects also play a large role in the diet of resident striped bass in the shallow waters of the Bay tributaries. Total annual consumption by all Chesapeake Bay predators examined (striped bass, summer flounder, Atlantic croaker, white perch, weakfish, spot) decreased substantially since 2004, leveling out around 2011.”
- Ihde, T. F., Houde, E. D., Bonzek, C. F., & Franke, E. (2015). Assessing the Chesapeake Bay forage base: existing data and research priorities. *STAC Publication*, (15-005): This report was produced by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, which advises NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Program. It look at the forage species important to five “indicator” species, Summer Flounder, Striped Bass, Atlantic Croaker, White Perch, and Clearnose Skate. The most important forage fish (*i.e.*, the one important to 4 of the 5 species) was Bay anchovy. Nine other species were important to at least two of the five predators (in order of importance): Polychaetes, Mysids, Amphipods and Isopods, Mantis Shrimp, Spot, Weakfish, Sand shrimp, Atlantic Croaker, and Razor clams. “It was surprising to many workshop participants that Atlantic Menhaden was only determined to be important to one of the five predator species (Striped Bass) chosen for the present analysis.”
- Fabrizio, M. C., Tuckey, T. D., Bever, A. J., & MacWilliams, M. L. (2021). The extent of seasonally suitable habitats may limit forage fish production in a temperate estuary. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8: This study collected sixteen years of monthly survey and environmental data to assess the habitat of four key forage stocks in the Bay. Among other things, it found a significant increase in suitable habitat over time.

As these studies show, there are an enormous number of prey species available to the predators in the Chesapeake Bay. While polychaetes do not grab headlines, they are enormously important to many predators, and especially so to striped bass. So too are gizzard shad, bay anchovy, spotted sea trout, and Atlantic croaker.

It is also important to keep in mind that many predators are also prey. For instance, the United States Geological Survey (“USGS”) reported to the ASMFC that striped bass edged out menhaden in importance to osprey populations on Poplar island. Indeed, menhaden was not the primary forage for any of the osprey populations reported on by the USGS. And while Dr. Bryan Watts (alone) has implicated the fishery in the recent decline in osprey nesting success, the fact is that most of the mortalities occur prior to the start of the reduction fishing season. More troubling has been the later arrival of menhaden to the Chesapeake Bay in the past two

years (the reasons for which are under investigation). Eliminating the reduction fishery will not solve osprey's problems.

Claim 3: “These Bay-specific abundance and ecological-dependence data are necessary to evaluate the effects of industrial forage removal in the Chesapeake Bay and are required prior to authorizing such removal to fulfill VMRC’s public trust and statutory management obligations.”

Setting aside the legal questions discussed elsewhere, it is absolutely not the case that “Bay-specific abundance and ecological-dependence data are necessary” for the VMRC and the ASMFC to manage the Atlantic menhaden resource. Both management bodies must adhere to the standard that their decisions be based on the “best scientific [and other] information available.” See, e.g., Va. Code § 28.2-203 (emphasis added). As explained below, this standard only requires that VMRC not ignore available information, not that it is barred from acting in the face of uncertainty. If that were the case, no fishing – commercial or recreational – would be allowed because all lack perfect information.

It is both lawful and reasonable to allow the reduction fleet to operate in the Chesapeake Bay. The entire point of the reduction fishery cap is to maintain harvests well below historic levels as a matter of precaution. It is reasonable to presume, given that the Bay has supported larger populations of predators when reduction harvests were as much as five times current levels, that maintaining this fishery at historically low levels is sustainable. The fact that striped bass are currently overfished (and thus demand for forage reduced) and the menhaden population is higher than at many times in the past 75 years only reinforces the rationality of this approach.

Finally, conservation is not the VMRC’s sole mandate. It is also directed to support the fishing industry, reap the economic benefits of Virginia’s marine resources, and ensure the socio-economic health of the Commonwealth’s fishing communities. The constrained Bay reduction fishery meets all these objectives.

Claim 4: “VMRC did not evaluate or document the economic impacts of industrial menhaden removal on the Chesapeake Bay bait fishery or on Bay-dependent economic activities, including sportfishing, bird watching, and crabbing, when approving reduction fishing under 4 VAC 20-1270-35.”

Once again, VMRC did not “approv[e] reduction fishing.” This practice has been allowed since the 1800s. That said, it is also not true that there has not been economic analysis of the fishery. The Dr. James Kirkley of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (“VIMS”) undertook a comprehensive study of the social and economic importance of menhaden. His work is readily available.⁶

Claim 5: “The Chesapeake Bay functions as a primary nursery for Atlantic menhaden, and effective management must ensure menhaden are not removed before reaching reproductive

⁶ Kirkley, James E. “An assessment of the social and economic importance of menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) (Latrobe, 1802) in Chesapeake Bay region.” (2011), available at <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/items/87c89c9b-108b-40d3-9565-1efa388b1a7f>.

maturity and that older age classes are maintained to support recruitment stability and ecosystem function. VMRC’s current authorization framework contains no measures designed to ensure such protection.”

The statement is correct inasmuch as it states the Chesapeake Bay is “a” (and not “the”) primary nursery for Atlantic menhaden, a contention frequently made. One study using genetic data “found that estuaries in the Northeast and the Chesapeake Bay each contributed 31% of the age-1 menhaden, and Delaware Bay contributed 13% and the Southeast contributed 25%, on average, for the 3 years of this study.”⁷ Other research shows that changes in phase of the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation are correlated with recruitment success in either the Mid-Atlantic or Southern New England.⁸

Figure 4: From Cadrin (2020)

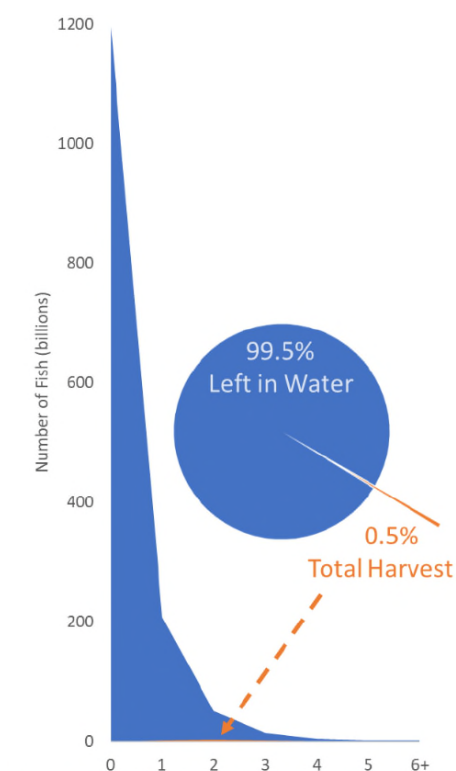


Figure 1. Number of fish harvested by the fishery compared to population size at age 0 (years 2008-2017)

That aside, to the extent Petitioner is focusing on recruitment, this is a matter utterly unimpacted by the menhaden fishery. Young-of-year menhaden are not taken by the fishery (although in years of high recruitment, a fraction of percent may show up in the landings). Spawning occurs offshore and the larvae are transported in by winds and ocean currents. Beyond that, even age-1 menhaden are partially sexually mature; they are fully mature when they are late age-2. Older, larger menhaden targeted by the northern bait fishery produce exponentially more eggs than do the younger fish.⁹

More to the point, prior research has estimated that the entire menhaden fishery (bait + reduction) takes only about 0.5% of the total menhaden population. Less than one percent of the age-1 menhaden are caught and only 7% of the age-2 fish.¹⁰ It should be noted that Dr. Cadrin’s analysis was based on the peer-reviewed 2019 benchmark stock assessment. Due to a reevaluation of the natural mortality rate (M) in the latest 2025 stock assessment, the entire time-series estimate of Atlantic menhaden

⁷ Anstead, Kristen A., Jason J. Schaffler, and Cynthia M. Jones. “Coast-wide nursery contribution of new recruits to the population of Atlantic Menhaden.” *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 145.3 (2016): 627-636.

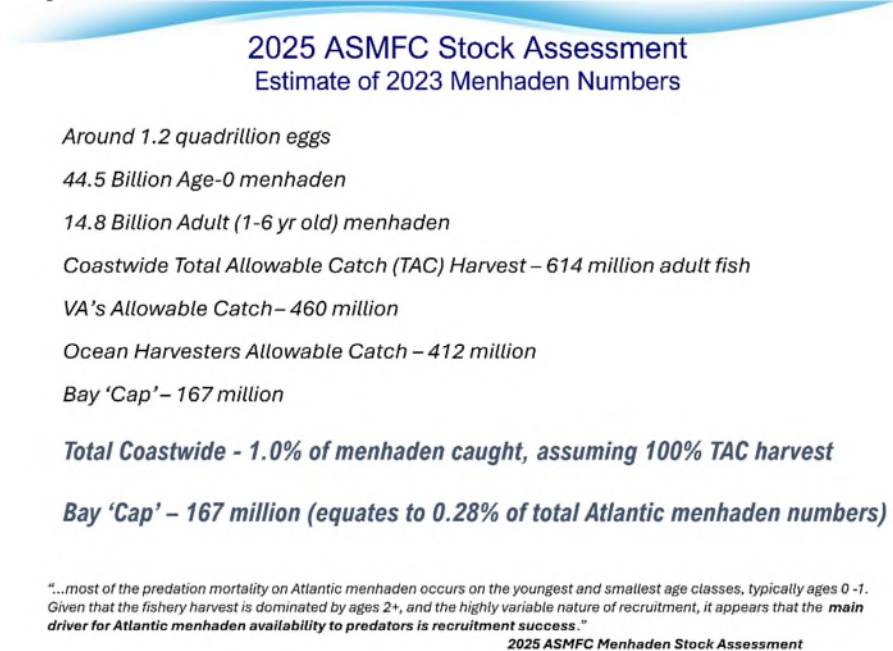
⁸ Buchheister, A., Miller, T. J., Houde, E. D., Secor, D. H., & Latour, R. J. (2016). Spatial and temporal dynamics of Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) recruitment in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 73(4), 1147-1159. Interestingly, environmental factors favoring menhaden recruitment disfavor striped bass recruitment, the former of which has been strong while striped bass recruitment has been poor. ASMFC, Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment and Review Panel Reports, Stock Assess. Rpt. 10-02 (May 2010) (citing Wood (2000), Wood et al. (2004), Austin (2002), Wood and Austin (2009)).

⁹ See generally Smith & Vaughn, *supra* n.3.

¹⁰ Cadrin, Steve, “Providing for Forage of Atlantic Menhaden” (July 2020), available at https://scemfis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/forage_atlantic_menhaden.pdf.

abundance has been scaled down.¹¹ Thus, as described in Figure 5, the same analysis would result in an estimate closer to 1% of the current menhaden population in numbers, assuming the total allowable harvest (“TAC”) is caught, which it has not been in recent years.¹²

Figure 5:



The current management system is well designed to support the ecosystem and foster ongoing recruitment. For prospective, menhaden spawn year-round and produce trillions of eggs.

II. The Public Trust Doctrine Has No Application to the VMRC's Fisheries Management Responsibilities

The Petitioner suggests that the “public trust doctrine” places limitations on the Commonwealth in the ways it may choose to manage the migratory menhaden resource while in Virginia waters. As the Virginia Supreme Court noted in one of its opinions cited by Petitioner, “The common rights in a public fishery are at all times subject to the disposal of the legislature, and it may deprive the public of the right at its pleasure. This may be done by granting exclusive rights to individuals, or by dealing with the water in such a way that the fishery is destroyed.” *Commonwealth v. Newport News*, 158 Va. 521, 552-53 (1932) (quoting Farnham on Waters and Water Rights, sec. 407).

Of course, no marine resource commissioner nor anyone in the menhaden sector seek to “destroy” the fishery. Rather, Atlantic menhaden is the most conservatively managed forage

¹¹ See ASMFC, “Atlantic Menhaden FAQ,” at 1 (2025), available at <https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Menhaden-FAQ-Oct2025.pdf>.

¹² This analysis based on converting the TACs into numbers of fish based on an average weight per menhaden of 0.67 lbs., the standard employed by NMFS. See SEDAR. 2020. SEDAR 69 – Atlantic Menhaden Benchmark Stock Assessment Rpt., at 67(Jan. 2020), available at <http://sedarweb.org/sedar-69>.

fishery in the United States and, perhaps, the world. It is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. This certification is based on the facts that it is the only forage stock explicitly managed for its role in the ecosystem; is governed by precautionary catch limits (including the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap); and has been proven to have low bycatch of non-target species.

The public trust doctrine is not a self-executing source of law that trumps Virginia's laws or constitution. When the General Assembly wants the doctrine to be applied, it makes its application specific in law. As the Virginia Court of Appeals, Norfolk Division, recently noted:

The General Assembly did not include any “public trust” or “public interest” language in Code § 28.2-600, even though it has expressly directed VMRC to consider the public interest in other related statutes, such as when the agency issues general oyster leases, see Code § 28.2-607 (requiring VMRC to consider whether “the assignment is in the public interest”), and issues permits for other bottomland uses, see Code § 28.2-1205(A) (requiring VMRC to “consider the public and private benefits of the proposed project” and that it “exercise its authority under this section consistent with the public trust doctrine”). It declined to include comparable language in Code § 28.2-600. “[W]hen the General Assembly has used specific language in one instance, but omits that language or uses different language when addressing a similar subject elsewhere in the Code, we must presume that the difference in the choice of language was intentional.” *RGR, LLC v. Settle*, 288 Va. 260, 295, 764 S.E.2d 8, 28-29 (2014) (quoting *Zinone v. Lee’s Crossing Homeowners Ass’n*, 282 Va. 330, 337, 714 S.E.2d 922, 925 (2011)).

City of Virginia Beach v. VMRC, Rec. No. 1648-17-1 Aug. 21, 2018). The same holds true for Chapter 2 of Title 28.2, which, among other things, sets forth the Commission’s authority to manage fisheries and sets forth the standards governing that process. Nowhere in these laws does the General Assembly direct the Commission to apply the public trust doctrine or free-standing public interest standards in carrying these responsibilities.

In fact, while the petition claims to find a “public trust” duty in § 28.2-201 (setting forth the VMRC’s powers), the very first subsection makes clear that one of its duties is to “[a]dopt regulations ... necessary to promote the general welfare of the seafood industry.” *Id.* § (1). Conservation is certainly a primary objective of the law, but equally important mandates are to promote the commercial fishing industry and reap economic benefits from the Commonwealth’s marine resources. See, e.g., § 28.2-202(2) (VMRC should “[p]rovide for the development of programs designed to enhance and improve commercial and sport fisheries in Virginia’s tidal waters.”); see also § 28.2-203(1) (regulations should avoid overfishing and achieve “optimum yield” or “the amount of fish or shellfish which will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Commonwealth”) *id.* § (7) (regulations “shall, where practicable, minimize regulatory burdens which inhibit innovation, expansion, and normal business operations”).

The Public Trust Doctrine has no application to this matter.

III. Responses to Petitioner's Legal Claims

Sections B through F of the Petition purport to “prove” to the Commission that it has acted unlawfully. It has not and, as mentioned, it is not the VMRC’s role to interpret law. Some of the arguments are patently frivolous, such as that in **Section B** which claims that (somehow) adoption of ASMFC recommendations “risks undermining coast-wide management objectives.” Here and throughout the Petition, it is alleged that VMRC has heightened duties because of the Public Trust Doctrine. As explained above, the Commission’s duty is to adhere to the statute, with the advice of the Attorney General’s office, not to take hyper-precautionary actions based on Petitioner’s idiosyncratic view of the public good. The Companies shall briefly address these arguments.

As in prior petitions, **Section C** overreads Virginia Code § 28.2-204, which gives the Commission the authority to collect fisheries statistics “from any source.” While nothing in this section prohibits the Commission from “commissioning” studies, its financial resources are not unlimited and the law imposes no obligation on the VMRC to create information in order to discharge its duties (about which, more below). As noted above, there is already a wealth of “Bay-specific ... ecological-dependence information,” as well as fishery-dependent and independent information of Atlantic menhaden generated by the ASMFC and its scientific advisors. Should the General Assembly choose to fund a project to initiate a menhaden survey or project to estimate its abundance in the Chesapeake Bay, that information will undoubtedly inform future decisions. However, the Commission is not prohibited from basing its decisions on available information and is certainly not required to dedicate funds to gathering data the Petitioner desires.

In terms of monitoring the reduction fishery’s catch, Petitioner is apparently unaware that for decades, the National Marine Fisheries Service (“NMFS”) has had a fulltime observer at the Omega Protein plant in Reedville to monitor and sample landings. Nor, apparently, is she aware that the VMRC itself has recently overtaken this responsibility. Thus, the concern Petitioner raises about “independent verification” has been addressed. This sampling program is one check on “bycatch” but there have been a number of studies of the reduction fishery purse seine fishery that all conclude incidental catch of non-target species is exceedingly low.¹³ As NMFS itself notes: “The menhaden fishery is one of the most selective, and effective fisheries, with little bycatch. Atlantic croaker is the principal species caught as bycatch; the incidence is considered insignificant.”¹⁴

The final allegation in section C is puzzling. The claim is that the VMRC does not evaluate “cumulative menhaden removals from the Chesapeake Bay by combining industrial landings with harvest levels from the Bay’s menhaden bait fishery.” Virginia is allocated a percentage (75.21%) of the coastwide TAC, and that allocation is distributed among the various sectors under a formula adopted by the General Assembly back in 2013 (which, parenthetically, allocated the bait fisheries

¹³ See, e.g., Austin, Herb, James Kirkley, and Jon Lucy. “By-catch and the fishery for Atlantic menhaden.” (1994), available at <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/entities/publication/4294a039-9509-4137-8ae4-a64198c517b0>; see also LGL Ecological Research Associates, Inc., “Characterization of Bycatch for the Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery Occurring off the Coast of Louisiana” (June 13, 2025), available at https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Saltwater_Fish/Characterization-of-Bycatch-for-the-Menhaden-Purse-Seine-Fishery-Occurring-off-the-Coast-of-Louisiana-LGL.pdf.

¹⁴ <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/atlantic-menhaden/commercial>.

a higher share of the quota than it historically harvested). Landings by each sector are reported to the VMRC and that data is used in the stock assessment. It is unclear what Petitioner is seeking.

Section D alleges a violation of 28.2-204.1, which provides the Commission authority to “limit the number of gear licenses or permits to fish” for certain fisheries and enumerates factors VMRC must consider when doing so. Specifically, the Petition claims: “In the absence of Bay-specific information sufficient to assess resource abundance and impacts on dependent species and fisheries, the regulatory record cannot demonstrate that the factors enumerated in § 28.2-204.1(5)–(6) have been considered with respect to industrial menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake Bay.”

Setting aside the lack of support for the allegation the VMRC must assess any of these factors as to menhaden only when they are in the Bay (as opposed to the stock as a whole), this section does not apply to menhaden licenses. Section 28.2-204.1 specifically excludes menhaden licenses and thus these factors do not apply to this fishery. See Va. Code § 28.2-204.1(A) (containing a specific exemption for “licenses issued pursuant to subdivisions 1 and 2 of § 28.2-402,” which pertains to the licensing of menhaden nets). Needless to say, the Commission’s licensing regulations are lawful.

By far, the most extensive and misguided of the arguments are contained in **Section E**, which alleges violations of the standards for management set forth in Virginia Code § 28.2-203. In the course of addressing the problems with these arguments, the Companies take this opportunity to make their case that the requested relief – a moratorium on reduction harvest in the Chesapeake Bay – is itself inconsistent with the standards the law requires the Commission to apply.

To be perfectly clear, menhaden fishing in the Bay represents a vital element of Ocean Harvesters’ fishing and business plans. There are not enough days in which the weather in the ocean environment is sufficiently calm to safely harvest menhaden in sufficient quantities to remain a viable business. The reason that the Chesapeake Bay became the center of the menhaden reduction industry in the 19th century is not only the reliable amount of fish annually migrating in, but also the relative shelter the Bay provides for fishermen to safely work. Additionally, this is a “sight fishery” in which the spotter planes and vessels must be able to see schools of menhaden. Windy, stormy, and overcast conditions that make operations impossible are much more frequent in the ocean.

Thus, given that Atlantic menhaden have shown not be overfished or subject to overfishing, *in an ecosystem context* no less, by one of the most data rich and well tested assessment models, the first standard requires the VMRC to obtain “optimum yield,” or “the amount of fish . . . which will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Commonwealth.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(1). Depriving the Commonwealth millions of dollars in revenues and hundreds of jobs from a proven sustainable fishery falls far short of this standard.

Petitioner prefers that the Commission define optimum yield solely in terms of that part of the population that inhabits the Bay at any given time. Even if, as a matter of marine science, it were possible to determine biological reference points for a subset of a population (a matter being

investigated by the ASMFC's Ecological Reference Point Working Group), there is no scientific basis for doing so now.

The second standard requires VMRC to base decisions “upon the best scientific, economic, biological and sociological information available.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(2). The best science, based on years of research, including the largest tagging study ever conducted in the United States, is that Atlantic menhaden are comprised of single migratory stock.¹⁵ Further, that stock is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

For its part, it has been recognized that the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap is not based on scientific evidence but is rather a “compromise” instituted as a precautionary measure to avoid the types of harms with which Petitioner is concerned. While not based on scientific evidence, the cap has reasonably been determined to provide such protection by maintaining levels of harvest at the lowest end of the range of harvests that—it cannot be overstated—*have been continuously occurring in the Bay for 150 years*. Under this standard, the Commission may rely on the fact that, over this stretch of time, the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem has supported both menhaden harvests magnitudes larger than today *and* higher populations of predator species.

Lastly, but far from least, the law requires VMRC to also consider “economic” and “sociological” information. Thus, a decision not to eliminate a historic, as well as culturally and economically important, fishery is entirely consistent with this standard.

Throughout her submission, Petitioner repeatedly claims the Commission must conduct studies and concoct information to manage the menhaden fishery. This is not the law. Federal courts have interpreted the MSA equivalent standard, National Standard 2,¹⁶ as requiring only “that rules issued by the [agency] be based on a thorough review of all the relevant information available at the time the decision was made, and insures that the [agency] does not ‘disregard superior data’ in reaching its conclusion.” *The Ocean Conservancy v. Gutierrez*, 394 F. Supp. 2d 147, 157 (D.D.C. 2005) (citations omitted), *aff’d*, 488 F.3d 1020 (D.C. Cir. 2007). “Absent some indication that superior or contrary data was available and that the agency ignored such information, a challenge to the agency’s collection of and reliance on scientific information will fail.” *N. Carolina Fisheries Ass’n v. Gutierrez*, 518 F. Supp. 2d 62, 80 (D.D.C. 2007) (citations omitted). VMRC’s management of the fishery complies with these standards.

The third standard requires that “[t]o the extent practicable, an individual stock of fish shall be managed as a unit throughout the territorial waters of the Commonwealth, and interrelated stocks of fish shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(3). This is exactly how menhaden are managed. The Commonwealth’s allocation is distributed among the various user groups and, for the largest sector, the reduction fishery, it distributes catch between the Bay and the ocean. The “unit” of menhaden in the Bay is not a different “unit” from those in Virginia’s ocean waters. They are all part of a unitary stock which is managed as an important forage stock (*i.e.*, in “close coordination” with “interrelated stocks of fish”). The law requires

¹⁵ SEDAR 102, *supra* n.2, at 41.

¹⁶ 16 U.S.C. § 1851(a)(2) (“Conservation and management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available.”).

nothing more, and treating menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay differently may well run afoul of this standard.

The fourth standard requires allocations to be “fair and equitable to all fishermen..., promote conservation..., and [be] carried out in such manner that no person acquires an excessive share of such privileges.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(4). Petitioner, as with those previously asking the Commission to regulate the reduction sector out of existence, claims that its large allocation (just over 90% of Virginia’s share of the coastal quota) is “unfair” and “excessive.” In fact, it is not unfair that the General Assembly allocated each sector the proportion of harvest it historically landed (albeit granting a slightly higher percentage to the bait sector) any more than it was for the ASMFC to allocate Virginia the proportion of quota it historically harvested (albeit while slowly reallocating Virginia’s share to other states over time).

The allocation standard does not require every participant to receive an equal share. It must be read in conjunction with the other standards, such as that requiring use of the “best information” and the need to achieve optimum yield. Like Virginia, federal and interstate fisheries managers look at historic and current use of, and dependence on, a resource when allocating resources. It’s an objective way of making such decisions rooted in data and to ensure fairness. The opposite would be to arbitrarily distribute resources, such as to favored groups. This the law does not allow.

Distributing fishery allocations on the basis of use is the best means of ensuring that the optimum yield from a fishery is obtained. Here, allocating the bait sector much larger shares would prevent the VMRC from maximizing the fishery’s “overall benefit to the Commonwealth” because the allocation would go underutilized. Jobs and economic activity in the reduction sector would be lost with no counterbalancing gains in the bait sector. In short, granting Petitioner the relief requested – preventing Ocean Harvesters from operating in the Chesapeake Bay – would effectuate an enormous reallocation that is inconsistent with this standard.

The fifth and seventh standards are interrelated and each weighs heavily against granting Petitioner relief. The first of these provides: “Conservation and management shall, where practicable, promote efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources, except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.” Va Code § 28.2-203(5). Purse seining is an extremely efficient means of harvesting menhaden, in terms of both volume and in avoiding incidental catch. The Bay fishery is even more efficient because it takes far less fuel, food, and time to harvest a given amount of menhaden in the Bay as compared to the ocean.¹⁷ Instituting a prohibition on the Chesapeake Bay would do the opposite of what this standard requires – mandating inefficiency by regulation.

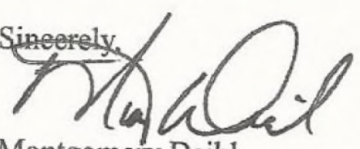
The seventh standard instructs VMRC to “minimize regulatory burdens which inhibit innovation, expansion, and normal business operations.” Va. Code s 28.2-203(7). There is little need to belabor this point. Ending the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery would be an enormous regulatory burden that would not “inhibit” Omega Protein’s and Ocean Harvesters’ normal operations, it would end them.

¹⁷ As noted above, the allocation is based on historic participation in the fishery, not “solely” economics.

The final standard provides that “[c]onservation and management measures shall take into account variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.” Va. Code § 28.2-203(6). Petitioner’s claim is that a “static cap” does not consider the dynamic Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. First, the cap is not “static.” It has been reduced three times from over 100,000 mt to 51,000 mt, and the ASMFC is considering measures that may reduce it further. Second, the fact that there is a cap is a recognition of the “variations” and “contingencies” in the fishery and the fishery resources. This standard requires no more than a recognition that fisheries are dynamic and that new information should be incorporated into management decisions. This is exactly how the VMRC manages this resource in conjunction with the ASMFC. The law requires nothing more.

In summary, a decision to terminate the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery, and with it an industry which is an integral part of Virginia’s history would be arbitrary, capricious, and inconsistent with the standards by which the Commission is charged with carrying out its duties. It would violate the requirement to obtain optimum yield and be based on no scientific information whatsoever. In fact, by imposing a ban, the VMRC would have to ignore economic facts and socioeconomic impacts. It would manage menhaden while in the Bay differently than when in Virginia’s coastal waters, constitute an excessive and unfair allocation to the bait sector, mandate inefficiency, maximize regulatory burdens, disrupt business operations, and quash innovation and expansion. In short, the relief sought is simply inconsistent with the law.

For all these reasons, the Companies respectfully request the Commission to deny the Petition.

Sincerely,  Montgomery Deihl Chief Executive Officer Ocean Harvesters	 John Held Executive Vice President-General Counsel Omega Protein, Inc.
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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION, 4/21/26

DISCUSSION:

Waterway Maintenance Fund FY26 Applications

BACKGROUND:

In May 2018, the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund (WMF) for the purpose of supporting shallow-draft dredging projects throughout the Commonwealth. In March 2025, the Virginia General Assembly transferred the administration of the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program and Fund from the Virginia Port Authority to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, with an effective date of July 1, 2025.

In August 2025, the Commission formally adopted the administrative authority over the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program from the Virginia Port Authority and adopted all Virginia Port Authority approved grants approved prior to July 1, 2025. The Commission also prepared and posted a draft Guidance Document to establish the Grant Program Guidelines for administration by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. The final adopted version of the guidance document was accepted by the Commission at the February 2026 meeting (Attachment 1).

Each fiscal year \$4 million is allocated for use for the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program. In February 2026, the Commission voted to authorize a \$2.6 million grant to the Northern Neck Planning District Commission for emergency dredging of the Little Wicomico River pursuant to the WMF Guidelines.

After accounting for this previously approved application and the accumulated interest, \$1,576,807 are available for new projects for FY26. Applications for FY26 were due by February 1, and the Commission received two requests for funding.

APPLICATIONS:

Folly Creek Maintenance Dredging Project: \$2.788 million

The Accomack-Norhampton Planning District Commission requests funding for the dredging of approximately 5,000 linear feet from the Folly Creek boat ramp to the east, restoring a functional navigation channel in rural coastal Virginia supporting working waterfronts and the commercial fishing community. This proposal also includes accounting for the beneficial use of the dredged material. The application (Attachment II) details the background management efforts, waterway selection process, and economic need and urgency. The total estimated cost and request is \$2.744

million. The applicants have indicated that if partial funding is offered, the project can proceed.

The project is currently in the process of securing permits through a Joint Permit Application, and any decision in favor of funding this project by the Commission would be contingent upon the project successfully securing all permits necessary.

Middle Peninsula Dredge Material Land Acquisition/Federal Lease and Placement Site Management Design: \$900,000

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority requests \$900,000 from the WMF to advance a regionally coordinated, federally compliant Dredged Material Management Area strategy serving seventeen congressionally authorized federal navigation channels in rural coastal Virginia. This application supports waterway enhancement in rural coastal Virginia and the existing investment and leveraged funds secured by the applicant and partners listed exceed a three to one match (Attachment III).

The proposed approach consists of three phases of feasibility studies, pre-project engineering, and upland containment design for beneficial use of dredged material. The applicant did note that reduced scopes and budgets may be offered for consideration to provide VMRC with a funding level which can be accommodated due to anticipated excessive demand.

REVIEW:

The review by Commission staff has determined that there are no deficiencies in either applicants' request. Both have satisfied the requirement of the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund's guidance document for applications. Available funds are not sufficient for fully fund both projects at this time. Both applicants will be given the opportunity to present their projects.

VIRGINIA WATERWAY MAINTENANCE FUND GUIDELINES FOR MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

PREFACE: In May 2018, the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund for the purpose of supporting shallow-draft dredging projects throughout the Commonwealth. The source of the grant funds shall be the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Fund. In March 2025, the Virginia General Assembly transferred the administration of the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program and Fund from the Virginia Port Authority to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, with an effective date of July 1, 2025. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission finds it necessary and in the public body interest, and pursuant to its statutory responsibility, to establish the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program Guidelines. This policy shall be as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

- a. Applicant – refers to the political subdivision and the governing bodies of Virginia localities
- b. Study – refers to feasibility and cost evaluations, pre-project engineering studies, and project permitting and contracting costs for a waterway project conducted by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth.
- c. Carryover Funds – refers to unused funds for awarded projects. Funds must be reapplied for each year.
- d. Dredging – refers to the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbors, and other water bodies.
- e. Items of Local Cooperation – include specific requirements on the applicant for implementation of a federal, state or local project. Such items include but are not limited to lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, dredge material disposal sites, and cash contributions.
- f. Beneficial Use – refers to innovative uses and placement alternatives for dredge materials that produce public, economic or environmental benefits.
- g. Shallow draft dredging – refers to rural coastal waterways that have recognized and established navigable channels that are pivotal to the use and enjoyment of docks, marinas, boat yards and working waterfronts. Shallow draft dredge areas can be

categorized as primary, secondary (including smaller tributaries and marked and unmarked channels) having a water depth of 14-feet or less.

II. ADMINISTRATION

The following elements will guide the application, allocation, and distribution of the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund:

a. **FOR ALL PROJECTS FOR WHICH VIRGINIA WATERWAY MAINTENANCE GRANT FUNDS ARE REQUESTED:**

- i. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission will serve as the responsible agency for administering the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Fund and shall award grant of funds to a qualified applicant or applicants to support a dredging project or projects that have been approved by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.
- ii. Applicants shall be limited to political subdivisions and the governing bodies of Virginia localities.
- iii. Funds will be used to support:
 1. Feasibility and cost evaluations, pre-project engineering studies, and project permitting and contracting costs for a waterway project conducted by the political subdivisions and the governing bodies of Virginia localities.
 2. The state portion of a nonfederal sponsor funding requirement for a federal project, which may include the beneficial use of dredged materials that are not covered by federal funding.
 3. The Commonwealths' maintenance of shallow-draft navigable waterway channel maintenance dredging and the design, lease, or purchase of upland containment areas where the material can be selectively excavated and used beneficially for environmental restoration or for mitigation of coastal erosion.
 4. The beneficial use, for environmental restoration and the mitigation of coastal erosion or flooding, of dredged materials from waterway projects conducted by the political subdivisions and the governing bodies of Virginia localities.

- iv. Special consideration shall be given to any political subdivision or governing bodies of Virginia localities which provides a three-to-one match for any requested funding.
- v. For a project to be eligible for funds, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, in its sole discretion, shall evaluate each application to determine its completeness, the sufficiency of its justification for the proposed project, the status of any necessary permits, the adequacy of its project management organization, and the potential beneficial use of dredged materials for the purpose of mitigation of coastal erosion, flooding, or other purposed for the common good.
- vi. Requests for funding and their disposition shall be made by February 1st. Applicants may be required to make oral presentation of the requests to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Board. Funds will be allocated by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission at its April Board meeting and available for successful applicants by July 1st of that year.
- vii. Application Guidelines: The applicant shall submit a completed application to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission that contains the following information: statement of need and urgency, total project cost, timeline and phases of project, feasibility of the proposed planning and/or dredging project, status of any necessary permits, the adequacy of the applicants project management, the potential beneficial use of dredged materials for the purpose of mitigation of coastal erosion, flooding or other purposes, potential beneficial impact to the community, and total amount of funding being requested.
- viii. Prior to the receipt of a grant, the applicant shall enter a memorandum of understanding with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission establishing the requirements for the use of grant funds.
- ix. Disbursements: The applicant shall submit a requisition to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for payment. The requisition shall be accompanied by supporting invoices or other documentation as well as a certification of the applicant that the work has been performed or that

payment is otherwise properly due. The requisition shall further set forth the name of the person or entity to whom payment is to be made, the amount of payment, and the project for which the payment is to be made. Requisitions may be submitted monthly or at the completion of the project. When the project is completed, the applicant shall certify its completion date to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

- x. Requests not made within the schedule of Paragraph vi above, shall be considered only when accompanied by a statement declaring the need for funds an emergency, with consequences of non-funding clearly specified, or a statement explaining why the schedule in Paragraph vi above could not be met. Requests must be received no later than three weeks prior to the next regular Virginia Marine Resources Commission Board meeting to be considered at that meeting.
- xi. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission will allocate an amount appropriated by the General Assembly for projects which are judged to meet the criteria above.
- xii. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission, in its sole discretion, may allocate the total amount requested to an applicant, any portion thereof, or may decline to allocate funds for the project.
- xiii. No grant award shall support any dredging project for a solely privately owned marina or dock. However, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission may award a grant to a political subdivision or governing body for the dredging of a waterway channel with a bottom that is privately owned if such political subdivision or governing body holds a lease of such bottom with a term of 25 years or more.
- xiv. Any funding remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward for the same purpose.

b. FOR PROJECTS WITH POTENTIAL FEDERAL INTEREST

- i. Applicant must have made previous, or must make simultaneous, “application” for federal funds.

- ii. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission recognizes that local sponsors for federal projects must agree to share with the federal government in the cost of studies and construction as a condition necessary for the initiation of federal study of the project. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission agreement to provide support necessary to allow for the initiation of any project is conditional upon the later determination of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission that the standards in II.a.v above are met and that the funds are available.
- iii. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission shall be given the opportunity to review and comment on all cost sharing agreements between the local sponsor and federal government prior to releasing any funds.
- iv. If undertaken prior to receipt of federal funds, but for which federal funds are committed, projects must be completed within the time frame determined reasonable by the Corps of Engineers in project studies.

c. FOR NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

- i. There will be no financial contribution requirement for the applicant.
- ii. Special consideration will be given to any project application that supports waterway enhancement in rural coastal Virginia as defined by §15.2-7600 of the Code of Virginia. Localities as defined by §15.2-7600 of the Code of Virginia will provide evidence of working waterfront businesses or commercial fishing or seafood businesses and the need for dredging projects.



Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Application for
FY 27 Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Waterway Maintenance Fund

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Application for FY 27 Virginia Marine Resources Commission Waterway Maintenance Fund

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FY27 Folly Creek Funding Request: \$2,744,000

Statement of Need and Urgency

The Folly Creek Maintenance Dredging Project is a critical investment in maintaining navigability for one of Accomack County's most heavily used rural public boating access corridors while supporting water-dependent livelihoods, safe harbor function, and public safety access on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Condition surveys shown on the permit drawings indicate shoaling along this shallow-draft navigation channel and the need for dredging to restore navigability.



Figure 1. Shoaling within Folly Creek

Folly Creek is a non-federal state waterway that does not benefit from a federally maintained east-west project channel that would provide an alternate route for users attempting to reach Metompkin Inlet and the Atlantic beyond. This is especially significant in a rural coastal setting where access points are limited and the loss of reliable navigation in one channel can have outsized impacts on communities and water-dependent operations.

The project reach proposed in the draft permit package requests dredging of

approximately 5,000 linear feet from the Folly Creek boat ramp to the east, restoring a functional navigation template with a 60-foot bottom width, 3:1 side slopes, and a -6 ft MLLW design depth (with allowable overdepths per the plan). Dredging is expected to be completed by mechanical dredging, with barge/scow transport and transfer at the Folly Creek boat ramp location, reflecting the site's physical constraints and rural logistics. The dredged material characterization (predominantly fine-grained clay/sandy clay with high fines content) further underscores the need for careful placement planning and reinforces the project's readiness for disciplined dredged material management. The need is not theoretical—it is documented and experienced daily by local users. The Eastern Shore Regional Dredging Needs Assessment (RDNA) describes Folly Creek as having approximately 1 foot of depth to the landing at its head (three miles above the mouth), and notes that Metompkin Inlet is used by small local fishing and oyster boats but that the entrance channel is changeable and unmarked, requiring local knowledge. This combination—shoaling within the creek and a dynamic inlet system—amplifies navigation risk and emphasizes why maintaining the “main creek” access is essential for safe, predictable movement.

Local stakeholders have underscored both urgency and impact. As Accomack County Public Works Director Stewart Hall stated, “That landing is one of our most used facilities. It is getting exceedingly difficult to get to the north end of Cedar Island or the south end of Metompkin with an outboard... certainly we should try to maintain the main creek.” These limitations translate into concrete public costs: reduced access windows at low tide, increased risk

of groundings, longer travel routes, and reduced reliability for reaching sheltered waters—especially during deteriorating weather conditions when safe harbor access becomes most critical.

The waterway’s significance also reflects its role in supporting water-dependent commercial activity. Prior A-NPDC WMF materials document that local watermen consistently utilize Folly Creek to access public Baylor grounds and private oyster leases in nearby waters (Metompkin Bay north of the ramp and Cedar Island Bay south of the ramp). Maintaining navigability therefore supports not only recreation but also the continuity of fisheries and aquaculture access that rural communities depend upon.

Accomack County has made substantial recent capital investments in Folly Creek Landing, underscoring both the facility’s importance and the urgency of maintaining navigable access to protect that public investment. In 2020 Folly Creek Landing boat ramp was completely renovated, including two new ramps, new bulkheads, and a gangway connection between a new wooden dock and a floating dock. With more than \$482,000 in County investment, Folly Creek Landing is a major public asset and warrants dependable water access maintained through routine dredging. Given the County’s investment, maintaining navigable access through dredging is essential to protect and realize the public benefit of that infrastructure.

Finally, Folly Creek has advanced through a deliberate, phased planning pathway designed by A-NPDC and the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee, moving from identification and prioritization in regional planning to the development of permit-ready implementation materials. The draft permit package now includes a Folly Creek-specific Dredged Material Management Plan detailing project reach, channel template, dredging method, transfer logistics, and estimated dredge quantities (9,100 CY within the paid template; up to 17,200 CY at maximum allowable template). This is a shovel-ready posture: the need is documented, the community reliance is established, and the implementation approach is defined.

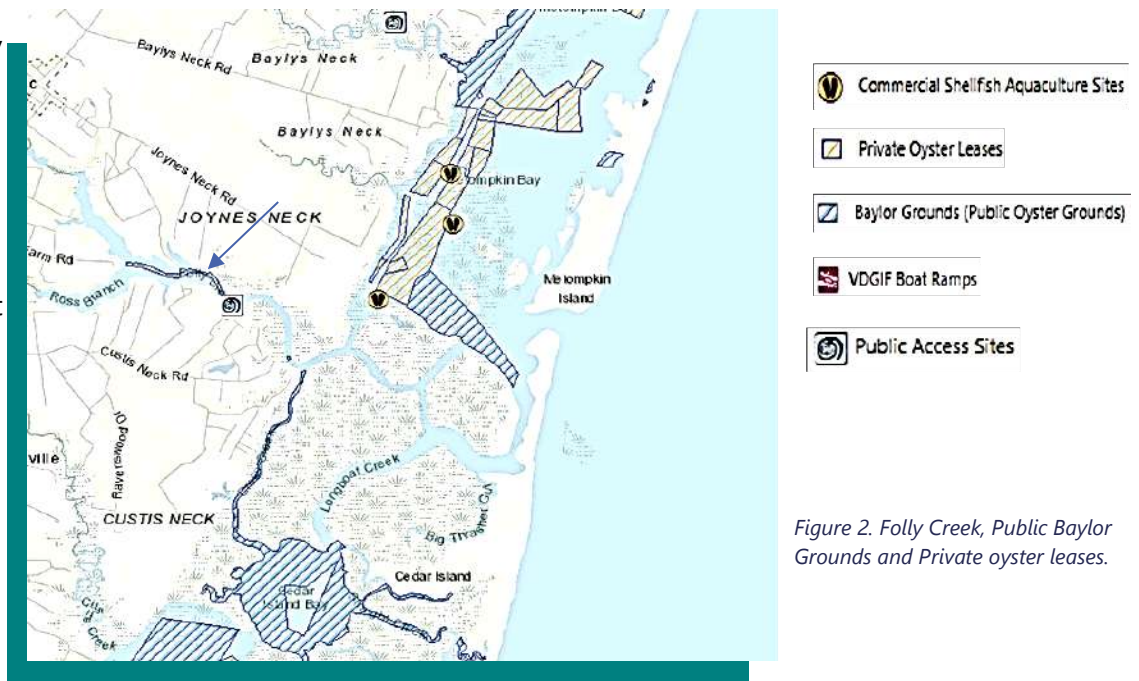


Figure 2. Folly Creek, Public Baylor Grounds and Private oyster leases.

Background & Previous Efforts

The Eastern Shore has long relied on navigable creeks and inlets for working waterfront activity, recreation, and safe harbor access. Recognizing the need for coordinated management, Accomack and Northampton Counties established the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC) through joint action, and A-NPDC has staffed and supported that work for years through regional planning and project development. Recognizing the need to maintain navigable waterways, Accomack and Northampton Counties formalized the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC) through a Joint Resolution. This committee has since served as a central voice for regional waterway management, working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, state and federal agencies, and key stakeholders, including commercial watermen and aquaculture operators.

In 2016, the ESRNWC and A-NPDC staff developed the Regional Dredging Needs Assessment, providing a strategic framework for prioritizing and managing dredging projects across the Eastern Shore. At the same time, A-NPDC was actively engaged in the development of the Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan in collaboration with the Northern Neck PDC, Middle Peninsula PDC, and Hampton Roads PDC. This initiative, funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) through Grant #NA15NOS4190164, helped outline a comprehensive approach to sustaining waterfront-dependent industries and addressing the long-term viability of navigable waterways. By 2018, when the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund (WMF), the ESRNWC and A-NPDC were well-positioned to secure funding for preliminary engineering services to support shallow-draft maintenance dredging. With the full backing of Accomack and Northampton Counties, the ESRNWC was able to launch several critical dredging initiatives, including Nassawadox Creek, Kings Creek, Folly Creek, and Red Bank Creek, ensuring these waterways remained accessible for maritime commerce, recreation, and emergency response.

The completion of the Kings Creek Phase 2 Dredging and Beneficial Use Project in November 2023 marked a significant milestone in regional dredging efforts. A total of 22,888 cubic yards of material was removed and utilized for beach restoration in Cape Charles. The project, executed by Michel's Construction, Inc. and Waterway Surveys & Engineering, Ltd., successfully addressed both navigational needs and shoreline stabilization. The \$1.38 million project stands as a model for beneficial use dredging, demonstrating how dredged material can be repurposed to enhance coastal resilience while maintaining navigability.

At the same time, the region has taken proactive steps toward long-term dredged material management through the Middle Peninsula & Eastern Shore Dredge Material Management Initiative. This initiative, funded through a \$3.04 million VPA Waterway Maintenance Grant (FY25), aims to create dedicated master plans for dredge material placement in both the Middle Peninsula and the Eastern Shore. By identifying and leasing strategic placement sites, the initiative will provide sustainable solutions for managing dredged material, expanding beneficial use opportunities such as habitat restoration and coastal resilience projects, and addressing regulatory challenges that often hinder dredging efforts.

The Eastern Shore continues to lead the way in sustainable waterway management, thanks to a strong foundation of regional collaboration, strategic planning, and proactive project implementation. The successful completion of the Kings Creek Dredging and Beneficial Use Project, the advancement of the Folly Creek dredging effort, and the launch of the Middle Peninsula & Eastern Shore Dredge Material Management Initiative underscore the region's commitment to maintaining navigable waterways, supporting local economies, and enhancing coastal resilience. With continued support from state, federal, and local partners, these efforts will help safeguard the Eastern Shore's maritime infrastructure and environmental sustainability for years to come.

Geographic Area & Navigable Waters

The Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) is a unique and environmentally rich coastal peninsula, stretching approximately 70 miles between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. This region is composed of two counties—Accomack and Northampton—along with nineteen incorporated towns, each with deep historical ties to the water. The peninsula is shielded from direct Atlantic exposure by an extensive barrier island system and expansive tidal marshes, which play a vital role in buffering against coastal storms and providing critical habitat for fisheries and wildlife. However, these natural features also contribute to sediment transport and deposition, exacerbating shoaling and navigational challenges in the region's waterways.



Historically, both natural processes and human activities have influenced sedimentation patterns in the Eastern Shore's creeks, many of which have experienced progressive infill due to changes in storm intensity, frequency, and sea-level rise. These shifts in coastal dynamics have made navigation increasingly difficult, impacting both commercial and recreational waterway users. Addressing these challenges through maintenance dredging is essential not only for restoring access to vital waterways but also for leveraging the beneficial use of dredged materials to combat coastal erosion, mitigate flooding, and enhance habitat resilience.

Navigable waters, as defined by U.S. 33 CFR §329.4 (2023), include "those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce." These waterways serve as the backbone of the Eastern Shore's maritime economy, supporting a diverse range of industries and activities. The region has long relied on its navigable creeks, bays, and inlets to sustain commercial fishing, aquaculture, tourism, and transportation.

From historic oystering fleets to modern ecotourism ventures, the Eastern Shore's economy is deeply intertwined with the accessibility and functionality of its waterways.

The importance of navigability extends beyond economic considerations; it is a matter of public safety and infrastructure resilience. Shoaling in critical waterways not only disrupts commercial activities but also impedes emergency response efforts, particularly in remote island and coastal reliant communities such as Chincoteague Island, Onancock, Willis Wharf, Tangier Island, and Cape Charles

Figure 3. ESVA State and Federal Managed Waterways

where waterways serve as vital economic and primary

transportation routes. Ensuring reliable navigation supports local economies, sustains cultural heritage, and enhances coastal resilience in the face of climate-driven changes.

The Eastern Shore is home to the largest concentration of working waterfronts in Virginia, with over 200 sites identified in the Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan. These working waterfronts are defined as properties that provide direct access to coastal waters and support commercial and recreational marine activities. Industries dependent on these waterfronts include commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, ecotourism, boat building, marine research, offshore energy support, and national defense. Many of these industries, particularly aquaculture and commercial fishing, rely on year-round access to navigable waters to harvest shellfish, transport

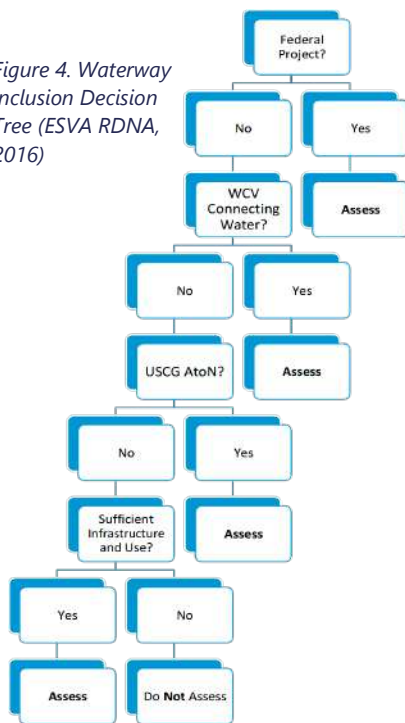
goods, and sustain local employment.

Public boat ramps, which are essential to both recreational and commercial users, further underscore the need for dredged waterway maintenance. These ramps facilitate access for commercial watermen harvesting clams, oysters, crabs, and fish, as well as for ecotour guide operators, charter fishing businesses, and recreational boaters. With tourism generating nearly \$250 million annually for the Eastern Shore economy and commercial seafood landings exceeding \$49 million, ensuring the long-term viability of navigable waterways is not just a local concern—it is a statewide economic imperative.

As the Eastern Shore continues to face the realities of rising sea levels and increasing coastal erosion, a proactive approach to dredging and waterway maintenance will be crucial. By integrating beneficial use strategies—such as placing dredged materials in ways that reinforce eroding shorelines or restore marsh habitats—regional projects can serve dual purposes: maintaining economic access while enhancing environmental resilience. These efforts will not only protect the livelihoods of those who depend on the water but also ensure that the Eastern Shore remains a thriving maritime hub for future generations.

Waterway Selection Process

Figure 4. Waterway Inclusion Decision Tree (ESVA RDNA, 2016)



The Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) relies on its network of navigable waterways to support commercial fishing, aquaculture, ecotourism, recreational boating, and waterfront access for coastal communities. As these waterways continue to experience natural sedimentation, shoaling, and restricted access, a strategic and data-driven approach is required to prioritize dredging efforts. The Regional Dredging Needs Assessment (RDNA) was developed to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the Eastern Shore’s waterways, identifying critical areas where navigation has become restricted to the point that dredging is necessary for continued use.

The RDNA inventories and evaluates waterways based on a set of objective criteria established by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) in collaboration with the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC). This assessment ensures that dredging projects are pursued based on actual need, environmental feasibility, and economic benefit. The Waterway Inclusion Decision Tree (Figure 4) was developed as part of this process to systematically determine whether a waterway should be included in regional dredging plans. The criteria consider multiple factors, including:

- **Current Navigability:** Water depth at mean low water (MLW) and the presence of significant shoaling.
- **Usage & Economic Impact:** The level of commercial and recreational activity dependent on the waterway.
- **Public Access & Infrastructure:** Proximity to boat ramps, working waterfronts, and community access points.
- **Environmental Considerations:** Potential impacts on submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and habitat restoration opportunities.

Folly Creek illustrates the type of documented, on-the-water constraint the RDNA was designed to capture and

prioritize. RDNA describes Folly Creek as a seaside creek leading from the south end of Metompkin Bay and reports extremely limited depths—approximately 1 foot to the landing at its head (with the RDNA’s non-federal channel summary table listing ~1.2 feet at MLW). RDNA also notes the presence of a County launching ramp and pier along Folly Creek (about one mile west of Light 87), confirming that navigation constraints affect a public access corridor, not simply an undeveloped shoreline. In addition, RDNA’s table identifies Folly Creek (SW04) as “Never” dredged, underscoring the chronic nature of the constraint and the importance of establishing a sustainable maintenance pathway for this non-federal rural waterway.

The RDNA further reinforces that dredging need on the seaside is closely tied to safe and reliable access to ocean inlets and adjacent working waters. In the Folly Creek/Metompkin system, RDNA notes that Metompkin Inlet is used by small local fishing and oyster boats, but the entrance channel is changeable and unmarked and should not be entered without local knowledge. This context underscores why maintaining reliable access through primary creek corridors is essential for safe operations and predictable passage for rural users.

The results of the RDNA reaffirmed the critical role that dredged waterways play in sustaining the Eastern Shore’s coastal economy and cultural heritage. Water-dependent industries such as aquaculture, commercial fishing, and charter tourism generate millions in economic activity each year, supporting thousands of jobs across the region. The loss of navigability in key waterways jeopardizes these industries, making routine dredging and channel maintenance essential.

In addition to direct economic benefits, dredging also ensures the safety and accessibility of local waterways. Many Eastern Shore communities—particularly those located on barrier islands and remote coastal areas—depend on navigable channels for transportation, emergency response, and public safety. Ensuring that waterways remain open and well-maintained provides a lifeline for these communities, safeguarding their connectivity to mainland resources and services.

By utilizing a structured, data-driven approach to waterway selection, the A-NPDC and ESRNWC continue to advance a region-wide strategy for sustainable dredging. This process not only prioritizes projects that yield the greatest economic and environmental benefits but also ensures that limited state funding is directed to the areas of highest need. Moving forward, the integration of beneficial use strategies—such as placing dredged material to restore shorelines and marsh habitats—will enhance both the long-term sustainability of these projects and the resilience of the Eastern Shore’s coastal environment.

Economic Justification & Statement of Urgency

The Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) depends on its waterways for economic stability, public safety, and long-term resilience. Yet ongoing sedimentation and rapid shoaling in shallow-draft channels—including Folly Creek—continue to restrict access for commercial watermen, aquaculture operators, recreational boaters, and emergency responders. The Folly Creek Maintenance Dredging Project is essential to restore reliable navigation at a heavily used public access point and to sustain access to working waters connected to Metompkin Bay/Inlet and the Atlantic beyond. RDNA documents Folly Creek’s constrained conditions, including ~1 foot depth to the landing at its head (with the non-federal summary table listing ~1.2 ft at MLW) and notes the presence of a County launching ramp and pier in the Folly Creek corridor.

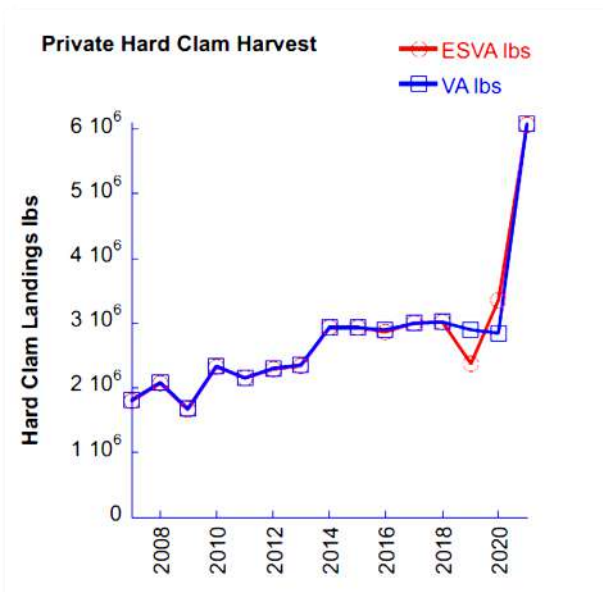


Figure 5. VA and ESVA Hard Clam Landings 2008-2020

The economic value supported by navigable waterways on ESVA is substantial, and Folly Creek is directly tied to that water-dependent economy. In 2021, commercial seafood landings generated \$79.04 million for the region, including a dominant share of Virginia’s clam production (the FY26 WMF attachments cite ESVA producing 99.9% of Virginia’s total clam harvest, valued at \$57.68 million) and significant landings of blue crabs (6.57 million pounds valued at \$11.69 million). Access constraints at Folly Creek matter because local watermen and aquaculture operators use this waterway to reach public Baylor grounds and private oyster leases in adjacent waters—specifically Metompkin Bay north of the ramp and Cedar Island Bay south of the ramp—meaning reduced navigability directly threatens the reliability and safety of getting to and from working grounds.

Beyond fisheries and aquaculture, ESVA’s visitor economy is strongly tied to waterfront access and coastal recreation.

Tourism impact reporting shows direct visitor spending on the

Eastern Shore reached \$247.9 million in 2023, and more recent reporting indicates spending increased to \$261.6 million in 2024, supporting 1,869 tourism jobs and generating \$14 million in local tourism-related taxes. These benefits depend on safe, functional access at public landings. Folly Creek Landing is not a minor facility: Accomack County has recently invested in the site by fully renovating the landing, adding two new boat ramps, new bulkheads, and a dock/gangway system connecting to a floating dock—improvements the County highlighted as benefiting both watermen and recreational users. (Additionally, public reporting during construction described the ramp/dock replacement as roughly a \$482,000 project, reinforcing that this is a significant public asset that requires dependable water access to deliver its full public return.).

ESVA counties total landings value and weight.	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS
Accomack	\$21,288,907	6,885,210
Northampton	\$57,753,347	9,115,504
	\$79,042,254	16,000,714

ESVA Direct Visitor Spending 2019-2023 (in millions)						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change (2023/2019)
ACCOMACK	\$134.7	\$118.2	\$168.5	\$166.4	\$179.6	33.3%
NORTHAMPTON	\$48.5	\$41.2	\$68.3	\$66.0	\$68.3	40.9%
ESVA Regional Total	\$183.2	\$159.4	\$236.8	\$232.4	\$247.9	35.3%

Public safety is an equally compelling driver. RDNA notes that Metompkin Inlet is dynamic and that its entrance channel is changeable and unmarked and should not be entered without local knowledge—making reliable access through primary creek corridors especially important for safe operations in rural seaside waters. Local leadership has underscored the real-time impacts of shoaling at Folly Creek: Accomack County Public Works Director Stewart Hall described the landing as one of the County’s most used facilities and stated it is becoming ‘exceedingly difficult’ for shallow-draft vessels to reach the north end of Cedar Island or the south end of Metompkin; he added that even if the inlet is too dynamic to maintain, ‘certainly we should try to maintain the main creek’.

When shoaling constrains a primary access corridor, the result is not only economic disruption but also elevated risk—groundings, tide-limited access windows, and reduced reliability for safe-harbor use and response operations in rapidly changing conditions. The urgency of the Folly Creek project is heightened by its documented navigation constraints and clear readiness for implementation, enabling timely procurement and construction within the WMF funding cycle. RDNA identifies Folly Creek as never dredged, underscoring the chronic nature of the restriction. Meanwhile, the current permit/DMMP framework for Folly Creek defines a practical maintenance template (e.g., a 60-foot bottom width, 3:1 side slopes, and a -6 ft MLLW design depth with allowable overdepths) and anticipates mechanical dredging consistent with rural logistics. The project also presents a forward-looking opportunity to pursue beneficial use as an add alternate—thin-layer placement and/or marsh enhancement—if feasible sites clear screening and permitting, without compromising the base goal of restored navigation.

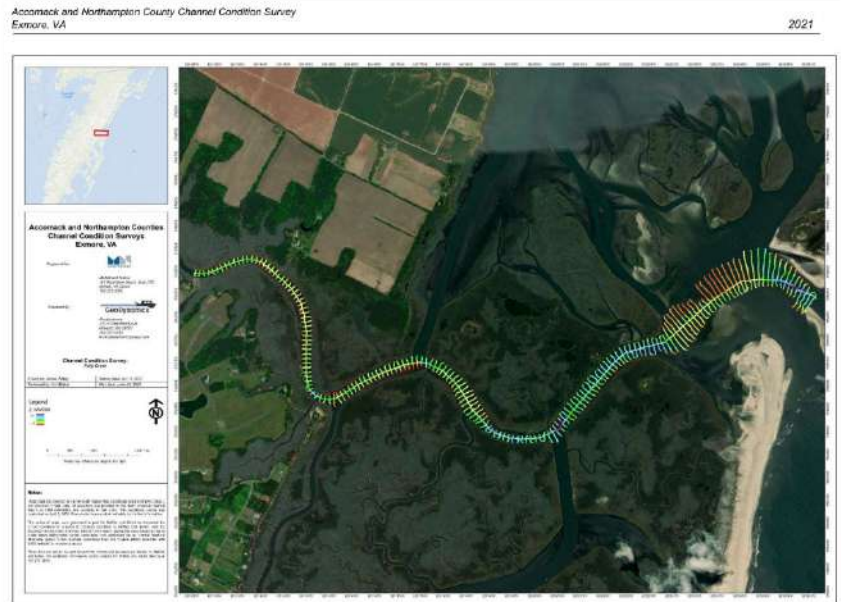


Figure 13. Bathymetric survey coverage for Folly Creek.

Figure 6. 2021 Folly Creek Channel Condition Survey

In short, the Folly Creek Maintenance action: it is more than an investment in ESVA’s working waterfront economy, public access infrastructure, tourism and recreation benefits, and rural maritime safety. By securing WMF support, Accomack County and A-NPDC can restore a critical shallow-draft corridor, protect the value of recent public facility investments at Folly Creek Landing, and sustain the connectivity that Eastern Shore communities and industries depend on.

Project Management & Implementation Strategy

The Folly Creek Maintenance Dredging Project will be led by Accomack County, with project oversight, grant administration, and coordination managed by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC). A-NPDC has extensive experience administering complex federal and state grants and has supported multiple Eastern Shore dredging projects from planning and permitting through procurement, construction coordination, reporting, and closeout.

Project Oversight & Contractor Selection

This project is structured to protect a high-value public access asset—Folly Creek Landing—which Accomack County has recently renovated with two new ramps, new bulkheads, and a dock/gangway system that connects to a floating dock, explicitly intended to serve watermen and recreational users. Because Folly Creek is a non-federal rural shallow-draft waterway and RDNA documents extremely shallow conditions (approximately 1 foot to the landing at the head; ~1.2 feet at MLW in the RDNA table), maintaining reliable navigation access is essential to keep this public facility functional and safe for the users it was upgraded to serve.

Funding & Reimbursement Process

Accomack County will serve as the WMF reimbursement recipient, with reimbursements disbursed based on eligible, documented project expenditures and performance. A-NPDC will manage project tracking, reimbursement documentation, and required reporting to ensure transparency, fiscal accountability, and compliance with WMF requirements.



Figure 7. Proposed Transfer/Offload Site

to be determined by the contractor, with transport logistics that may include barge/scow movement to the transfer/offload location and trucking to the contractor-selected placement site.

Key Operational Considerations:

- **Transfer/Offload Logistics at Folly Creek Landing:** The DMMP anticipates the Folly Creek boat ramp as the transfer/offload site; contractor work plans will incorporate ramp protection measures (e.g., mats as needed), traffic control, and restoration of temporarily disturbed areas following completion.
- **Tidal/Weather-Driven Scheduling:** Dredging and transport activities will be planned around tidal cycles and weather windows to maintain safe operations and minimize disruption to public access.
- **Disposal Planning and Compliance:** Contractor-sourced upland placement requires careful planning for haul routes, staging, dewatering/handling where applicable, and compliance with all permit conditions.

For FY26 and beyond, administration of the Waterway Maintenance Fund has transitioned to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), which serves as the responsible agency for administering the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Fund. A-NPDC will coordinate closely with VMRC on reporting format, invoice support, and closeout documentation to ensure timely reimbursement and full compliance with program requirements.

Dredging & Material Transport Operations

The current permitted framework anticipates dredged material placement uplands at a suitable area

Parallel Beneficial Use (BU) Add Alternate (if feasible and permitted):

In addition to the base-bid, contractor-sourced upland placement approach, Accomack County and A-NPDC will advance a parallel Beneficial Use (BU) concept that may be incorporated as an add alternate if one or more sites clear feasibility screening, site-control requirements, and permitting within the project schedule. This structure is intentionally designed to preserve the project's core deliverable—restored navigability—while enabling the Commonwealth to capture marsh-resilience co-benefits when a ready, feasible BU site is available. If BU approvals are not secured in time, dredging and placement will proceed under the base bid without delay.

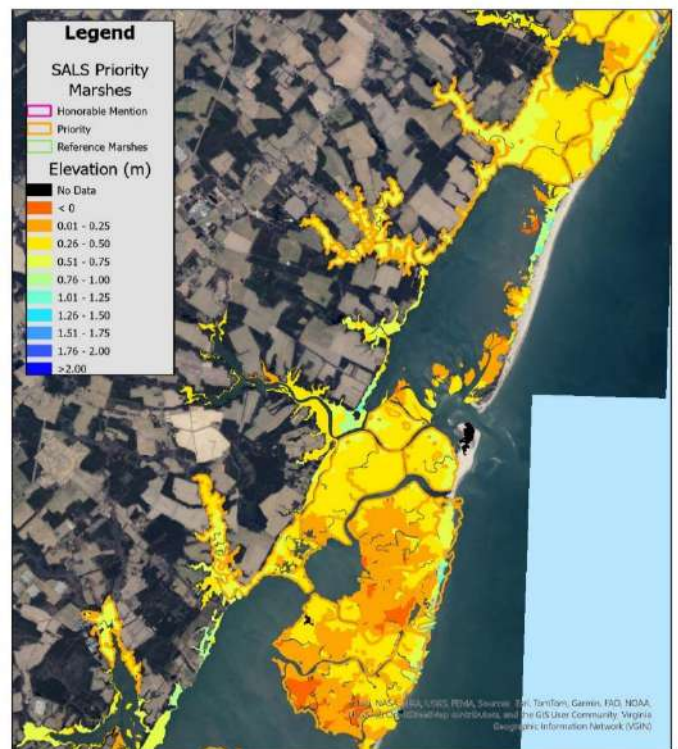
BU Objective and Rationale

The BU add alternate focuses on thin-layer placement and/or marsh enhancement to improve marsh platform elevation, reduce vulnerability to sea level rise and erosion, and strengthen habitat and coastal protection functions. This concept aligns with the region's growing emphasis on pairing navigation maintenance with restoration opportunities when feasible and permitted.



Potential Dredge Material Placement Sites for Parker's Creek and Folly Creek
Map shows priority areas for Saltmarsh Sparrow habitat restoration and landowner information

Figure 8. BU SALS Landowner Map



Potential Dredge Material Placement Sites for Parker's Creek and Folly Creek
Marsh elevation map

Figure 9. Marsh Elevation Map

Saltmarsh Sparrow Relevance and Conservation Value

Marsh restoration in Accomack County carries added conservation value because Virginia's seaside marshes are identified as the southern extent of the Saltmarsh Sparrow breeding range, and the species is recognized as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Virginia. The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Virginia guidance is explicitly designed to support restoration, enhancement, and conservation actions that maintain persistent, high-quality nesting habitat over the next 10 years while improving long-term salt marsh resilience—goals directly aligned with thin-layer placement and marsh enhancement when site conditions support those measures.

Through coordination with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), A-NPDC has incorporated third-party conservation planning priorities into early BU screening. DWR has noted that marshes in Accomack have been prioritized for restoration by the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture to benefit high-marsh species such as the Saltmarsh Sparrow, and that beneficial use of dredged material and thin-layer placement are identified tools to restore high marsh habitat for Saltmarsh Sparrows and other marsh-dependent wildlife.

Agency Coordination and Data-Driven Site Screening (DWR)

A-NPDC has initiated coordination with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to support identification and screening of candidate marsh sites where sediment placement may deliver durable public benefits. Through this coordination, A-NPDC has obtained GIS layers and screening products that inform feasibility, ownership pathways, and marsh condition—allowing BU opportunities to be evaluated using objective indicators rather than anecdote or convenience siting.

Screening products include:

- **State Marshlands Ownership Context:** Supports early identification of candidate areas on publicly managed marshlands and clarifies that approvals would be required for any state-owned marshland placements.
- **BU + SALS Priority + Landowner Screening Map:** Identifies candidate placement areas in relation to priority marsh designations and landowner/management feasibility categories, supporting early evaluation of site-control practicality and partnership pathways.
- **UVVR (Unvegetated–Vegetated Marsh Ratio) Screening:** Highlights marsh condition and relative instability, supporting prioritization of marshes where sediment enhancement may be most beneficial.
- **Marsh Elevation Screening:** Identifies lower-elevation marshes that may be more susceptible to inundation/subsidence and therefore stronger candidates for thin-layer placement intended to improve marsh persistence.

Together, these products allow the project team to prioritize sites that (1) demonstrate vulnerability indicators consistent with thin-layer placement or marsh enhancement, and (2) have a feasible pathway for permissions, monitoring, and stewardship.

Protection of Existing High-Quality Habitat and Work-Window Considerations

Because the BU add alternate may be implemented in or near habitat used by Saltmarsh Sparrows, the project will follow best-practice precautions in the ACJV guidance to avoid unintended impacts to existing suitable habitat. This includes engaging landowners/land managers and restoration experts early; phasing work when approaches are not widely implemented in similar ecological settings; and avoiding intensive marsh modification during the active Saltmarsh Sparrow breeding season (April–August) and other critical seasonal windows.

Site Control and Approvals Pathway

BU implementation would require site-specific coordination and approvals based on ownership and management. The project's screening approach explicitly accounts for public ownership/management feasibility and the requirements associated with state marshlands and other conservation lands. Final BU site selection will only proceed where site control and permissions are achievable and where placement can be implemented in compliance with applicable permits and environmental requirements.

Add Alternate Structure and Implementation

To maintain schedule certainty and protect the WMF-funded navigation outcome, BU will be structured as an add alternate (or optional bid item) within the procurement package. The add alternate would be activated only if, prior to award or during final pre-construction coordination:

1. A BU site (or sites) is confirmed feasible based on access/logistics and sediment compatibility;
2. required permissions/site control are secured; and
3. the permitting pathway is confirmed for implementation within the project period of performance.

If activated, the BU add alternate would include site-specific design parameters (e.g., target placement thickness ranges, methods to avoid unintended impacts, and documentation/monitoring requirements) consistent with the mapped screening indicators and final permit conditions.

Benefit to the Commonwealth

This approach ensures WMF funds achieve the primary intended purpose—restoring and maintaining navigability in a rural shallow-draft channel—while creating a practical mechanism to realize additional public value through marsh resilience improvements where feasible. By pairing a deliverable base bid with a DWR-informed, data-driven BU add alternate, the project can maximize return on investment without introducing avoidable schedule or implementation risk.

Navigational Aids & PATON Maintenance

Unlike some channels where existing Private Aids to Navigation (PATONs) are a defined project obligation, Folly Creek's navigation marking needs will be addressed based on final permit conditions and post-dredge operating requirements. If private aids (temporary or permanent) are required to enhance mariner safety or mark the maintained channel, Accomack County will coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard PATON program and comply with applicable federal requirements for establishing and maintaining private aids (including CG-2554 application procedures and 33 CFR Part 66 requirements).

Key Considerations:

- **PATON Approval & Compliance:** Any PATONs installed will be reviewed/authorized through the appropriate Coast Guard process and maintained per permit requirements.
- **Routine Inspection & Maintenance:** If PATONs are required, Accomack County will establish an inspection/maintenance schedule to keep aids functional and ensure continued safe navigation following dredging.
- **Cost Management:** Where marking is necessary, buoy-based aids can be used strategically to improve visibility while limiting long-term maintenance liabilities.

Project Timeline

Folly Creek Channel Dredging – Accomack County

Approximate Project Timeline (Base Bid + BU Add Alternate): To be finalized during negotiations with Contractor

Phase 0 — Pre-Award Readiness and Coordination (Base + BU)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
Finalize project scope/limits for bid package	Feb–Mar 2026
Agency coordination check-in (VMRC/DEQ/USACE as applicable) to confirm permit status, work windows, and any special conditions affecting dredging/placement	Feb–Apr 2026
Finalize procurement strategy (IFB vs RFP; base bid + alternates; unit-price vs lump-sum; survey requirements; insurance/bonding)	Mar–Apr 2026
BU Track begins (parallel): Coordinate with DWR/partners and refine BU candidate list using your map screening (UVVR, elevation, SALS/landowner layers)	Mar–May 2026
BU feasibility Gate #1: Shortlist 1–3 BU candidate marsh sites (or confirm “screening only” if not ready)	By May 2026

Phase 1 — Permitting/Authorization Finalization (Base + BU)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
Confirm JPA/permit package is final (or identify needed amendment, if dredge quantity/template/placement approach changes materially)	Apr–Jun 2026
If needed: JPA amendment submission (only if disposal approach changes in a way that must be reflected in permits)	May–Jun 2026
Confirm baseline disposal pathway is permitted/allowable (contractor-sourced upland site to be selected, with required approvals)	May–Jun 2026

Phase 1 — Permitting/Authorization Finalization (Base + BU)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
BU Track: Begin BU site permission conversations (VMRC state marshlands / other landowners; partner MOUs if needed)	May–Jul 2026
BU feasibility Gate #2: Decide whether BU is realistic this cycle (Yes = keep as add alternate; No = keep as future option)	By mid-Jul 2026

Phase 2 — Procurement and Award (Base + BU Add Alternate)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
Construction services solicitation development (plans/specs, bid schedule, alternates, survey deliverables, disposal requirements, ramp protection/traffic control)	Apr–Jun 2026
Solicitation posting period (questions, addenda, site visit)	Jun–Jul 2026
Bid opening / evaluation	Late Jul 2026
Award negotiations & execution (including confirming disposal plan, staging, and schedule)	Late Jul–Aug 2026
BU Track: If feasible, finalize add alternate scope language (site(s), target thickness ranges, access constraints, monitoring expectations)	Jul–Aug 2026
BU feasibility Gate #3 (“Go/No-Go for this contract”): Include BU add alternate in executed contract only if site control and permitting pathway are credible	By contract execution (Aug 2026)

Phase 3 — Mobilization and Construction (Base Bid)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
Contractor mobilization to Folly Creek; establish staging/transfer area at Folly Creek Landing; implement ramp protection/traffic control plan	Sep 1–15, 2026
Pre-dredge condition documentation: photos + baseline soundings at key points	Early Sep 2026
Commence mechanical dredging and transport operations (barge/scow to ramp transfer; trucking to disposal)	Mid-Sep 2026
Complete dredging + disposal operations (duration depends on production rate, weather, access limits, and haul distance)	4–6 weeks typical → Late Sep–Late Oct 2026
Weather/equipment contingency window	+2–4 weeks → Through Nov 2026 (if needed)
Contractor demobilization and site restoration	Late Oct–Nov 2026

Phase 4 — Post-Dredge Survey, Documentation, Closeout (Base + BU)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
Post-dredge hydrographic survey (third party preferred) + as-built surfaces	Oct–Nov 2026 (or immediately upon completion)
Engineer/PM review of survey vs template; punch list if needed	Nov–Dec 2026
WMF closeout documentation: pay estimates, invoices, disposal documentation, photos, survey deliverables	Dec 2026–Jan 2027
Final reimbursement package submission	Jan–Feb 2027

BU Add Alternate Timeline (Only If “Go” at Gate #3)

BU Implementation (parallel to or immediately after dredging)

Dredging Activity	Approximate Project Timeframe
Finalize BU site access plan, placement method, and monitoring/photo points	Aug–Sep 2026
Mobilize BU placement equipment (if different from base bid disposal logistics)	Sep–Oct 2026
BU placement (thin-layer and/or marsh enhancement)	Oct–Nov 2026 <i>(preferred outside peak nesting windows where feasible)</i>
BU post-placement documentation (photos, elevation checks if included)	Nov–Dec 2026
BU monitoring (light-touch, grant-appropriate)	Spring 2027 and/or Fall 2027 <i>(depending on partner capacity and requirements)</i>

Project Costs

The total estimated cost for the Folly Creek Mechanical Dredging Project (Accomack County) is approximately \$2.744 million, accounting for all necessary construction activities, contingencies, and administrative requirements. Because final pricing and scheduling will be determined through procurement and contract negotiations with the prime contractor, the budget is presented as a planning-level estimate based on current unit pricing and anticipated logistics.

The project begins with mobilization and demobilization, estimated at \$679,199, to deploy and remove specialized dredging equipment and support resources required for rural shallow-draft operations. The dredging effort itself is based on removing approximately 17,150 cubic yards (CY) to achieve the target template of 6' MLW with a 1-foot allowable overdepth, at an estimated unit cost of \$59 per CY, totaling \$1,011,850. Because upland placement requires coordinated trucking logistics, the estimate also includes truck mobilization of \$30,180 and truck hauling costs of \$266,887, reflecting the equipment, labor, and transport needed to move dredged material from the transfer/offload area to the contractor-selected upland placement site.

Together, these direct dredging and transport components produce a subtotal of \$1,988,116. Given the inherent uncertainties associated with shallow-draft dredging—particularly weather and tidal scheduling, production variability, and disposal site logistics—a 20% contingency is included, totaling \$397,623, to manage unforeseen conditions and maintain flexibility during implementation. In addition to construction, Permitting, Engineering, and Design are budgeted at \$190,859 (8%), supporting regulatory compliance, technical documentation, and final design refinements as needed. Project Planning & Administration are budgeted at \$167,002 (7%) to cover procurement support, project oversight, coordination among Accomack County, A-NPDC, contractors, and regulators,

reimbursement documentation, and required reporting through closeout.

Folly Creek Mechanical Dredging– Accomack Approximate Project Costs: To be determined by contract negotiations with the Prime Contractor				
<u>Dredging Activity</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Mobilization/Demobilization	\$679,199	EA	1	\$679,199
Unit Cost • 6' MLW + 1-foot allowable over depth (17,150 CY)	\$59	CY	17,150	\$1,011,850
Truck Mobilization	\$30,180	EA	1	\$30,180
Truck Haul	\$266,887	EA	1	\$266,887
Subtotal				\$1,988,116
Contingency (20%)				\$397,623
Permitting, Engineering, and Design (8%)				\$190,859
Project Planning & Administration (7%)				\$167,002
TOTAL				\$2.744M

Altogether, these components bring the projected total to approximately \$2.744 million, representing a comprehensive and strategic investment in restoring navigability in Folly Creek while ensuring fiscally responsible implementation and full documentation for WMF reimbursement and long-term channel management.

Accordingly, A-NPDC requests \$2.744 million in WMF support to implement the Folly Creek Mechanical Dredging Project and restore reliable navigability for recreational users, water-dependent commercial activity, and public safety access on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Current VPA Projects & Projected Funding Needs

Project	Current Status	Estimated Need
Red Bank Creek	• Phase 1B remains active; however, the committee's most recent condition review indicates reduced/deficient dredging need at this time. • ESRNWC has directed staff to pursue administrative reallocation/transfer of remaining Red Bank Phase 1B WMF balance to address higher-priority needs (Nassawadox Phase 1B), subject to WMF/VMRC processing requirements.	> \$4.25M for Phase 2 (planning-level estimate; Phase 2 pursued if future conditions warrant)
Folly Creek	• Phase 1B is in progress and positioned for implementation transition. Staff and project engineers have determined to advance a mechanical dredging permit pathway with contractor-supplied upland placement as the baseline approach. • A draft JPA package has been completed, including: JPA form; Folly Creek-specific DMMP; gradation/sediment data from vibracore sampling; and permit figures. • Near-term readiness items include finalizing the Adjacent Property Owner (APO) table and preparing the FY27 WMF implementation request.	~ \$2.744M for Phase 2 (current planning estimate; subject to procurement and prime contractor negotiations)
Nassawadox Creek	• Phase 1B is active and focused on refining the dredged material management pathway following VMRC's denial of the nearshore berm concept; the current strategy is an upland placement alternative (Tangier Island) with associated permit revisions. • Staff and consultants have advanced pre-application coordination and identification/screening of candidate upland areas to support a revised alternatives analysis and resubmittal pathway. • Next steps include completing Phase 1B and initiating Phase 2 scope and procurement development.	\$4.19M for Phase 2 (implementation estimate)
Dredge Material Management Initiative (DMMI) - ESVA (MPPDC/A-	• The ESVA DMMI is under active implementation with a Project Management Team (PMT) meeting monthly to manage scope, schedule, budget, and coordination across partner agencies. • Current work elements include reimbursement/payment flow; channel prioritization and digital channel delineations; procurement sequencing for technical support scopes; CARP-DMMI integration; and	FY25 DMMI award: \$1,518,600 (project budget; balance tracked through PMT invoicing/expenditure)

NPDC)	data/standards needs (including USACE-standard methods where applicable).	reporting)
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Project Balances End of CY2025

Balances as of December 31, 2025			
	Revenues	Expenditures	Balance
Kings Creek – Ending Balance	\$ 993,144.77		
		\$ -	\$ 993,144.77
Nassawadox - Northampton	\$ 2,362,000.00		
		\$ (209,877.58)	\$ 2,152,122.42
Nassawadox – ANPDC	\$ 1,100,000.00		
		\$ (980.00)	\$ 1,099,020.00
Nassawadox – Est. Total	\$ 4,455,144.77		
		\$ (210,857.58)	\$ 4,244,287.19
Red Bank	\$ 222,060.00		
		\$ (134,992.83)	\$ 87,067.17
Folly Creek	\$ 203,500.00		
		\$ (139,333.69)	\$ 64,166.31
Dredge Material Management Initiative	\$1,518,600.00		
		\$ (30,511.35)	\$ 1,488,088.65

Supporting Documentation

The below listed supporting documentation is attached to this application.

1. Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Dredging Needs Assessment. Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) 2016
2. Fisheries Landings for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William and Mary 2021
3. Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Surveys. Geodynamics 2021
4. Saltmarsh Restoration Priorities for the Saltmarsh Sparrow: Virginia - Version 2.0. Atlantic Coast
5. Joint Venture 2023
6. Economic Impact of Tourism on Virginia Localities, 2016-2023 Direct Visitor Spending. Tourism Economics 2023
7. Direct Economic Impact and Spending Shares by Industries. Tourism Economics 2024
8. Folly Creek Dredging Joint Permit Application Draft. Moffat and Nichol, 2025
9. Potential Dredge Material Placement Sites for Parker's Creek and Folly Creek – SALS Priority Marshes. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources 2026

Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Dredging Needs Assessment



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Prepared for: Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Prepared by: Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

This project was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA15NOS4190164 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

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PREFACE

The purpose of this study was to assess the navigability of the Eastern Shore of Virginia's waterways. The study was conducted for both short-term and long-range planning purposes and was made possible through a grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZMP) through the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It is expected that additional work will be needed to develop a strategic, comprehensive plan to address dredging needs in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the work, advice, and guidance provided by the members of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Navigable Waterways Committee, especially the Chairman, Mr. John Joeckel. Neither would this research project have been possible without the assistance of the United States Army Corps of Engineers staff in the Norfolk District office. In addition, previous works by the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science were valuable resources. It is important to note that any errors or omissions in this report are the responsibility of Accomack-Norhampton Planning District Commission staff and not those whom provided assistance along the way.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Safely navigable waterways, dredged to an adequate depth for their varied uses are vital to the economy, culture, and quality of life for residents of and visitors to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. There has been a decline in federal funding for maintenance of federal channels and an absence of state and local funding for non-federally designated waterways. With well over 100 uniquely identified waterways, each with varying degrees of shoaling, a comprehensive evaluation of current conditions was needed.

To begin to accomplish this objective, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) partnered with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC) and local stakeholders to develop this *Regional Dredging Needs Assessment*. This document provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing conditions in navigable channels and identifies where navigation has become restricted to the point where dredging is needed and is intended to serve as a supplemental resource and first step towards a prioritized regional dredging strategic plan.

Waterways of the Eastern Shore were first inventoried and evaluated using criteria established by the ESRNWC. A total of 59 waterways, including the 32 federal project areas and 27 non-federal waterways, were assessed. In total, about 37% (22) channels were determined to have sections of the waterway with no more than three feet of water depth at mean low water. Of the federal waterways, about 69% do not currently meet their respective authorized depths and about 31% (10), most of which are part of the Waterway on the Coast of Virginia, have sections with less than two feet of water at mean low water. A third of non-federal waterways which are not WCV connecting waters have sections with no more than three feet of water depth at mean low water and almost half (5/12) of the non-federal WCV connecting waters are in this condition. In addition, 81% of all assessed waterways are in need of permits prior to maintenance.

There are additional hindrances to completing dredging projects, including, but not limited to, expired permits and challenges with securing new permits, limited records of historic dredging (especially for the Waterway on the Coast of Virginia), and increased difficulty in securing appropriate dredge spoil locations. However, there are also new discoveries and technologies associated with the beneficial use of dredge spoil, and there are success stories from communities who have ongoing maintenance of their waterways without the use of federal funds.

With continued guidance and data from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, new tools and potential resources such as Section 22 and a regional sediment management plan, and dedicated local stakeholders, this report can be used towards the creation and implementation of a comprehensive strategic regional dredging plan that will ensure the continued safe use and enjoyment of our Eastern Shore waterways.

I. Introduction

This Regional Dredging Needs Assessment provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing conditions in navigable channels and identifies where navigation has become restricted to the point where dredging is needed.

In order to complete this assessment, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) worked closely with the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Accomack County Public Works Department. Previous Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZMP)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-funded dredging planning projects were considered during the assessment criteria development process. Once criteria were finalized, the A-NPDC compiled information from existing bathymetric surveys and solicited local information from members of the ESRNWC and stakeholders with whom they engaged for up-to-date accounts of existing conditions for channels not previously surveyed and channels not surveyed within recent timeframes.

In an effort to recognize the needs of shallow draft navigation users, the following report has been developed to assist public policy decision makers by defining the existing conditions of local waterways and describing the problems, needs, and opportunities associated with their use and maintenance.

Geographical and Jurisdictional Setting

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is a narrow, approximately 70-mile peninsula separating the Chesapeake Bay from the Atlantic Ocean with two Counties and 19 incorporated Towns. The peninsula is buffered from coastal impacts along its Atlantic coast by a barrier island chain and vast tidal marshes and along some areas of its Chesapeake Bay coast by various islands and tidal marshes. The creeks that shape the Chesapeake Bay coast are in general much larger than those on the ocean or Seaside of the peninsula. Historic land-use activities and changes to the dynamic coastal environments have contributed to the sedimentation of many creeks of the Eastern Shore. Furthermore, the region faces unique challenges with regards to coastal flooding, coastal erosion, and inundation from sea-level rise, in that potential changes in storm intensities and frequency and changes in relative sea-level, will impact sedimentation patterns that affect the shoaling and navigability of coastal waterways.

Mainland Peninsula

The peninsula was both deposited by and shaped by fluctuations in sea level during the past 200,000 years.^{1 2} The highest land elevations vary from approximately 25-50 feet along a “spine” trending

¹ Colman, et al., 1988. The record of major Quaternary sea-level changes in a large Coastal Plain estuary, Chesapeake Bay, eastern United States: *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, v. 68, no. 2-4, p. 99–116.

² Colman, et al., 1990. Ancient channels of the Susquehanna River beneath Chesapeake Bay and the Delmarva Peninsula: *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, v. 102, no. 9, p. 1,268–1,279.

northeast-southwest along the center of the peninsula with greater elevations occurring in Accomack County to the north.

Islands and Tidal Marshes

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is buffered from coastal impacts along its Atlantic Coast due largely to the presence of a discontinuous barrier island chain, of which the majority has not been developed as result of conservation efforts. These islands are likely no older than 10,000 years, as their formation had to have followed the end of the last ice age, about 18,000 years ago when sea levels were about 300 feet lower than today.³

Eastern Shore Waterways

Many of the navigation channels identified for this report are designated as Federal Navigation Channels, as defined by the USACE. "Navigable Waters" are administratively defined as waters that have been used in the past, are now used, or are susceptible to use as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce up to the head of navigation. Shallow draft navigation channels and turning basins are specified as those with a depth of less than 15 feet when measured at mean low water (MLW).⁴ According to the Commonwealth of Virginia, "State Waters" means all water, on the surface and under the ground, wholly or partially within or bordering the Commonwealth or within its jurisdiction, including wetlands.⁵

Economic Justification for Need

Figures from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) from 2014 indicate that almost \$1.5 million of commercial fisheries goods landed on the seaside of the Eastern Shore alone. The USACE determined that the annual value of water-based recreation on the seaside alone is \$1,920,741.00 (USACE, 2011.a). This figure is perceived by local members of the ESRNWC as a significant underestimate of the value of recreation on the seaside and thus a misrepresentation of the impact of declining maintenance of the regional waterways (ESRNWC Chairman, personal communication, August 15, 2016). The total value of commercial landings for both Accomack and Northampton Counties from both the seaside and the bayside for 2014 was about \$38 million (VMRC, 2016). This value does not include the value associated with recreational boating, support industries, e.g., tackle shops, marinas and boat repair and maintenance services, lodging, restaurants, ecotourism, and other tourism related activities that bring visitors to the Eastern Shore waterways. Data has indicated that the sale value indicated by VMRC is much lower than the actual economic value. For example, in 2013 Northampton County landed about \$20 million in clams and oysters, but shellfish farms sold over \$36.7 million (Murray, 2014).

³ Hein, C.J., Fitzsimons, G.G., FitzGerald, D.M., *Fallon, A.R., 2016, Records of migration and ebb-delta breaching at historic and ancient tidal inlets along a river-fed paraglacial barrier island, *Journal of Coastal Research*, SI 75, p. 228-232.

⁴ USACE. March 1999. Coastal Engineering Technical Note I-63.

⁵ Code of Virginia § 62.1-44.3 <http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title62.1/chapter3.1/section62.1-44.3/>.

In 2015, the farm gate value for Virginia shellfish aquaculture was \$48.3 million (Virginia Shellfish Aquaculture Situation and Outlook Report, April 2016, VIMS), \$32.3 million in hard clams and \$16.0 million in oysters. The farm gate value of a cultivated product is the net value of the product when it leaves the farm, after marketing costs have been subtracted, and is lower than retail price, as it does not include costs for shipping, handling, storage, marketing, etc.

On the Eastern Shore in 2014, private sector quahog (clam) landings total value for both counties was over \$25 million (about 4/5 of that originating in Northampton County). For quahogs, the public sector landing value is almost negligible, but not so for the public sector oyster landings in Accomack County, which were about half of the private landing value. The total public and private sector landing value for oysters was about \$7.5 million for both counties. Just as the region's aquaculture industry is booming, access to these water-access-only sites are becoming more challenging and dangerous.

Tourism has a significant impact on the Eastern Shore of Virginia economy. Visitors come to the Eastern Shore to fish, crab, boat our waterways and take advantage of the growing eco-tourism opportunities. While here, visitors require the services provided by our lodging, restaurant, marina, and tackle shop businesses, all generating revenues, taxes and employment to the Eastern Shore economy. The number of residents with tourism related jobs increased from 2,597 in 2011 to 2,910 in 2015, and revenues from tourism during that time increased by \$37 million to over \$261 million.

Funding and Maintenance

As a coastal peninsula, navigable waterways are vital to the economic viability of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Thus, navigability has historically been an issue of concern. Residents and tourists are only able to explore and utilize the coastal resources and wildlife of the Atlantic and Bay ecosystems with adequate access to these waters. Natural processes commonly cause impacts to the coastal waters and the Eastern Shore. Of particular importance are the waters and water depths within and approaching facilities and infrastructure.

Public marinas, such as Wachapreague Town Marina, Willis Wharf County Marina, etc., have access to state funding with the Virginia Port Authorities (VPA) Aid to Local Ports Fund. Typically, these projects cost less than \$100,000 and can often be accommodated by the VPA funding. Larger channel projects, however, often exceed \$1 million in cost and thus, could not be funded by the VPA.

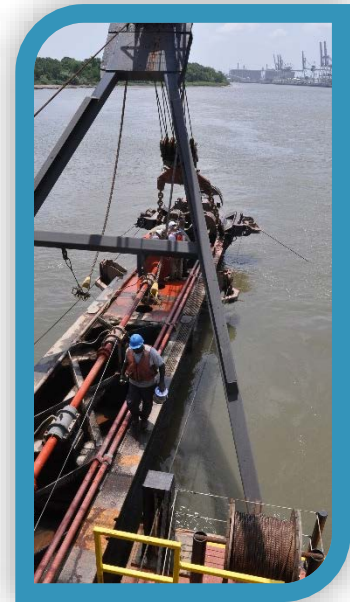
Federal funding for USACE shallow draft, low-use navigation projects has been in decline for decades, and has been more drastically reduced in the last ten years. Current budget metrics are not providing sufficient funding at levels to sustain maintenance dredging of the 32 Federal navigation dredging projects located on the Eastern Shore. More recently, Federal funding for the maintenance of federal harbors has changed to be prioritized based on the national economic benefits of the harbor related to commercial navigation (see [Appendix D](#)). Harbors that lack significant commercial navigation are not currently a high funding priority. Consequently, maintenance of recreational harbors and harbors with limited commercial traffic has been deferred indefinitely. In addition, there are many bayside and seaside channels with economic significance that are not designated as

federal channels, and thus alternate sources of funding for maintenance are required. An evaluation of current Commonwealth navigable waterway and ecosystem project funding mechanisms is necessary to determine the ability of the Commonwealth to implement needed non-federal waterway projects.

Within the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, Section 22, the USACE were granted general authority to cooperate with states to provide several services, on a cost-shared basis, including technical assistance to support preparation of comprehensive water resource plans.

USCG Aids to Navigation

Since 2013 the USACE and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) have been working together to determine the best way to make the Waterway on the Coast of Virginia (WCV)/Virginia Inside Passage (VIP) safer. Due to natural shoaling and shifting of aquatic sediment, some of the Aids to Navigation (AtoN) are no longer accurately marking safely navigable waterways. Due to the limitations of funding available for the maintenance of these channels, the USACE and USCG have determined that many of the AtoN will be systematically removed by 2019. Some of the permanent AtoN will also be replaced with buoys, so that they may be more easily moved to accurately mark the channel as it naturally shifts. **Figure 3** reveals which of the AtoNs will be kept (green), removed (red), and reevaluated in the future (orange).



Eleven of the fifteen federal WCV projects and seven of the twenty-seven non-federal waterway project areas are scheduled to have the AtoNs removed by the end of 2019.

Local Commitment to Maintenance

The ESRNWC was formed based upon previous years' efforts of the [Eastern Shore Navigation Partnership](#), with the hope of developing a more comprehensive strategic plan for dredging. The goal is to have a waterway dredging project schedule for the next 5 to 10 years, rather than suggesting dredging projects on an annual, last-minute basis. With the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for waterway projects, funding needs can be forecasted and long-term planning accomplished for obtaining the necessary permits and development of plans to use the sediment obtained by the waterway dredging in a beneficial manner. The ultimate objective is to develop a multi-year, multi-project Eastern Shore Shallow Draft Navigation and Regional Sediment Management Plan.

II. Methodology

The purpose of this section is to explain the methodology utilized to determine which creeks were to be assessed as to their dredging needs and how that need was determined.

This report considers the condition of federal projects and state waterways, however, locally-owned marinas and dock areas are not included. Private marinas are responsible for funding their own maintenance.

Of the 87 creeks and waterways inventoried, see [Appendix A](#) for this list, a total of 59 project areas were identified for assessment. This includes all 32 of the federal projects, all 12 of the non-federal connecting waters for the WCV, and 15 non-federal waterways. The non-federal waterways were included based on their existing infrastructure, safety concerns (i.e., USCG access), and economic value. The WCV connecting waters were included as they have recent USACE surveys, their importance in accessing the federal projects on the seaside, and their necessity in the continuity of the WCV, also known as the Virginia Inside Passage (VIP). The next criteria for inclusion was the presence of USCG AtoN; however, several waterways with no AtoNs were included based on the presence of essential infrastructure and the value provided to commercial and recreational fishing and boating. [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#) record these criteria for 43 of the inventoried non-federal waterways, exclusive of the 12 WCV connecting waters.

Figure 1, on the following page, supplies a visual representation of this decision making process. The last qualifying question asked for a waterway was if there was “sufficient infrastructure and use.” This question was addressed using data from VMRC, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), the *2013 Eastern Shore of Virginia Transient and Working Waterfronts Inventory Needs Assessment*, and input from the ESRNWC members and additional stakeholders.

Tables 1, 2, and 4 are comprehensive in nature and supply the majority of data necessary for planning. **Table 1** provides information for the federally-designated channels, **Table 2** for the WCV (also federally-designated), and **Table 4** for non-federally designated channels (including WCV connecting waters). They are designed to be comparable and to serve as the core reference points for this assessment report.

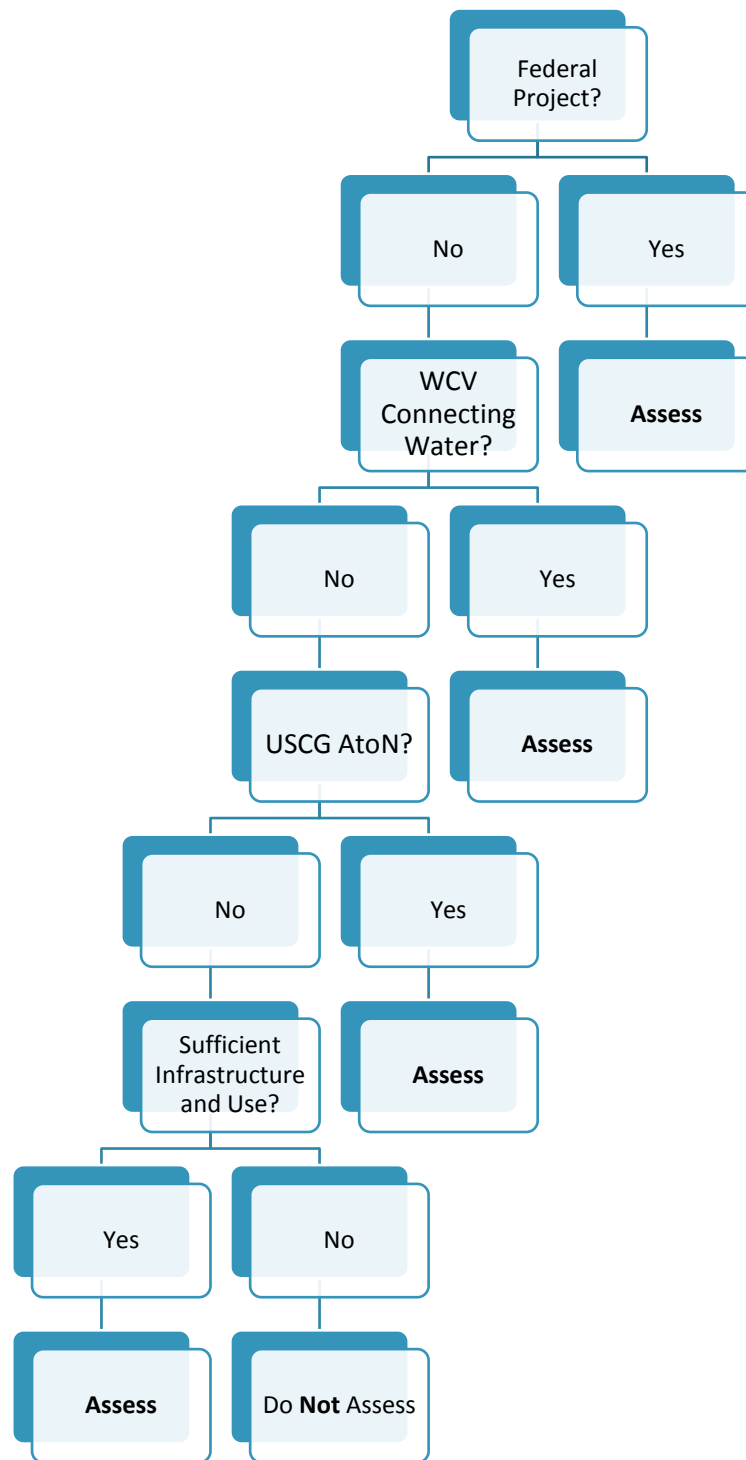


Figure 1: Waterway Assessment Inclusion Tree

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Figure 2: Federal Channel Project Area Map

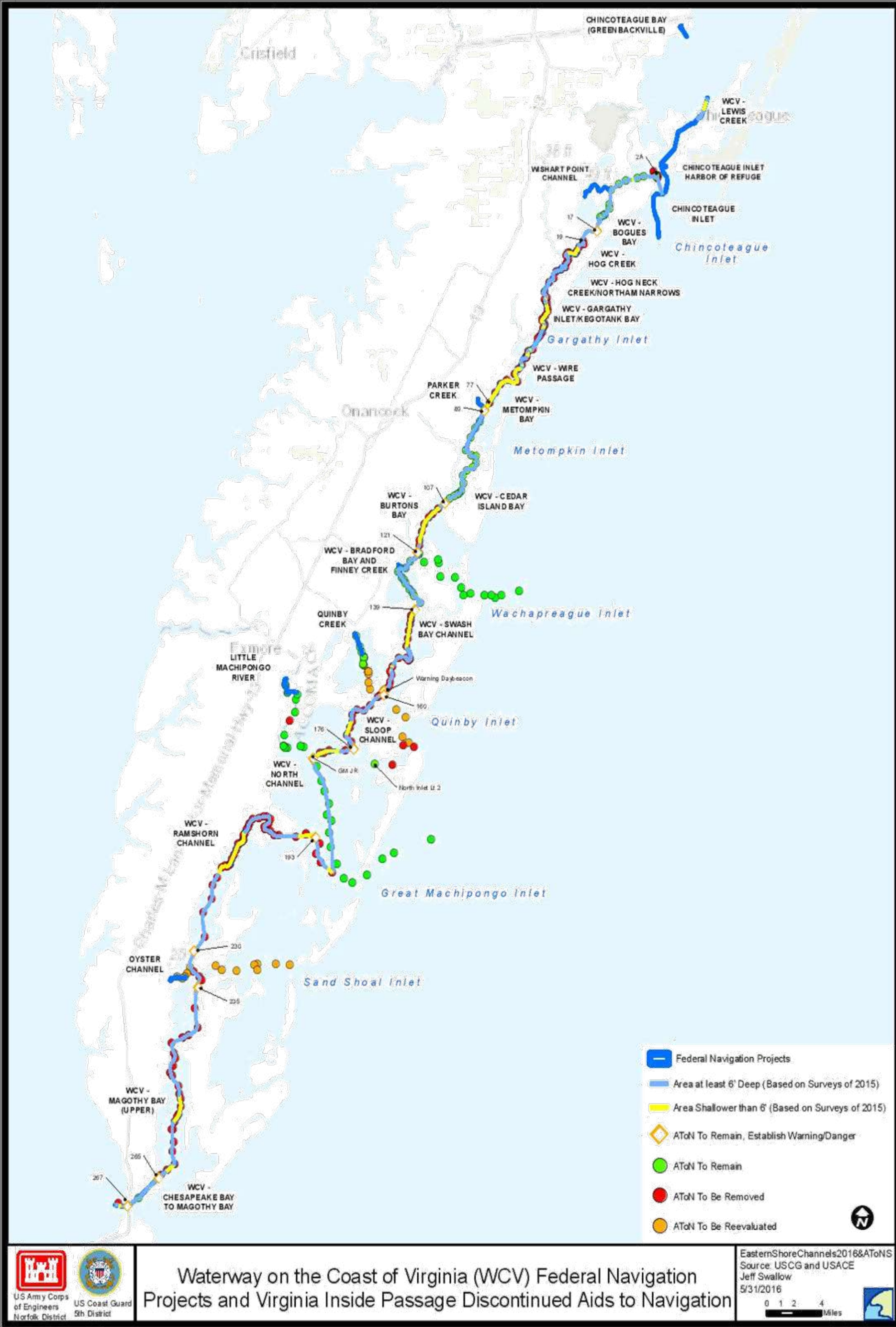


Figure 3: USCG AtoN Removal Plans Mapped

III. Results

The following sections summarize the findings of the Regional Dredging Needs Assessment and are organized by waterway maintenance responsibility:

- Federal Waterways
- Federal WCV
- Non-Federal Waterways

Federal Waterways

The summary table that follows (**Table 1**) contains data important to assessing the condition of the waterway and will be useful for supporting a dredging prioritization process. The last two columns provide the status of the project permits. These permits are required before any funded project can be serviced; however, they are not sought after until funding is confirmed. Therefore, the process of obtaining the relevant permits can often slow down progress towards project completion significantly. Historically, dredging projects were required to have active VMRC and Virginia Water Protection (VWP) (also known as DEQ-401) permits, with some also requiring [Local Wetlands Board](#) (LWB) permits, all of which can be applied through a [Standard Joint Permit Application](#). Only two of the federal projects, Guilford Creek and Bogues Bay, require LWB Permits, which expired in 2000 and 2006 respectively. As of October 2015, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) does not require the USACE to obtain VWP permits to meet the section 401 water quality certification requirement for dredging projects. If a project's VDEQ permit is active, the project will continue to operate under the permit until its expiration. If a project's VDEQ permit is expired, the section 401 water quality requirement is to be met through the coordination of the Coastal Zone Management Act's (CZMA) Federal Consistency Determination (FCD).

Two-thirds of all federal channels have one or more of their required permits set to expire in the next year (by November of 2017). Projects for which the USACE has no permit data available were assumed to have no active permits. Of the 17 federal, non-WVC waterways, 12 are currently in need of permit work. Of the 15 federal WCV waterways, 9 are currently in need of permit work. None of the non-federal waterways had active permits at the time of the assessment.

The following descriptions include the USACE project name, authorization, project code, and status. The USACE project code was included, so that users of this report can easily find and request data concerning the federally designated waterways, but this code is primarily for access to data on the Electronic Survey Distribution System (ESDS) at <http://gis.nao.usace.army.mil/ESDS>, and often does not directly correlate to the project permits or other USACE project data. The first paragraphs consist of the USACE provided description and direct information from the [United States Coast Pilot](#). The following paragraphs and tables provide historic dredging and economic value, primarily sourced from the [Eastern Shore of Virginia Seaside Commercial Use Assessment Report](#) of May, 2015 and from VMRC data. Projects are in alphabetical order within the section and all of the WCV are together in the unique section that follows.

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Table 1: Federal Channel Summary Table (17 listed north to south, first seaside then bayside; 32 total, 15 WCV in the next section)

Project Name	Project Code	Last Year Dredged	Avg. Req. Dredging Cycle (Years) *****	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Authorized	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to MLW) [Survey Date]	Removal of USCG Aton?	Y/N/M/NA*	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 WVP Permit Exp. Date/FCD **
Chincoteague Bay (Greenbackville)	CB_01_CBC	2013	6	60	0.8	5		Most < 6 ft, entrance < 5 ft [10/27/2014]	N	NR	May '17/	-
Chincoteague Inlet Harbor of Refuge	CH_01_CHR	2013	7	60	0.05	8		[4/8/2016] < 5 ft in places; < 3 ft near some slips FY16&17 funded	NA	NR	June '19/	-
Chincoteague Inlet - Outer Channel	CH_01_CHI	2009***	1	200	1.2	12		No part of channel < 9 ft [6/10/2015] FY16&17 funded	N	Feb '20	Jan '19/	-
Chincoteague Inner Channel	CH_01_CHI	2009***	1	100	6.4	9		No part of channel < 9 ft [6/10/2015]	N	Apr '17	June '19/	May '97
Wishart Point Channel	H-51-11-066 *	1971***	Unknown	60	2.0	6		No Survey	NA	-	-	-

Project Name	Project Code	Last Year Dredged	Avg. Req. Dredging Cycle (years) *****	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to MLW) [Survey Date]	Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA *	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 VWP Permit Exp. Date/FCD **
Parker Creek	H_51_27_038	1998****	10	40	1.5	5	Many shoaled locations < 1 ft [11/2012]	NA	Dec '06	Dec '05/ -
Quinby Creek	QB_01_QBY	2016	3				All < 2 ft, much < 1 ft [8/6/2014] Dredging to be done in October, 2016	N	June '19	June '18/ -
Entrance Channel				80	1	8	-			
Creek Channel				60	0.1	8	-			
Turning Basin				200	0.1	8	-			
Little Machipongo River	LM_01_LMR	1988****	NA	80	1.5	8	All portions > 10ft [10/22/2014]	N	NR	Mar '95/ -
Oyster Channel	OY_01_OYS	2008****	4-6	80	0.8	6	Much of channel < 3 ft; center of harbor ≈ 5 ft [7/21/2016] {Much of channel < 4 ft; center of harbor < 6 ft [5/5/2015]}	M	NR	June '07/ Mar '79

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

2016

Project Name	Project Code	Last Year Dredged	Avg. Req. Dredging Cycle (Years) *****	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Authorized	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to MLW) [Survey Date]	Removal of USCG Aton?	Y/N/M/NA*	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 WVP Permit Exp. Date/FCD**
Starling Creek (Saxis)	SC_01_STC	2015	5					After dredge, all > 7 ft [8/18/2015]	N		Oct '19	NR/ Dec '87
Channel to Harbor of Refuge				60	0.5	7		-				
Entrance Channel				60	0.4	7		-				
Tangier Channels	TN_01_TNC	2014, 2018**	3-6					[5/21/2014] FY17 funded	N		Apr '17	Sept '22/ Aug '11
Channel to Sound				60	0.9	8		6 ft to 9 ft				
Entrance Channel				100	0.3	8		Narrow from Mailboat Harbor to Fishermen's Corner				
To Chesapeake Bay				60	0.7	7		Channel shifted, places down to ~ 6 ft				
Guilford Creek	GF_01_GFD	1997*** *	Increase					About half < 5 ft; all < 4 ft [4/11/2015]	N		Sept '99	Mar '05/ Dec '98

Project Name	Project Code	Last Year Dredged			Avg. Req. Dredging Cycle (years) *****			USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to MLW) [Survey Date]			USACE Authorized			Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA*			VMRC Permit Exp. Date**			VDEQ-401 VWP Permit Exp. Date/FCD **		
		Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)																		
Deep Creek	DC_01_DCA	1957**** *	Increase																			
Channel																						
Turning Basin																						
Chesconessex Creek	Inactive	1967**** *	Un-known																			
Onancock Creek	ON_01_ON C	2010 & 2014	Un-known																			
Anchorage Basin at Mouth of Titlow Creek																						
Basin in North Branch																						
Channel from Mouth to Onancock																						

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

2016

Project Name	Project Code	Last Year Dredged	Avg. Req. Dredging Cycle (Years) *****	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Authorized	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to MLW) [Survey Date]	Removal of USCG Aton?	Y/N/M/NA*	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 WVP Permit Exp. Date/FCD**
Channel in Joynes Branch				100	0.1	6		Most about 5.5 ft				
Channel in North Branch				100	0.2	12		Some between 9 & 10 ft				
Turning Basin at Onancock				0.7 acres	0	12		-				
Nandua Creek	ND_01_NDC	2002	See Section	60	1.3	6		Most between 7 & 12 ft, few places about 6.5 ft [10/28/14]	N		Nov '07	June '08/ Jan '98
Occohannock Creek	Unknown	Un- known	Un- known	100	1.0	9		Majority of channel ≥5 ft, areas up to 26 ft (Navionics®); Although authorized to 9 ft deep and 100 ft wide, the original project was only dredged to 6 ft deep and 60 ft wide.	N		-	-

Project Name	Project Code	Last Year Dredged		Avg. Req. Dredging Cycle (years) *****		Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to MLW) [Survey Date]	Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA *	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 VWP Permit Exp. Date/FCD **
Cape Charles City Harbor	CC_01_CCH	1987; 2015							After dredge, most > 18 ft [10/28/2015]	N	Oct '17	Jan '30/ Sep '14
Cherrystone Bar						500	2.8	18	This area about 11 ft			
City Harbor						400-1000	0.6	18	-			
Entrance to Harbor of Refuge						60	0.1	7	-			
Harbor of Refuge						200-250	0.1	7	-			
Mud Creek						100-180	0.1	10	-			

* NA means that there are currently no AtoNs.

** NR means not required. Wetlands Permits are only required for Guilford Creek and Bognes Bay. As of Oct. 2015, once the VDEQ-401 expires, it will not be required and the project will operate under the CZMA Federal Consistency Determination (FCD).

*** Data uncertainty.

*** Only recorded maintenance.

***** The average required dredging cycle is an observation from analyzing dredging data. The actual dredging requirements can vary depending upon weather events, construction and land use in adjacent areas, new infrastructure such as jetties, etc.

CAPE CHARLES CITY HARBOR

Deep > 14' CC_01_CCH ACTIVE

The Cherrystone Bar, Inlet Channel-and Harbor, and the Mud Creek Channel and Basin were authorized by the river and Harbor Act of September 19, 1890 and modified by the River and Harbor Acts of 1938, 1945 and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. The harbor of refuge was approved by the Chief of Engineers under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of July 14, 1960.

The USACE provided the following description. A channel 18 feet deep and 500 feet wide from the 18-foot contour in Chesapeake Bay, through Cherrystone Bar and Inlet, to the harbor entrance; basin in the harbor 18 feet deep, 1,000 feet to 400 feet wide and 3,000 feet long; a channel 10 feet deep and flaring from 100 feet to 180 feet wide and 260 feet long, to a basin 10 feet deep, 180 feet wide and 420 feet long at the head of Mud Creek; a harbor of refuge on the north side of Mud Creek 7 feet deep, 200 to 250 feet wide, and 375 feet long, connected to Mud Creek by an entrance channel 7 feet deep and 60 feet wide. All depths refer to mean low water.

In early 2015, the inner and outer harbor were dredged and the sand portion of the spoil was used to nourish the Town beach. The federal channel was dredged Labor Day weekend of 2016 and the sand portion of the spoil used to nourish the Town's public beach. The long-term intention is to add dunes on the northern end of the beach and perhaps be built higher from the sand fences (Cape Charles Code Official, personal communication, June 8, 2016).

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
Channel & Harbor		
1945	Unknown	Unknown
1966	62,463	Unknown
1967	336,95	Unknown
1987	479,608	Unknown
2016	596,589	Unknown
2017	Scheduled	Unknown
Mud Creek Basin		
1959	13,672	Unknown
1961	985	Unknown
1963	1,660*	Unknown
1964	1,830*	Unknown
1965	1,150*	Unknown
1967	3,553	Unknown
1987	9,540	Unknown
2015/16	Unknown	Unknown

Harbor of Refuge		
1967 (new work)	96,725	Unknown

*Pre-dredging quantity, after dredging estimate not completed.

CHESCONESSEX CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' No Survey Data INACTIVE

The project was approved by the Chief of Engineers under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 14 July 1960. A channel 6 feet deep and 60 feet wide from the mouth of the creek 3.2 miles into Chesconessex Creek; an access channel 50 feet wide and 6 feet deep from that depth in Chesconessex Creek to a turning basin of the same depth, 50 feet wide and 150 feet long, opposite the public landing on the north shore of the creek; an access channel 50 feet wide and 6 feet deep from that depth in Chesconessex Creek to a turning basin of the same depth, 100 feet wide and 250 feet long opposite the public landing on the south shore.

There is no survey data for this project, as it is inactive.

There are two County-maintained public facilities on the creek including a boat ramp with parking at the end of Southside Rd. (Rt. 649) on the south side of the Creek and a truckable timber pier and crab shacks on the northern side of the Creek at the end of Rt. 656 that are active and provide commercial and recreational access to the Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. There are also VMRC leased oyster grounds near the public boat ramp and the mouth of the Creek.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1967 (new work)	31,075	Unknown

CHINCOTEAGUE BAY GREENBACKVILLE

Shallow ≤ 14' CB_01_CBC ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 26 August 1937. An approach channel 5 feet deep and 60 feet wide from that depth in Chincoteague Bay to an L-shaped harbor of the same depth, 60 feet wide and 1500 feet long at Greenbackville, Va. The total length is approximately 4200 feet. All depths refer to mean low water.

Historically, this area is dredged about every 6 years. In the past couple of decades, this area is dredged at the same time as the Chincoteague Harbor of Refuge, which is an efficient use of the dredge and fuel. The ESRNWC is actively seeking FY2017 or FY2018 funding to have the USACE dredge this project in the near future, hopefully prior to the May 2017 expiration of the DEQ-401-Permit, as there has not been an FCD completed for this waterway.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1961	31,730	Unknown
1967	22,722	Unknown
1973	42,230	Unknown
1983	23,076	\$129,427.96
1991	8,000	\$8,300.00
1997	Unknown	Unknown
2002	Unknown	Unknown
2006	11,422	\$126,832.00
2009	Unknown	Unknown
2013	13,353	\$234,864.51

CHINCOTEAGUE HARBOR OF REFUGE

Shallow ≤ 14' CH_01_CHR ACTIVE

The project was approved by the Chief of Engineers under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960. A channel 8 feet deep and 60 feet wide from "The Canal" to and including a basin of the same depth, 235 feet wide and 650 feet long. All depths refer to mean low water.

On average, this harbor has been dredged about every 6 years. As the cost of dredging is much lower with higher frequency, as this is the only harbor of refuge on the seaside of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and as it is in such close proximity to several other recreationally, commercially, and economically-important dredge project areas, this area should be maintained at least every 6 years as it has been for the last two decades.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1962 (new work)	109,260	Unknown
1973	Unknown	Unknown
1985	27,505	\$94,087.00
1991	10,700	\$77,200.00
1997	Unknown	Unknown
2003	11,900	Unknown
2007	1,885	\$58,770.00
2009	Unknown	Unknown
2013	5,558	\$48,196.70

CHINCOTEAGUE INLET

Shallow ≤ 14' CH_01_CHI ACTIVE

The project was approved by the Chief of Engineers during 1972 under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960. A channel 12 feet deep and 150 feet wide across the Ocean Bar in the Atlantic Ocean to the mouth of the Inlet; thence, a channel 9 feet deep and 100 feet wide from the Inlet through the "Canal" and thence along Chincoteague Channel to a point approximately 2000 feet north of the State Highway bridge to Chincoteague; a distance of approximately 6.9 miles. All depths refer to mean low water.

Historically, this channel has been dredged annually since the original dredging in 1971. However, when the scheduled FY2016 work begins there will not have been a full dredge event since 2009. Although the USACE Dredge Currituck has dredged portions of the project to take down certain shoals over the last seven years (J. Swallow, USACE, personal communication, July 7, 2016), the upcoming maintenance is anticipated to remove more cubic yards than previous years and come at a higher cost.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1971 (new work)	40,500	Unknown
1973-1974	127,295	Unknown
1974	48,500	Unknown
1974	78,795	Unknown
1975	86,290	Unknown
1976	86,290	Unknown
1978	45,783	Unknown
1978	65,808	Unknown
1979-1980	111,393	Unknown
1980 (August)	54,855	Unknown
1980 (February)	93,880	Unknown
1981	111,758	Unknown
1982	118,450	\$534,500.00
1983	100,390	\$638,544.00
1984	186,084	\$1,094,028.19
1985	182,216	\$839,116.58
1987	266,957	Unknown
1988	121,184	\$580,457.76
1990	123,037	Unknown
1991	99,000	\$467,800.00
1992	80,000	\$665,000.00
1992 (Inner)	45,000	\$280,000.00
1993	148,000	\$945,000.00
1994	123,300	\$673,000.00
1995	120,800	\$958,200.00
1996	Unknown	Unknown

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1997	Unknown	Unknown
1998	73,000	\$860,400.00
2002	72,592	\$348,64.80
2003-2004	Unknown	592,500.00
2005	12,500	Unknown
2006	70,000	Unknown
2007	Unknown	Unknown
2008	63,800	Unknown
2009	Unknown	Unknown
2016	Scheduled	TBD

DEEP CREEK (ACCOMACK CO.)

Shallow ≤ 14' DC_01_DCA ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 3 September 1954. A channel 7 feet deep and 75 feet wide from that depth in Pocomoke Sound to and including a turning basin of the same depth, 200 feet wide and 300 feet long opposite the terminal facilities at the town of Deep Creek, a distance of approximately 2.4 miles. All depths refer to mean low water.

The survey results from the *2013 Transient and Working Waterfront Inventory Needs Assessment* (TWWINA) indicated that water depth at both the access channel and in the marina and boatyard slips is less than one foot at mean low water. According to the October 2015 USACE survey map, the northern part of the creek channel is sufficiently deep, but as one approaches the turning basin, the depth decreases, and at the basin is often below 2 feet at mean low water. This is a critical location on the bayside for fishing net repair (2013 TWWINA). USACE records indicate that since the original work almost 60 years ago, Deep Creek has not had any dredging maintenance. Due to the worsening conditions here, dredging should be considered in the near future.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1957 (new work)	138,207	Unknown

GUILFORD CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' GF_01_GFD ACTIVE

The project was approved during 1997 by the Chief of Engineers under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended. A channel 6 feet deep and 60 feet wide over a length of about 1 mile, from Beasley Bay into Guilford Creek, including a turning basin 6 feet deep and 100 feet

square; a rock groin approximately 140 feet in length at the dredged material placement site at Guard Shore. All depths referred to mean low water.

The March 2016 USACE Survey map shows significant areas on the north side of the Guilford Creek channel, on both the north and south of the turning basin, and directly adjacent to the New Rd. docks, all with depths of less than 3 feet at mean low water.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1997	Unreported	Unknown

LITTLE MACHIPONGO RIVER

Shallow ≤ 14' LM_01_LMR ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 3 July 1930 and modified in 1989 under Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960. A channel 8 feet deep at mean low water and 80 feet wide from the town of Willis Wharf to deep water in the river below and a turning basin adjacent to the channel.

Willis Wharf, on the west bank of Parting Creek 1 mile above the junction with Machipongo River, is a hub for the shellfish and fishing industries. Willis Wharf is the location of both Cherrystone Aqua-Farms and H.M. Terry Company, which provide significant employment and are economically-important aquaculture companies. A County-owned boat ramp, kayak launch, and a marine railway capable of handling craft up to 60 feet are available. Additionally, the County owns a boat harbor on the west side of Parting Creek. The harbor offers about 41 slips for commercial fishing boats, about 30 of which are available for rent seasonally. The harbor has electricity, water and a launching ramp. This location is the only location on the seaside that has facilities that offer net repair. (2013 TWWINA, 2015 SCUAR)

According to USACE records, this area has not been maintained since 1988. In 2013, the TWWINA surveys indicated that at mean low water there was only a 3 foot water depth for portions of the access channel. The 2014 USACE survey maps reveal the area just south east of the public ramp and harbor has shoaled depths that restrict the safe passage of vessels through much of the tidal cycle. Due to the economic value of this area, it is important to make sure that safe and efficient access to the harbor and commercial working waterfront is maintained.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1948	16,108	Unknown
1972	20,728	Unknown
1987	38,087	\$246,297.00
1988 (new work, basin)	36,650	\$182,579.60

NANDUA CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' ND_01_NDC ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 3 June 1896 and modified by the River and Harbor Act of 3 July 1930. A channel 100 feet wide and 9 feet deep at mean low water across the bar at the mouth of Nandua Creek. A traffic survey revealed that the maintenance of a 100-foot wide, 9-foot deep channel is not justified at this time. A 60-foot wide, 6-foot deep channel will be maintained until traffic indicates the need for a change.

The 1931 dredging was not necessary due to natural scour. Although the inlet to Nandua Creek hasn't been dredged since 2002, the channel maintains a depth of 7 feet or greater at mean low water according to the October 2014 USACE survey maps. There is one area on the northwest portion of the channel, west of Milbys Point and east of red marker number 6, where there is some shoaling beginning to move into the channel. It is possible that this could cause an issue, but the majority of the channel provided ample depth for small vessel navigation as of 2014.

There are commercial operations located on the creek and significant recreational use that are dependent on navigable access.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1998	21,000	\$139,100.00
2002	21,281	\$110,181.00

OCCOHANNOCK CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' Not on ESDS ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 3 July 1930, and modified by the River and Harbor Act of 2 March 1945. A channel 9 feet deep and 100 feet wide from that depth in Chesapeake Bay upstream 1.0 mile. A traffic survey revealed that the maintenance of a 100-foot wide, 9-foot deep channel is not justified at this time. A 60-foot wide, 6-foot deep channel will be maintained until traffic indicates the need for a change. The USACE has no data available for this waterway.

Occohannock Creek flows into the Chesapeake Bay and is located 18 miles northward of Cape Charles Harbor. A fixed bridge 5.4 miles above the entrance is the head of navigation. The channel over the bar to the entrance of the creek has a Federal project depth of 9 feet and a width of 100 ft. Inside the creek, depths of about 5 feet can be carried to Morley Wharf on the south side 4 miles above the entrance, with lesser depths to the fixed bridge. The channel over the bar of Occohannock Creek is marked by lights and daybeacons, but it is narrow and tortuous, and difficult to navigate without local knowledge. The channel within the creek also is narrow, but the ends of the shoals are marked by daybeacons all the way to Morley Wharf. A public pier and boat ramp are at Morley Wharf. Gasoline, hull and engine

repairs, a 25-ton travel lift, and limited marine supplied are available at Davis Wharf, on the north side of the creek. (NOAA, BookletChart 12226)

There are many active VMRC oyster ground leases and a large public Baylor grounds area within the creek.

The 2013 TWWINA survey respondents indicated that there was at least 5 feet of water depth at mean low water both in the slips of Davis Wharf and in the access channel, indicating that shoaling is probably not an issue in Occohannock Creek. In 2013 there was a comment on the survey for the TWWINA pointing out that red Marker #3 needed to be moved since it was no longer at the channel, but this is outside of the creek.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1932	Unknown	Unknown
1942	Unknown	Unknown

ONANCOCK RIVER

Shallow ≤ 14' ON_01_ONC ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 3 March 1925 and modified by the River and Harbor Acts of 26 August 1937 and 2 March 1945. A channel 200 feet wide and 12 feet deep across Onancock Bar, thence a minimum width of 100 feet to a point roughly 1,200 feet above the mouth of the North Branch, widened at the upper end to form a turning basin 200 feet square. A turning basin of about 2.3 acres and 12 feet deep at Onancock. A channel 6 feet deep and 100 feet wide in the lower 500 feet of Joynes Branch and an anchor-age basin 6 feet deep and 3.9 acres in area at the mouth of Titlow Creek. All depths refer to mean low water.

Although the Onancock River, or Creek, has not had a full channel dredge completed by the USACE since 1963. The USACE Currituck dredged from July 23 to August 2010. After hurricane Sandy, the Dredge Murden returned for work on the Creek from April 25 to May 8, 2014. The depth in the channel is 12 feet or greater at mean low water according to the September 2014 USACE survey maps.

The waterway receives relatively heavy recreational and commercial use and also serves as a critical industrial access point for the transportation of gravel to the region.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1963	195,824	Unknown
2010	9,634 from channel, 15,738 total	Approx. \$158,000
2014	Unknown	Unknown

OYSTER CHANNEL

Shallow ≤ 14' OY_01_OYS ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 2 March 1945 and modified by the River and Harbor Act of 3 September 1954. A channel 1.0 mile long, 6 feet deep at mean low water and 80 feet wide from deep water in Liscombes Channel to and including a turning basin of the same depth, 1,100 feet long and approximately 8 acres in area at Oyster, Virginia.

The USACE July 2016 Survey map shows that at mean low tide, there is about a 5-foot water depth in the harbor, and less than 3 feet of water depth in the access channel, which leads to Liscombes Channel. This is almost a foot less water depth in just over a year, as the May 2015 Survey map showed that at mean low tide, there was about a 6-foot water depth in the harbor, and at least 3 feet of water depth in the access channel. Although the Oyster Public Harbor doesn't offer transient boating facilities, it is one of only a few facilities available on the southern portion of the Shore, and 100 percent of the seasonal slips are occupied by commercial users to supply the various seafood processors in Oyster.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1948	Unknown	Unknown
1956	46,280	Unknown
1957	129,390	Unknown
1961	81,460	Unknown
1968	11,389	Unknown
1971	48,174	Unknown
1984	57,447	\$264,042.00
1991	46,100	\$341,800.00
1998	26,000	\$120,700.00
2002	26,127	\$93,127.00
2008	30,440	\$168,382.80

PARKER CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' H_51_27_038 ACTIVE

The project was approved by the Chief of Engineers under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960. A channel 5 feet deep and 40 feet wide from that depth in Metompkin Bay into Parker Creek, a distance of approximately one half mile. All depths refer to mean low water.

Prior to 1993, this creek was dredged with regularity, however, it has not been dredged since that time. According to the 2012 survey there are many spots with less than 3 feet of water at mean low water. Some places appear to have no water at mean low water. Parkers Creek Landing, a public concrete boat ramp with parking, is located at the end of Fox Grove Road (Rt. 666).

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1964	45,125	Unknown
1974	52,602	Unknown
1986	50,805	Unknown
1991	29,000	\$271,600.00
1993	31,000	\$353,000.00
1998	Unknown	Unknown (Cottrell Contracting Corp.)
2005	Surveyed	Unknown
2012	Surveyed	Unknown

QUINBY CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' QB_01_QBY ACTIVE

The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 17 May 1950. A channel 8 feet deep and 80 feet wide from that depth in Upshur Bay to within approximately 600 feet of Quinby Landing, thence 60 feet wide to Quinby Landing, a total of 6,900 feet; and a mooring and turning basin at the head of the 60-foot channel and opposite the terminal landing, 8 feet deep, 200 feet wide and 400 feet long. All depths refer to mean low water.

The frequency with which this channel is being dredged has declined over the last 3 decades, unless there is some missing USACE data. Regular dredging is required to ensure safe entry to the harbor, which can accommodate 80 vessels, 60% of which are estimated to be commercial vessels (2013 TWWINA). The TWWINA surveys indicated that at mean low water there was only 3 feet water depth for portions of both the slips and the access channel. More recent discussions with users indicated that there was less than 1-foot water depth in portions of the access channel at low tide. The federal channel is scheduled for dredging in October of 2016.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1982	95,034	\$191,367.00
1986	84,302	\$253,532.50
1991	73,900	\$311,600.00
1995	43,300	\$268,500.00
2004	65,200	Unknown
2007	65,194	\$236,631.56
2016	Scheduled	

STARLING CREEK

Shallow ≤ 14' SC_01_STC ACTIVE

The entrance channel and turning basin were authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 30 August 1935. The harbor of refuge was approved by the Chief of Engineers under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 14 July 1960. A channel 7 feet deep and 60 feet wide from that depth in Pocomoke Sound to the mouth of Starlings Creek; a turning basin of the same depth, 100 feet wide and approximately 1,100 feet long inside the entrance; and a channel 60 feet wide connecting the turning basin with a harbor of refuge, 7 feet deep, 200 feet wide, and 500 feet long. All depths referred to mean low water.

Since the Harbor of Refuge was dredged in 1965, Starling Creek has been maintained about every 5 years. There is a USACE data gap from 1979 to 1991, but based on the amount of spoil removed, it is thought that there was unrecorded dredging during this time.

The significant increase in the costs associated with dredging is easily recognized in the table below. In 1991 almost the same amount of spoil was removed, but the associated cost almost doubled.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1961	49,300	Unknown
1965 (new work, Harbor of Refuge)	93,432	Unknown
1966	57,584	Unknown
1970	72,288	Unknown
1974	73,894	Unknown
1979	74,520	Unknown
?	Unknown	Unknown
1991	78,300	\$340,200.00
1996	Unknown	Unknown
2001	Unknown	Unknown
2005	-	-
2015 (Sandy)	82,500	\$689,484.40

TANGIER CHANNELS

Shallow ≤ 14' TN_01_TNC ACTIVE

The channel was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 2 March 1919 and modified by the P.W.A. Acts of 3 January 1934 and 30 August 1935 and River and Harbor Act of 2 March 1945. In 1964, under Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 14 July 1960, the project was modified to provide a channel from the basin through Tangier Creek westward to the Chesapeake Bay. A channel 8 feet deep, 100 feet

wide, and 1,300 feet long in Tangier Sound; thence 8 feet deep, 60 feet wide, and 4,800 feet long to an anchorage basin 400 feet square and 7 feet deep adjacent to the town of Tangier, Virginia. All depths referred to mean low water.

Historically the channels have been dredged every 2 to 3 years, however, the frequency has been declining. As the major means of transportation for goods, services, and residents is via water, it is imperative that the channels be dredged with sufficient frequency to provide safe and effective transportation regardless of the tide. According to the May 2014 USACE Survey maps, the majority of the channel system has a water depth of over 8 feet at mean low water.

The channels create an estimated \$140,000 in benefits each year. Since construction in 1967, it has provided over \$3 million in transportation savings, increased crab production, and provided access to a harbor of refuge. In addition, Tangier is a unique and historic geography, which was named to the Virginia Register of Historic Places in 2015 (USACE, <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/TangierNav/>). Tangier was also one of only 4 locations surveyed in the region where facilities that provide hull and motor repairs exist (2013 TWWINA).

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
Channel to Tangier Sound		
1957	51,508	Unknown
1959	49,000	Unknown
1963	77,222	Unknown
1965-1966	99,920	Unknown
1969	91,920	Unknown
1972	92,170	Unknown
1974	122,789	Unknown
1977	117,146	Unknown
1980	71,898	\$209,032.12
1982	79,041	\$316,680.95 TOTAL
1985	Portion of 108,041	\$469,099.82 TOTAL
1988	81,040 9,346 of this was Wachapreague Channel	\$337,249.90 TOTAL \$23,688.00 of this was Wachapreague Channel
1991	69,479	\$394,000.00 TOTAL
2000	Unknown	Unknown
2005	49,800	Unknown
2018 (Sandy)	est. 55,000	est. \$991,500.00 TOTAL

Channel to Chesapeake Bay		
1966 (new work)	99,920	Unknown
1969	12,235	Unknown
1977	31,491	Unknown
1982	19,000	\$316,680.95 TOTAL
1985	Portion of 108,041	\$469,099.82 TOTAL
1988	10,803	\$337,249.90 TOTAL
1991	10,325	\$394,000.00 TOTAL
2000	Unknown	Unknown
2006	24,900	Unknown
2009	49,768	\$487,018.44
2010	24,904	\$357,187.55
2015	56,353	\$0.00 bid: \$1,063,528.06
2018 (Sandy)	Scheduled est. 55,000	est. \$991,500.00 TOTAL

WISHART POINT CHANNEL

Shallow ≤ 14' H-51-11-066 ACTIVE

The channel was authorized under Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 14 July 1960. The channel runs from the WCV at the Four Mouths through Ballast Narrows and across Powell's Bay to Wishart Point, approximately 2.0 miles in length.

This project area is not surveyed frequently. USACE Electronic Survey Distribution System (ESDS) data from 2006 is most current, but is inaccessible on the ESDS. Efforts to have the channel dredged from about 1995 to 2010 were unsuccessful. According to [Navionics](#), there is a depth of 5 feet above MLW at and in the channel approaching Wishart Point. The ramp at Wisharts Point is not in a usable condition and the ownership of the property is in an indeterminate state. Funds to complete facility repairs were never granted from VMRC's Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund, as the channel was never dredged to make the project viable.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
1971 (new work)	13,101	Unknown

WATERWAY ON THE COAST OF VIRGINIA (WCV)

Shallow ≤ 14' All Shoals listed Below ACTIVE

The project was authorized during 1970 under Section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965. That portion of the project located within Virginia is a modification of a previous project designated: Waterway on the Coast of Virginia. The Waterway on the Coast of Virginia project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 25 June 1910 and modified by the River and Harbor Act of 2 March 1945.

DELAWARE BAY - CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERWAY, DE, MD, VA (VA PORTION) - A channel in Virginia 6 feet deep and 100 feet wide from the Maryland-Virginia line in Chincoteague Bay to Chesapeake Bay, being a portion of the 145 mile channel from Delaware Bay at Roosevelt Inlet, Delaware, to Chesapeake Bay, Virginia. All depths referred to mean low water. Construction of the previous project was completed in 1959 and provides a channel 6 feet deep and 60 feet wide from Chincoteague Bay to Chesapeake Bay, a distance of 87 miles.

Before 2000, the USACE did not maintain comprehensive records of which sections of the WCV were dredged, but rather that dredging for some portion of the WCV was funded. The data in **Table 2** therefore, may be incomplete or even inaccurate. The “Last Year Dredged” provided in **Table 2** was based on the information in **Table 3** and the frequency of dredging prior to 1994 from the 1994 VIMS Report. All information provided for dredging which occurred prior to 1978 are based on card catalog references from USACE Surveys that stated “After Dredging” in the description, and not actual dredging data. These card catalog references could be follow-up surveys to assess the continued success of the dredging project, rather than new dredging work, and so their accuracy is not confirmed. Almost all WCV project areas were surveyed in 2015 by USACE using Hurricane Sandy Disaster Funds. The data from the survey maps was used to provide the assessment for the WVC waterways as presented in the seventh column in **Table 2**.

With complete records indicating when these waterways were dredged, it is impossible to suggest a frequency with which maintenance should be completed.

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

Table 2: WCV Summary Table (15 total WCV projects, alphabetically-ordered)

Project Name	Project Code	Pre-1994 approximate dredging frequency *****	Last Year Dredged* ****	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to mean low water) [Survey Date]***	Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA *	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 VWP Permit Exp. Date/FCD **
Bogues Bay	WC_10_BOG		2008?	60	0.5	6	Okay, ≤ 4 ft at the entrance to Cat Creek [6/10/2014]	N	NR	Jan '14/ Aug '03
Bradford Bay (BB) and Wachapreague Channel (WC)	WC_50_BFC	7 years	2013 WC & 2014 BB	60	5.5	6	Okay, no portion < 6 ft [5/15/2016]	N	Nov - 17	Jan '28/ -
Cedar Island Bay (northeast of Teagles Ditch)	WC_40_CIB			60	0.2	6	Channel has rounded and shifted south/southeast [5/22/2015] (Might be included in the Burtons Bay Permit.)	N	- no info	- no info
Chesapeake Bay to Magothy Bay (see also Holly Bluff Island permit #87-1656 exp. '90/'97)	WC_80_CBM	5 years		60- 10 0	4.3	6	Multiple shoals: west side (≈ 3.5 ft), just east of NWR ramp (≈ 4 ft), most of Magothy Bay section (≈ 4 ft) [Jan/Feb 2015]	N	May '12	Oct '12 -
Gargathy Inlet	WC_25_GIK			60	1.5	6	Poor , channel shifted east at Gargathy Beach (≈ 2 ft), shoaled at north end of inlet to ≤ 0.5 ft [6/7/2015]	Y	Jan '09	Feb '14/ -

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

2016

Project Name	Project Code	Pre-1994 approximate dredging frequency *****	Last Year Dredged* ***	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to mean low water) [Survey Date]***	Removal of USCG AtON? Y/N/M/NA*	VLMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 WVP Permit Exp. Date/FCD**
Wire Passage (seems to be under Gargathy permits, more research by USACE needed)	WC_30_WIR			60	2.8	6	Poor , much of channel ≤ 3 ft, some exposed mud flats, closed completed at Metompkin Island [5/30/2014]	Y		
Kegotank Bay	WC_25_GIK	6 years		60	1.3	6	Poor , channel shifted east at Gargathy Beach (≈ 2 ft), shoaled at north end of inlet to ≤ 0.5 ft [6/7/2015]	Y	Mar 88	Mar '93/-
Hog Creek	WC_15_HOG	8 years		60	1	6	Poor , almost entire channel ≤ 4 ft, some areas ≤ 2 ft [6/10/2014]	Y	Apr '02	Dec '09/-
Northam Narrows (Hog Neck Creek)	WC_20_HNC	6 years				6	Okay, the channel has shifted in several spots in the northern half [6/9/2014]	Y	NR	Mar '93/-
Lewis Creek	WC_05_LEW			60	1.3	6	Okay, but northern section often ≤ 6 ft [4/1/2015]	N	Oct '02	Aug '07/-
Magothy Bay (Upper)	WC_75_MAG	4 years		60	1.7	6	Poor , much shoaled ≤ 4 ft, some ≤ 2.5 ft [6/29/2015]	Y	'12	Exp.
Metompkin Bay	WC_35_MET	6 years		60	5	6	Poor , entire channel north of Battle Point is ≤ 2 ft, in some places exposed mud flats, closed	Y	Apr '19	Aug '19/ May '85

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]** **2016**

Project Name	Project Code	Pre-1994 approximate dredging frequency *****	Last Year Dredged* ****	Width (ft)	Length (miles)	Depth (ft)	USACE Survey Results (all depths in reference to mean low water) [Survey Date]***	Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA *	VMRC Permit Exp. Date**	VDEQ-401 VWP Permit Exp. Date/FCD **
North Channel	WC_65_NCH	4 years		60	1.5	6	Poor , entire channel ≤ 2 ft [3/25/2015]	Y	June '19	May '18/ -
Ramshorn Channel	WC_70_RHC			60	2.3	6	Poor , almost entirely ≤ 2 ft [2/11/2015]	Y	June '19	Sept '19/ Sept '96
Sloop Channel	WC_60_SLP	4 years		60	1.2	6	Poor , almost entirely ≤ 2 ft [5/13/2015]	Y	June '19	May '18/ -
Swash Bay Channel	WC_55_SWH	5 years	1997?	60	2.7	6	Poor , almost entirely ≤ 2 ft [4/23/2015]	Y	Aug '02	Sept '02/ -

* NA means that there are currently no Atons.

** NR means not required. Wetlands Permits are not required for any of the WCV projects. As of Oct. 2015, once the VDEQ-401 expires, it will not be required and the project will operate under the CZMA Federal Consistency Determination (FCD).

*** Based on the 2014-2015 USACE Survey Maps.

**** Data is incomplete from USACE, see **WCV** section for explanation.

***** Data from Table 1. In the 1996 VIMS WCV Report.⁶

⁶ Priest, Walter I., et al., 1996. Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material from the Waterway on the Coast of Virginia. Special Report No. 330 in Applied Marine Science and Ocean Engineering VIMS.

Table 3: WCV Comprehensive Dredging List

Year	WCV Section (if reported)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost USD
1900	Oyster Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1932	Occohannock Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1937	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1942	Occohannock Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1943	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1948	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1954	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1955	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1956	Oyster Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1956	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	Burtions Bay (North and South)	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	Metompinkin Bay (South)	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	Bradford Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	Sloop Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	Oyster Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	Metompinkin Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1957	North Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1958	Chesapeake to Magothy	After Dredging	Survey*
1958	Bogues Bay (Hog Creek)	After Dredging	Survey*
1959	Bogues Bay (Hog Creek)	After Dredging	Survey*
1960	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1960	Chesapeake Bay to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1961	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1961	Oyster Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1962	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1962	Bradford Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1962	Sloop Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1962	Burtions Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1962	Metompinkin Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1963	North Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1963	Onancock River	After Dredging	Survey*
1963	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1964	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1965	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1966	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1966	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1966	Bradford Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1966	Metompinkin Bay	After Dredging	Survey*

Year	WCV Section (if reported)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost USD
1967	North Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1967	Sloop Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1967	Burtons Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1967	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1968	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1969	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1969	Burtons Bay (South)	After Dredging	Survey*
1970	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1970	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1971	Oyster Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1972	North Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1972	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1973	Metompinkin Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1973	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1973	Burtons Bay (North and South)	After Dredging	Survey*
1974	Sloop Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1974	Starlings Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1975	North Channel	After Dredging	Survey*
1976	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1977	Quinby Creek	After Dredging	Survey*
1977	Bradford Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1977	Chesapeake to Magothy Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1977	Burtons Bay	After Dredging	Survey*
1978	Bogues Bay WC_10_BOG	20,189	Unknown
1982	Unspecified	709,303	1,137,563.41
1983	Unspecified	639,968	90,922.65
1986	Metompinkin Bay/Parker Creek	476,172	\$605,56.06
1986	Unspecified	391,791	593,708.00
1987	Unspecified	197,818	337,409.61
1988	Bradford Bay & Finney Creek WC_50_BFC	8,555	Unknown
1988	Unspecified	98,860	345,579.22
1989	Unspecified	391,369	727,364.44
1990	Unspecified	160,300	527,122.60
1991	Unspecified	190,900	1,113,500.00
1991	Unspecified	40,000	2,300.00
1992	Lewis Creek	35,000	605,000.00
1992	TOTAL?	175,000	979,000.00
1993	Unspecified	220,000	1,341,000.00
1994	Unspecified	115,900	1,231,600.00

Year	WCV Section (if reported)	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost USD
1995	Unspecified	145,600	955,900.00
1996	Gargathy	Unknown	Unknown
1997	Swash Bay & <i>unknown</i>	Unknown	Unknown
1998	Chincoteague & <i>unknown</i>	156,000	\$995,000.00
2000	Unspecified	Unknown	Unknown
2001	Unspecified	Unknown	Unknown
2002	North, Sloop & Burton Bay	216,870	\$537,903.50
2003	WCV-IDIQ, Start in FY 2004	111,400	Unknown
2004	Bogues Bay	4,000	Unknown
2007	Unspecified	175,002	792,789.07
2008	Bogues Bay	1,500	190,982.50
2009	Magothy	Unknown	Unknown
2009	WW on the Coast of VA IDIQ	81,033	\$331,048.21
2013	Wachapreague Channel	29,107	773,765.41
2014	Bradford Bay	est. 82,000	est. \$1,122,500.00

*USACE records are incomplete, this is when 'after dredging' surveys were completed, which may indicate that dredging was done just prior to this date.

Non-Federal Channels, Creeks, and Waterways of Concern

The following descriptions include those waterways which were not designated as federal projects and thus must be funded using state, local, or alternative funding for completion. [Appendix B](#) supplies a list of all 41 non-federal channels, excluding the 12 WCV connecting waterways, considered using the decision-making process identified in [Figure 1](#).

The Chincoteague USCG Base and Kings Creek have previously been dredged by the USACE and were done as “work for others”. There are additional projects that the USACE may have been contracted to complete; however, records are lacking. The following paragraphs and tables provide historic dredging and economic value, primarily sourced from the [*Eastern Shore of Virginia Seaside Commercial Use Assessment Report*](#), personal communications, and from VMRC data, but due to gaps in historic data, some may be inaccurate or incomplete.

All of the descriptions for the state waters following **Table 5** have information from the [United States Coast Pilot](#) online resource hosted by NOAA, some have additional information supplied by members of the ESRNWC and local residents and stakeholders.

Because the non-federal channels are not eligible for federal funding, they are not required to have a FCD. However, they are required to have the VMRC permit with an approved dredge spoil placement site.

Table 4: Non-Federal Channel Summary Table (27, alphabetically ordered)

State Waterway Project Key		Name	Last Year Dredged	Water Depth (ft) (at MLW) *	Total Length (Approx. in miles)	Local Assessment / USACE Survey Results (for WCV projects)	Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA
SW01	Chincoteague USCG Station	2011		Min 5.5 Max		Needs dredging	NA
SW02	Eastern End of Federal Channel to Quinby Inlet	Never	6	49	4.8	Deep water	M
SW03	End of Oyster Channel to Sand Shoal Inlet	Never	12	64	7.5	Deep water	M

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

2016

State Waterway Project Key	Name	Last Year Dredged	Water Depth (ft) (at MLW) *	Total Length (Approx. in miles)	Local Assessment / USACE Survey Results (for WCV projects)	Removal of USCG Aton? Y/N/NA
SW04	Folly Creek-WCV project area (SW23)	Never		1.2	Deep water	NA
SW05	Gargathy Creek	Never		3.0	Deep water at least from Gargatha Landing to Inlet	NA
SW06	Great Machipongo Inlet & Channel	Never	15	66	Deep water, some shoaling near the ocean Inlet	N
SW07	Hungars Creek	Never	4	8	Good water in channel, shoals past Masden Gut	N
SW08	Hunting Creek	Never	1	9	Entering the Creek from Bagwell, the water shallows quickly to ≤ 4 ft	N
SW09	Kings Creek	2004	3	7	Narrow entrance channel,	N
SW10	Metompkin Inlet & Metompkin Inlet to WCV project area (SW23)	Never		1.3	Deep water	NA
SW11	Nassawadox Creek (& Church & Warehouse Creek)	2008 (300,000y ³)	1	2	Entrance to channel from Bay unmarked and in need of removal of hazards to navigation.	NA (removed previously)
SW12	Pungoteague Creek	Never	7	15	Good water in channel, shoals in the Bay near entrance to Creek	N
SW13	Red Bank Creek to Hog Island Bay	Never	1	6	Shallow, but nice ramp facility	Y
SW14	Wachapreague Channel (Finney Creek, in front of the Town & working waterfront)		7	11	Majority of channel deep water	NA

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

2016

State Waterway Project Key		Name	Last Year Dredged	Water Depth (ft) * (at MLW)	Total Length (Approx. in miles)	Local Assessment / USACE Survey Results (for WCV projects)	Removal of USCG AtoN? Y/N/M/NA	
SW15		Wachapreague Inlet to Day Marker 122	Never	15	40	4.0	Majority of channel deep water, but many areas of shoaling	N
SW16 (WC_12_B2H)		WCV - Bogues Bay To Hog Creek Connecting Waters	Never	6	15	2.3	Deep water, but 2 short areas ≤ 7 ft in southern section [7/1/2014]	Y
SW17 (WC_52_B2S)		WCV - Bradford Bay Channel To Swash Bay Channel Connecting Waters	Never	4	10	1.4	Shoals out as enters Swash Bay to ≤ 4 ft [5/15/2015]	N
SW18 (WC_48_B2B)		WCV - Burtons Bay Channel To Bradford Bay Channel Connecting Waters	Never	2	10	0.8	Narrow, shoaled out as enters Burtons Bay (≤ 3 ft) [5/51/2015]	Y
SW19 (WC_42_C2B)		WCV - Cedar Island Bay Channel To Burtons Bay Channel Connecting Waters (Teagles Ditch)	Never	6	10	0.5	Good (≥ 7 ft, most at ≤ 10 ft) [5/22/2015]	N
SW20 (WC_77_C2M)		WCV - Chesapeake Bay/Magothy Bay To Upper Magothy Bay Connecting Waters	Never	1	10	2.3	Majority of eastern side of channel shoaled to less than 2 ft, but channel could have shifted and there still be ample depth [3/7/2015]	Y
SW21 (WC_07_C2B)		WCV - Chincoteague Inlet To Bogues Bay Connecting Waters	Never	4	10	5.0	Okay, some shoaling east of Walker Point (≈ 3 ft) and east of Hammock Point (≈ 4 ft) [6/7/2015]	N
SW22 (WC_17_H2H)		WCV - Hog Neck Creek To Hog Creek Connecting Waters	Never	4	15	0.7	Most ≥ 6 ft, except small section at south end (approaching Northam	Y

**[EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
REGIONAL DREDGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT]**

2016

State Waterway Project Key	Name	Last Year Dredged	Water Depth (ft) (at MLW) *	Total Length (Approx. in miles)	Local Assessment / USACE Survey Results (for WCV projects)	Removal of USCG Atoll? Y/N/M/NA
SW23 (WC_38_M2C)	WCV - Metompkin Bay Channel To Cedar Island Bay Channel Connecting Waters	Never	4	3.0	Narrows), but very narrow [6/9/2014]	
SW24 (WC_68_R2N)	WCV - North Channel To Ramshorn Channel Connecting Waters	Never	2	11	Okay [6/1/2015]	N
SW25 (WC_62_S2N)	WCV - Sloop Channel To North Channel Connecting Waters	Never	2	1.8	Northern section in Hog Bay okay, but shoaled to ≤ 3 ft in Outlet Bay leading to Point Creek in 'The Ramshorn', which is also silted in to depths of ≤ 4 ft [3/19/2015]	Y-Hog Bay N-E to W to Ramshorn
SW26 (WC_58_S2S)	WCV - Swash Bay Channel To Sloop Channel Connecting Waters	Never	0	10	Okay, but shoals out as enters Hog Island Bay [5/4/2015]	Y
SW27 (WC_72_M2R)	WCV - Upper Magothy Bay To Ramshorn Connecting Waters (≈ 13 miles)	Never	0.5	12	Poor , almost entirely ≤ 3 ft [5/5/2015]	Y

*Min/Max depth for non-WCV waterways was derived from Navionics maps. If this data is not provided, then the Navionics maps were deemed unreliable and no local knowledge was obtained.

CHINCOTEAGUE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BASE

In 2007, this was a USACE “work for others” project and 10,500 cubic yards were removed.

Just over 10,000 cubic yards were removed at a cost of \$317,006.00 in 2011.

Fiscal Year (Federal)	Cubic Yards Remove	Cost
2007 “work for others”	10,500	Unknown
2011 “work for others”	10,347	\$317,006.00

FOLLY CREEK TO METOMPKIN INLET

On the seaside, this creek leads westward from the south end of Metompkin Bay and has a depth of 1 foot to the landing at its head, 3 miles above the mouth. A County launching ramp and a pier are on the south side of Folly Creek about 1 mile west of Light 87. Metompkin Inlet, the ocean entrance between Metompkin and Cedar Islands, is used by some small local fishing and oyster boats. The changeable entrance channel is unmarked and should not be entered without local knowledge (Coast Pilot).

This project area coincides with another state waterway project area, WCV - Metompkin Bay Channel to Cedar Island Bay Channel Connecting Waters. There are only AtoNs on the small segment that is part of this project area. Therefore, the Folly Creek to Metompkin Inlet project area includes the 1.3 miles from the Folly Creek Road County boat ramp facility to the junction with the WCV, and picks up an additional 1.2 miles from where the WCV turns south, northeast to Metompkin Inlet.

KINGS CREEK

About 1 mile northward of Cape Charles Harbor and eastward of Sandy Island, this Northampton County bayside creek has depths of 3.5 feet for 1 mile upstream. The shoal that extends out from the north side of the entrance bares at low water; a light marks the entrance. The creek is used extensively by fishermen and pleasure craft. Gasoline, diesel fuel, berths, and marine supplies are available at a marina just inside the entrance.

Sandy Island, former site of a factory, and which has now almost completely eroded away, is potentially a good spoil site (N 37° 17' 01" ; W76° 01' 29") (Granville Hogg, ESRNWC Member, personal communications, September 3, 2016).

Private funds enabled this waterway to be dredged in 2004, as did a permit from VMRC.

METOMPKIN INLET

On the seaside, this inlet is the ocean entrance between Metompkin Island and Cedar Island. The inlet is used by some small local fishing and oyster boats. The changeable entrance channel is unmarked and should not be entered without local knowledge.

GARGATHY CREEK

From Kegotank Landing (County, public) on the northern bank at the end of Kegotank Road (Rt. 681 near Modest Town), to Gargatha Landing (County, public) on the southern bank, the creek depth is unknown, but smaller recreational boats use the waterway regularly. From Gargathy Landing, there is deep water to Gargatha Inlet. The Inlet itself, was one navigated as part of the WCV, however, the constantly changing and shifting shoals of the inlet and the increasing breadth of the inlet, make it challenging to navigate safely to the Atlantic, but is used to navigate to Kegotank Bay to the north. Gargathy Creek provides access to the aquaculture beds in Gargathy Bay, fishing opportunities in the guts and bays, as well as access to Wire Passage which once connected to Metompkin Bay, but has now closed in due to the western migration of the island sands.

GREAT MACHIPONGO INLET AND CHANNEL

Great Machipongo Inlet leads between Hog Island and Cobb Island to Great Machipongo Channel. Shoals on either side of the entrance are marked by breakers at all times; the bar breaks only in heavy weather. The inlet is marked by buoys that are shifted in position with changing channel conditions (Coast Pilot).

Great Machipongo Channel extends northwestward through Hog Island Bay from the inlet to the mainland where it continues as Machipongo River. Willis Wharf on the west bank of Parting Creek 1 mile above the junction with Machipongo River, is a base for shellfish and fishing boats. A public launching ramp is available and a marine railway can handle craft up to 60 feet (Coast Pilot).

A County-owned boat harbor is just below Willis Wharf on the west side of Parting Creek. An area with about 41 slips available for commercial fishing boats. The harbor has electricity, water and a launching ramp (Coast Pilot).

USCG AtoNs mark this entire length and beyond into the Atlantic. These are not scheduled for removal.

HUNGARS CREEK

Hungars Creek and Mattawoman Creek have a common outlet to the Bay 8 miles northward of Cape Charles Harbor. Hungars Creek is marked by lights, daybeacons, and bush stakes, and Mattawoman Creek by bush stakes. Both creeks are difficult to follow without local knowledge (Coast Pilot).

Hungars Creek extends about 4 miles in a northeasterly direction to Bridgetown. Depths of 3 feet are available in the narrow entrance channel, marked by lights, thence decreasing to 1 foot to Bridgetown (Coast Pilot).

Mattawoman Creek extends about 2 miles in a southeasterly direction and has several branches at its head. The best approach is to follow the lights at the entrance of Hungars Creek to the light off Wilsonia Neck, then follow the bush stakes southeastward and southward along the shore. The controlling depth is about a foot to the head of navigation (Coast Pilot).

Although there are no public access facilities on Hungars Creek, the access channel is important to access the extensive aquaculture ground leases in the creek. According to the ESRNWC Chairman, this creek is one of the top three creeks in importance to aquaculture.

HUNTING CREEK

Another tributary channel, 3.5 miles northeastward of Pocomoke Sound Light 6, leads to Hunting Creek along the south side of Guilford Flats and southward through The Thorofare to the wharf at Hopkins on the east side of Hunting Creek. The marked channel has depths of 7 feet or more to within 0.7 mile of Hopkins, thence 2.5 feet to the wharf and Hunting Creek Pier (Coast Pilot). This data may be a bit dated, as satellite imagery and Navionics reveal shallow waters no deeper than four feet from day marker "9" up the creek. The Hunting Creek Pier is 440 feet in length. Hunting Creek also has a County pier for crabbing and fishing and a concrete boat ramp at Johnson Landing.

NASSAWADOX CREEK (and Church and Warehouse Creeks)

Past the mouth of the creek, the channel to Bayford typically has greater than 3 feet of water at low tide. Primary attention to maintenance needs to be at the mouth of the creek, thus the short length of maintenance, 0.1 miles, or approximately 500 feet. Additional spot dredging in the channel may be necessary when operations commence to complete maintenance.

The condition of the creek as entered from the Bay, as of 2016, is considered hazardous. The AtoNs have been removed and replaced with danger signs. Two steel pilings have rusted and fallen over, creating a hazard submerged just below the water line at low tide. The northern channel section entering the Bay has about a 100 foot section of 3.5 feet depth at low tide (as of August 28, 2016). Inside the 100- foot length of 3.5 feet depth, there is between 5 and 10 feet channel depth to Warehouse Creek. There is also a southern channel which is partially marked by PVC pipes along shellfish lease areas and has a minimum depth of 4 to 6 feet. Aerial photographs of the Bay entrances at low tide, as pictured in **Figure 4**, are available from Friends of Nassawadox Creek several times a year.

A *Dredge Project Plan* by USACE was active from 2003 to 2007 at a cost of \$500,000 and included the completion of a survey. The projected costs associated with the dredging escalated when USACE engineers increased the project scope from the locally requested 500 feet to approximately 9,000 feet length. The plan included sourcing funding from waterfront residents, who protested when USACE made it clear that their project was to support commercial activities and was not designed for recreational boating support. The project ultimately folded.



Figure 4: 2016 Aerial Image of the Mouth of Nassawadox Creek. Photo courtesy of Friends of Nassawadox Creek

Smaller-scale dredging was accomplished in 2008 with a permit from VMRC (#2005-4-92) for the organization, Friends of Nassawadox Creek. About a dozen volunteer Nassawadox Creek recreational boaters removed approximately 300 cubic yards at a total cost of \$13,500. The funding was donated by community residents and included a Piranha P-135E dredge system (20-30 cubic yards per hour) and a J1450 Carolina Skiff platform. That equipment is still operational and could be used if necessary and volunteers could be organized and a new permit acquired.

FY	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost
2004 privately funded and implemented	300	\$13,500

As of 2016, VMRC has granted many shellfish ground leases that include several of the main boating channels on all three creeks including the eight-foot-deep channel about 900 feet upstream of Bayford. There is a publically available tool from VMRC, the [Chesapeake Bay Online Map](#), accessible online. Church Creek has shellfish leases from shore to shore in places without regard for the boating channel; however, the plat plan can and usually does take these issues into account. Warehouse Creek follows the same pattern from the beginning of the shellfish condemnation line. Warehouse Creek is the outflow from the Riverside Memorial Hospital Waste Water Treatment Plant. Shellfish from this area must be transported (currently to Occohannock Creek) to a different water body for cleansing to allow commercial sale.

The only commercial support facility on Nassawadox Creek is located at Bayford and offers a dock, fuel, concrete ramp (in need of maintenance), and a sandy launch. In addition, there is a shed that has sorting tables and is used during soft shell crab harvest by two operators. On all three creeks, there are a total of six crabbing personnel including helpers. Shellfish leases now cover large areas, and there are about 25-30 personnel that are actively engaged in commercial harvesting in this area.

PUNGOTEAGUE CREEK

Three miles northeastward of Nandua Creek, this bayside creek has depths of 8 feet to the pier at Harborton, 2 miles above the mouth, and thence 4 feet to the ruins of Boggs Wharf, 3 miles above the mouth. Above this point the creek shoals rapidly. The entrance and inside channel are marked as far as Harborton. For years, barges loaded pulpwood at Harborton for delivery to West Point on the York River, but this hasn't been occurring for almost two decades. Barges carrying trash from Tangier Island still operate at the facility. The County facilities at Harborton include both a drive on and launch facilities and offers ample parking, restrooms and trash cans.

This waterway offers a lot of oyster aquaculture, and is highly used by both commercial watermen and recreational boaters. In addition to the public and private facilities at Harborton, the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club is located on the Creek as is the Sandpiper Marine and Campground.

RED BANK CREEK

The VDGIF dual boat ramp provides access to extensive public Baylor grounds and oyster ground leases in both Hog Island and Outlet Bays and beyond to USCG AtoN marked channel to the Great Machipongo Channel to the Atlantic Ocean. This is the only public boat ramp on the seaside for about 20 miles between Willis Wharf and Oyster Harbor.

There is shoaling as the creek enters Hog Island Bay and the guts that lead through Fowling Point and Castle Ridge to Ramshorn Bay are extremely narrow and do not provide adequate water depth for many vessels.

QUINBY – EASTERN END OF FEDERAL CHANNEL TO QUINBY INLET

A channel to the seaside village, marked by lights, follows Sandy Island Channel to Upshur Bay, thence through a slough in the mudflats to a dredged channel leading to a basin that has a public County landing and harbor with a pump-out station available with a wide concrete boat ramp with rental slips and parking. A no-wake speed limit is enforced. Quinby Inlet, the ocean entrance between Parramore/Revell Islands and Hog Island, has a fan of breakers across the bar at the entrance. The buoys marking the inlet are frequently shifted and not charted. The inlet should not be used without local knowledge (Coast Pilot).

The USCG AtoNs in the federally-designated Quinby project areas are not scheduled to be removed, however, those marking this state waterway are scheduled to be reevaluated at a later date, after the 2016 federal channel dredging, to determine if they should remain or be removed.

WACHAPREAGUE CHANNEL AND DAY MARKER 122 TO WACHAPREAGUE INLET

"The Little City by the Sea" is on the mainland about 4 miles west-northwest of Wachapreague Inlet. It serves as an important oystering and fishing center and is a base for recreational, commercial and charter fishing boats. Gasoline, diesel fuel, berths, and some marine supplies can be obtained. Hull and engine repairs can be made; largest marine railway, 50 feet. Although the channel between the WCV and along the Town's working waterfront is considered a state waterway, it rarely needs maintenance, as it has historically and is currently a naturally deep channel.

A depth of about 4 feet can be carried from Wachapreague Inlet through Hummock Channel and Wachapreague Channel, marked by lights, to the wharves and marinas at the town. Wachapreague Inlet, between Cedar Island and Parramore Island, is 20 miles south-southwestward of Chincoteague Inlet. The entrance is marked by a lighted bell buoy and unlighted buoys that are shifted in position with changing channel conditions. The controlling depth is about 5 feet through the inlet, which is used by many fishing boats and by some boats seeking shelter, but should be entered only with local knowledge. There are many areas of shoaling between Day Marker 122 and Wachapreague Inlet. This waterway is used extensively by recreational and commercial vessels as well as housing the USCG Station Wachapreague.

Wachapreague Inlet has undergone drastic changes as result of dynamic coastal process and storms. The inlet is currently several times wider than it once was due to the coastal erosion of Cedar Island and shoals have been significantly relocated in parts of the inlet channel. Navigation around certain areas is particularly dangerous where shoaling, pilings, ships, and other objects once located on the southern end of Cedar Island are now in or just beneath the water.

IV. Summary and Conclusions

The Eastern Shore of Virginia's history, culture, and economies are closely connected to the region's proximity to, and safe navigation of, the surrounding tidal waters. Current predictions indicate that federal funding for dredging shallow draft navigation projects will continue to decline, thus the need for prioritization and alternative planning has arisen. This analysis has also revealed the substantial dependence that the Eastern Shore has on waterways of the Commonwealth where funding for maintenance of these non-federal waterways has been almost non-existent. The threat of a reduction in safely-navigable waterways, both federal and state, particularly as the tourism and aquaculture industries are growing, is a concern for communities and economies in the region.

To address these concerns, A-NPDC completed an assessment of local waterways, both federally and non-federally designated, on the seaside and bayside of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This assessment was based primarily on USACE data and survey maps, previous reports and resources, personal communication with the ESRNWC and users of our waterways, and aid to navigation charts. The results of these assessments indicate that 22, or 37%, of the 59 assessed waterways of the Eastern Shore of

Virginia are in immediate need of maintenance attention and 56, or 81%, of these will require permit work in order to make progress towards accomplishing dredging.

Discussion

About 37% of the waterways assessed have at least some portion of the waterway with three feet or less water depth at mean low water. Of the 32 federal channels, 69% (22) of them do not meet their respective authorized depths, and 37% (12) of them have at least some portion of the channel with three feet or less water depth. These calculations are based on the assumption that those waterways which are scheduled for USACE maintenance in the next year are already dredged to depth, so it is expected that an even greater percentage of waterways have portions with three feet or less water at the time of this assessment. Almost half of the non-federal, WCV connecting waters have sections with three feet or less water and 37% (10) of the total 27 non-federal assessed waterways have areas of three feet or less water at mean low water.

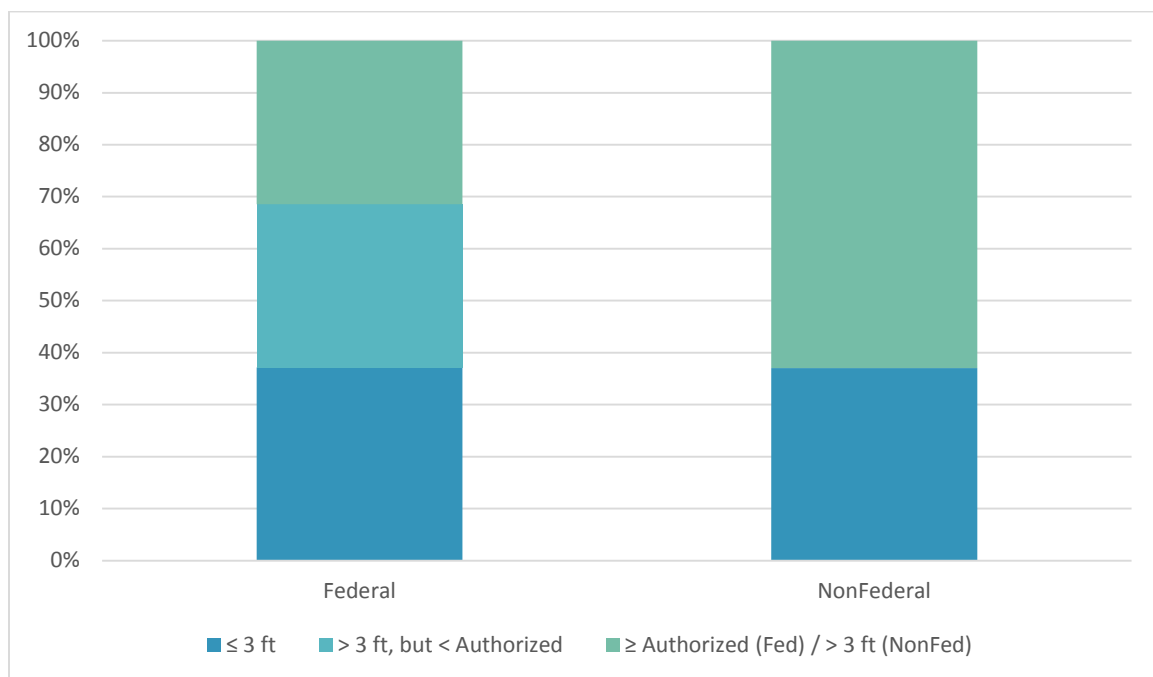


Figure 5: Waterway Condition Summary

About 21 of the 59 total assessed waterways are in need of immediate maintenance attention to ensure the continued safe navigation of the waterways. Fortunately, many of the local recreational boaters and even commercial watermen operate skiffs and other shallow-draft vessels. Many of these power boats draft less than one foot. For example, a 23-foot Ultra Carolina Skiff drafts only about 7 inches, but requires additional depth for safe operation of the outboard motors. However, vessels that are designed for off-shore boating, typically require deeper, wider channels for safe navigation. In addition, 21 of the 32 federal project areas and all of the non-federal project areas are in need of permit work, which slows the process in reaching completion for a dredging project.

Conclusions:

- Safely navigable waterways are vital to the social and economic wellbeing of residents and visitors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia,
- Federal budget constraints are likely to continue into the future. Not only are the USACE projects scrutinized by their 'Value to the Nation', explained in [Appendix D](#), but also their direct commercial economic value. Some of the language used in [Appendix D](#) may require referring to the glossary in [Appendix C](#),
- The Commonwealth of Virginia offers insufficient funding (\$1 million annually statewide) for the projects that 3,315 miles (NOAA) of coastline and 3,165 square miles of water require.
- Almost half of our assessed waterways are not federally-designated, and as such can never receive federal funding for project dredging,
- 69% of federal channels do not currently meet their respective authorized depths
- 37% (23 of 62) of all assessed waterways are in immediate need of maintenance, with at least some of the waterway having depths of only 3 feet or less at mean low tide,
 - 37% (12 of 32) of federally-designated waterways are in this condition,
 - The majority of these are WCV
 - 37% (10 of 27) of non-federal waterways are in this condition,
 - A third of non-federal waterways which are not WCV connecting waters are in this condition,
 - Almost half (5/12) of the non-federal, WCV connecting waters are in this condition, and
- 81% of all assessed waterways are in need of permits prior to maintenance.

V. Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the assessments and findings presented in this report:

- It is recommended that the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC) consider this report when selecting and prioritizing future dredging projects. The works cited in this report and additional resources are listed in [Appendix F](#).
- A database with the waterways included in this assessment should be created and continuously updated as new information about the condition of waterways be available.
 - Updates should be ongoing, but a complete update accomplished annually, with special attention following large storm events.
- A comprehensive strategic plan for dredging of the Eastern Shore of Virginia waterways should be pursued.
 - Accomplishing this with the USACE Planning Assistance to States (Section 22) would be ideal. The result of which would be a *Shallow Draft Navigation and Sediment Management Plan* (more details below).
 - This plan should include consideration of alternative funding options.
 - This plan should consider changing the potential scope of work, on a project by project basis, from the federal project dimensions to smaller scale maintenance projects that still meet the navigations needs of that particular waterway, but that are affordable and can be implemented locally.
 - To that end, [Appendix E](#) provides a guide for working towards the dredging of a waterway. Some of the language used in [Appendix E](#) may require referring to the glossary in [Appendix C](#).
- A regional *Shallow Draft Navigation and Sediment Management Plan* (discussed in further detail below) would provide vital insight into completing projects in a holistic way that can increase our coastal resilience and decrease the frequency with which our waterways require maintenance dredging.
- Steps should be taken to increase state funding of waterway maintenance projects.
- It is recommended that the Eastern Shore attempt to synthesize our regional priorities with other Virginia regions, in particular the Middle Peninsula, to maximize the USACE dredging schedules. This would allow for efficient use of the dredge once it enters the Chesapeake Bay.

Shallow Draft Navigation and Sediment Management Plan

Regional sediment management (RSM) is an approach that is intended to manage sediment using natural processes and treat sediment as a resource in a system context. Potentially this can save money; improve the environment; help address problems with erosion, wetland loss and habitat loss; increase our coastal resilience; and decrease the frequency with which our waterways require dredge maintenance.

Broadly speaking, RSM refers to the optimum utilization of various sediment resources (littoral, estuarine, and riverine) in an environmentally-effective and economically-feasible manner. RSM changes

the complexion of engineering activities within the systems from the local or project-specific scale to a broader regional scale which is defined by the natural sediment processes. By managing the sediment on regional scale, RSM aids in making the best local project decisions within the context of a regional plan that maximizes overall benefits and/or reduces total cost. Matching a dredged material disposal need with a beneficial use solution is likely to be more practical, cost-effective, and environmentally advantageous when made as part of a broad, watershed-level planning effort. This approach requires innovative collaboration at the local level to achieve implementable solutions.

Hurricane Sandy funds have made it possible to implement a few mitigation projects on the Eastern Shore to be carried out by USACE, listed in **Table 5**. In order to be most efficient with dredge materials, they must be thought of as a resource for similar mitigation projects region-wide. Knowing which projects, dredging and mitigation, are compatible, and a plan in place to effectively complete these collaborative projects is imperative to effective management of our coastal resources, particularly with limited funding.

Table 5 : USACE Hurricane Sandy funded Eastern Shore mitigation projects

Year	Section	Cubic Yards Removed	Cost USD
2016	Wallops Island Beach Nourishment	3,214,732	\$35,911,947.50
2017	Tangier Jetty – authorization: Water Resources Development Act of 1996	NA	\$642,000.00 (\$100,000 federally funded, 50/50 state/federal cost share on remainder)
2018	Wallops Island Restoration	est. 850,000	est. \$13,742,500.00

Because over wash may be one of the major causes of sediment loss from the littoral zone along much of this coastal Virginia, certain local communities on the seaside have expressed interest in pursuing mitigation projects to restore barrier islands on the seaside of the Eastern Shore and are interested in incorporating such projects into future regional planning efforts. The primary objective of these mitigation activities would be to attempt to stabilize landward retreat and the disintegration of the barrier islands by adding sediment to the system and translating the barriers into various types of modified morpho-sedimentary environments, which would also aid in preventing sedimentation of adjacent seaside waterways. These restoration efforts would primarily depend on the emplacement of suitable sediments to build up barrier systems. These localities suggest that the success of coastal erosion mitigation and restoration efforts depends on locating sufficient volumes of sand and mixed sediments (sand plus silt plus clay) that are suitable for placement on beaches, for building dunes, and for creating marshes.

Development of dynamic RSM plans would be needed for future planning, construction, and monitoring of wetland and barrier island restoration. Such a process should help enrich the range of beneficial use alternatives considered, improve compatibility with watershed-wide planning goals, and enhance stakeholder acceptance of the results.

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Appendices

Appendix A. - Inventory of Eastern Shore Waterways

The following table provides a full inventory of major creeks of the Eastern Shore. They are separated by seaside and bayside and then ordered north to south. There are a total of 87 identified, 32 federally-designated projects (Wire Passage is considered under the Gargathy Inlet project) and 55 local waters. The 'Assessed?' columns identifies if the waterway was included in this *Regional Dredging Needs Assessment*.

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Peninsula Side</u>	<u>Federally Designated?</u>	<u>Assessed?</u>
Chincoteague Bay (Greenbackville)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Swans Gut Creek (Captain's Cove/Horntown area)	Accomack	Seaside	No	No
Lewis Creek (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Little Mosquito Creek	Accomack	Seaside	No	No
Chincoteague USCG Station	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Chincoteague Inlet Harbor of Refuge	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Chincoteague Inlet	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Chincoteague Inlet to Bogues Bay Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Wishart Point Channel (Atlantic)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Bogues Bay (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Bogues Bay to Hog Creek Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Assawoman Creek	Accomack	Seaside	No	No
Hog Creek (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Hog Neck Creek to Hog Creek Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Northam Narrows (Hog Neck Creek) (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Kegotank Bay (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Gargathy Inlet (WCV) (seems to include Wire Passage)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Gargathy Creek	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Wire Passage (WCV) (seems to be included in Gargathy Inlet permit)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Metompkin Bay (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Parker Creek	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Metompkin Inlet	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Metompkin Bay Channel to Cedar Island Bay Channel (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Folly Creek-Metompkin Inlet	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes

Appendix A. - Inventory of Eastern Shore Waterways

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Peninsula Side</u>	<u>Federally Designated?</u>	<u>Assessed?</u>
Cedar Island Bay (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Cedar Island Bay Channel to Burtons Bay Channel Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Burtons Bay Channel to Bradford Bay Channel Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Wachapreague Channel	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Day Marker 122 to Wachapreague Inlet	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Bradford Bay and Finney Creek (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Bradford Bay Channel to Swash Bay Channel Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Swash Bay Channel (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Swash Bay Channel to Sloop Channel Connecting Waters (WCV)	Accomack	Seaside	No	Yes
Quinby Creek	Accomack	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Eastern End of Federal Channel to Quinby Inlet	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Sloop Channel (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	Yes	Yes
North Channel (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Great Machipongo Inlet & Channel	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
North Channel to Ramshorn Channel Connecting Waters (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Ramshorn Channel (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Little Machipongo River	Northampton	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Sloop Channel to Ramshorn Channel Connecting Waters (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Upshur Creek	Northampton	Seaside	No	No
Red Bank Creek	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Mill Creek	Northampton	Seaside	No	No
Indiantown Creek	Northampton	Seaside	No	No
Taylor Creek	Northampton	Seaside	No	No
Oyster Channel	Northampton	Seaside	Yes	Yes
End of Oyster Channel to Sand Shoal Inlet	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Upper Magothy Bay to Ramshorn Connecting Waters (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Magothy Bay (Upper) (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	Yes	Yes
Chesapeake Bay to Magothy Bay (WCV)	Northampton	NA	Yes	Yes

Appendix A. - Inventory of Eastern Shore Waterways

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Peninsula Side</u>	<u>Federally Designated?</u>	<u>Assessed?</u>
Chesapeake Bay /Magothy Bay to Upper Magothy Bay Connecting Waters (WCV)	Northampton	Seaside	No	Yes
Pitts Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Bullbeggar Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Holdens Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Starling Creek (Saxis)	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Messongo Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Cattail Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Muddy Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Tangier Channels	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Guilford Creek	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Youngs Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
France Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Little Back Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Bagwell Creek (Parkers Landing Rd)	Accomack	Bayside	No	Yes
Hunting Creek (Hopkins unincorp.)	Accomack	Bayside	No	Yes
Doe Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Deep Creek	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Chesconessex Creek	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Onancock Creek	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Parkers Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	Yes
Matchotank Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Pungoteague Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Butcher Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Nandua Creek	Accomack	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Craddock Creek	Accomack	Bayside	No	No
Ocohanock Creek	Northampton	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Nassawadox Creek (& Church & Warehouse Creek)	Northampton	Bayside	No	Yes
Westerhouse Creek	Northampton	Bayside	No	No
Hungars Creek	Northampton	Bayside	No	Yes
Mattawoman Creek	Northampton	Bayside	No	No
Barlow Creek	Northampton	Bayside	No	No
the Gulf (Smith Beach)	Northampton	Bayside	No	No
Cherrystone Inlet	Northampton	Bayside	No	No
Kings Creek	Northampton	Bayside	No	Yes
Cape Charles City Harbor	Northampton	Bayside	Yes	Yes
Longs Pond	Northampton	Bayside	No	No

Appendix B. - Non-Federal Waterways Assessment Justification Data

The table below provides the data used to determine if a non-federal waterway were to be included in the dredging needs assessment and correlates to further explanation in the [methods section](#). The twelve WCV connecting waters were not included here, as their inclusion was not dependent upon the presence of facilities.

<u>Waterway Name</u>	<u>USCG AtoN? Y/N*</u>	<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Assess?</u>
Hunting Creek (Hopkins unincorp.)	Y	Landing (2)	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Pungoteague Creek	Y	Landing, Country Club, Campground, Aquaculture, Seafood Co.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Hungars Creek	Y		Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Kings Creek	Y	Marina, Restaurant, Campground, Seafood Co.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Nassawadox Creek (& Church & Warehouse Creek)	N	Landing	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Chincoteague USCG Station	NA	USGS Station	USGS Station	Yes
Day Marker 122 to Wachapreague Inlet	Y	USGS Station , Marina (3), Ramp, Fuel, Lodge, Campground, VIMS Lab, Seafood Co.	USGS Station , Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture, Research/Education	Yes
Folly Creek-Metompkin Inlet	N, but leads into VIP with AtoNs	Landing,	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Gargathy Creek	N	2 Landings	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Wachapreague Channel	N	USGS Station , Marina (3), Ramp, Fuel, Lodge, Campground,	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture, Research/Education	Yes

Appendix B. - Non-Federal Waterways Assessment Justification Data

		VIMS Lab, Seafood Co.		
Eastern End of Federal Channel to Quinby Inlet	Y	Landing, Campground, Seafood Co.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Great Machipongo Inlet & Channel	Y	Landing, Restaurant, Aquaculture, Seafood Co., & Crab Shanties	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture, Research	Yes
Red Bank Creek	N	Landing	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	Yes
Metompkin Inlet	N		Com & Rec Fishing, USCG Atlantic access	Yes
Bagwell Creek (Parkers Landing Rd)	N	Parkers Landing Rd, no ramp	Rec Fishing & Boating	No
End of Oyster Channel to Sand Shoal Inlet	Y	Public harbor, landing, UVA Center, Seafood Co.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture, Research/Education	Yes
Bullbeggar Creek	N			No
Butcher Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Cattail Creek	N	Landing	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Craddock Creek	N		Com & Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Doe Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
France Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Holdens Creek	N			No
Little Back Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Matchotank Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Messongo Creek	N	Landing (2), Seafood Co.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Muddy Creek	N	Landing, Pier, Beach	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Pitts Creek	N	Landing (actually on Pocomoke River)	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Youngs Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Barlow Creek	N		Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Cherrystone Inlet	N	Private companies docks, etc.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No

Appendix B. - Non-Federal Waterways Assessment Justification Data

Longs Pond/ Old Plantation Creek/ Arlington Creek	N	Tomb of Custis	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Mattawoman Creek	N		Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Parkers Creek	?	Landing	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating	Yes
the Gulf (Smith Beach)	N	Seafood Co.	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Westerhouse Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating, Aquaculture	No
Assawoman Creek & Inlet	N	Old NASA ferry dock	Com & Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Little Mosquito Creek	N	Ramp, Slips, Trails End Resort	Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Swans Gut Creek (Captain's Cove/Horntown area)	N			No
Indiantown Creek	N	Indiantown Rec Park (no water access)		No
Taylor Creek	N		Rec Fishing & Boating	No
Upshur Creek	N	TNC dock	Rec Fishing & Boating, Research/Education	No

Appendix C. - Glossary

Aids to Navigation: Buoys, beacons, fog signals, lights, radio beacons, range markers, and generally any charted or published information serving the interest of safe navigation.

Appropriation: Congressional funding for the construction and maintenance of navigation channels and turning basins.

Authorization: Congressional approval for the construction and maintenance of navigation channels and turning basins.

Authorized Dimensions: Length, width, and depth dimensions of a navigation project as specified in the authorizing document.

Beach: The shoreline zone comprised of unconsolidated sandy material upon which there is mutual interaction of the forces of erosion, sediment transport and deposition extending from the mean low water line landward to where there is a marked change in either material composition or physiographic form such as a dune, bluff, or marsh, or where no such change can be identified, to the line of woody vegetation (usually the effective limit of storm waves), or the nearest impermeable manmade structure, such as a bulkhead, revetment, or paved road (§28.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia).

Beach nourishment: Placement of good quality sand along a beach shoreline to raise the elevation of the nearshore area. (VIMS, 2006)

Beach of the Commonwealth: Public beach.

Channel: Part of body of water deep enough to be used for navigation. Channels can be either natural or artificial waterways.

Constructed Dimensions: Channel dimensions which have been provided by initial or new work dredging.

Continuing Authorities Program (Navigation): Congressionally directed authority provided to the Chief of Engineers on an on-going basis for small navigation projects as defined by Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended.

Deauthorized Navigation Channel or Turning Basin: Navigation channels and turning basins (or portions thereof) which were never constructed and subsequently were removed from any further consideration as a result of a formal deauthorization process.

Draft: The depth of water displaced by a vessel.

Dredging: The practice of excavating and removing material from underwater locations, either by mechanical or hydraulic means.

Dredging Cycle: The period of time (years) between dredging events. Also referred to as dredging frequency.

Dredging Process: Removal (usually from underwater), transportation, and placement of material, for the purpose of constructing new waterways, maintaining existing waterway dimensions, obtaining fill for land reclamation, beach nourishment, dike and levee construction, creating wetlands and marshes, obtaining materials from borrow areas or other beneficial uses.

Fuel Taxed Inland Waterways System: 27 waterways of the United States' interior, along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and in the Pacific Northwest where fuel consumed by vessels transporting cargo is subject to a Federal tax (currently 20 cents per gallon). The fuel taxed waterways comprise near 11,000 miles of waterways at least 9 feet deep and includes 186 lock sites. These waterways move over 600 million tons and would cost over 125 billion dollars to replace. (REF: INLAND WATERWAYS USERS BOARD 23rd ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AUGUST 2009)

General Navigation Feature: Refers to any navigation channel, turning basin, anchorage, and dredged material placement area which is cost shared between the Federal government and the local sponsor of a Federally authorized project. It excludes Aids to Navigation which are paid fully by the Coast Guard as well as lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations (LERRS) which are the responsibility of the local sponsor.

Hydraulic Dredging: Dredging performed by a hydraulic dredge, which generally moves bottom material via a centrifugal pump and pipeline or hopper directly toward a dredged material placement area.

Inactive Navigation Channel or Turning Basin: Navigation channels and turning basins which are no longer actively used for either commercial or recreation pursuits. In some cases, inactive projects might become eligible for deauthorization.

Joint Permit Application or JPA: The standard Joint Permit Application for shoreline stabilization structures and other activities conducted in wetlands and the marine environment. The applicant completes one form and submits to either local agency or VMRC, which is responsible for distributing to local, state and federal permitting and advisory agencies (e.g. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). (VIMS, 2006)

Maintained Dimensions: Navigation channel dimensions (length, width, and depth) that are determined by using traffic, or other restrictions, which are less than or equal to authorized dimensions, or the constructed dimensions if less than the authorized dimensions.

Maintenance Dredging: The removal of shoal material from a constructed project. (USACE) Dredging activities for navigation purposes that have been previously authorized by the Commission, to the depth previously authorized by the Commission, and where a royalty has been previously paid to

the Commission for the initial removal State-owned submerged lands (Constitution of Virginia Article XI Section II) (VMRC).

Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW): A tidal datum established by the National Ocean Service. The average height of all lower low waters recorded over a specific 19-year period called the National Tidal Datum Epoch. It is the reference datum used for Federal navigation projects.

Mean low water (MLW): The average height of low waters over a nineteen year period. Virginia is a low water state, meaning private property extends to the mean low water line.

Mechanical Dredging: Dredging performed with a mechanical dredge which normally lift the dredged material above the waterline by means of buckets or scoops of various designs and deposit it in a barge or similar conveyance for transport and placement.

Navigation Channel: A project feature with authorized project limits/dimensions, which is designed, constructed and maintained for use by commercial and/or recreational navigation traffic. This definition includes appropriate harbors, canals, turning basins, anchorage/mooring areas and/or waterways.

Overdepth Dredging: Any dredging below the authorized depth (or constructed depth if less than the authorized depth) to include required, allowable and non-pay dredging overdepth.

Private Beach: a beach, as defined by §28.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia, whose underlying fee (ownership) is held privately and not by a local, state or federal governmental entity and whose public use is restricted or controlled by the property owner.

Project Dimensions: (see Authorized Dimensions).

Public beach: A sandy beach located on a tidal shoreline suitable for bathing in a county, city or town and open to indefinite public use (Code of Virginia §10.1-705)

Recreational Craft: Non-commercial vessels used for recreational activity.

Resource Protection Area (RPA): The component of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area comprised of lands adjacent to water bodies with perennial flow that have an intrinsic water quality value due to the ecological and biological processes they perform or are sensitive to impacts which may result in significant degradation to the quality of state waters (9VAC10-20-40).

River and Harbor Act: Congressional Authorization for construction of Federal navigation channels and turning basins.

Royalties: Fees paid to the Commonwealth for certain uses of submerged public lands. They are assessed in addition to permit fees. All royalties are subject to change in accordance with the Commission's public participation procedures and regulatory adoption process. Contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Division for a current royalties schedule (VMRC Subaqueous Guidelines Section I).

Shallow Draft Navigation System: Those navigation channels and turning basins with a depth of less than 15 feet when measured at MLW (REF: Coastal Engineering Technical Note I-63, March 1999).

Shoaling Rate: This is the rate at which sediment fills a navigation channel or feature, usually measured in terms of cubic yards per year.

Turning Basin: General navigation features which allow ships to make a U-turn and leave a channel the way they entered. They eliminate the need for long backing-out movements.

Vessels: Towboats, barges, and other waterborne craft.

Water Resources Development Act of 1986 -- Title I, Section 101 (Public Law 99-662): The non-Federal share of the cost of general navigation features is 10 percent for that portion of the project which has a depth not in excess of 20 feet.

Water Resources Development Act of 1996 -- Title II, Section 201 (Public Law 104-303): Designates that land based and aquatic dredged material disposal areas built for construction and operation and maintenance shall be considered a General Navigation Feature and cost shared in accordance with Title I of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662).

Water Resources Development Act of 2007 – Sections 2005, 2029 and 2037 (Public Law 110-114): To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Waterborne Commerce: Commodities moved or transported by way of navigation channels.

Waterway: Any body of water wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the passage of water craft.

Appendix D. - Value to the Nation

The following is a guide sheet for local sponsors and stakeholders to provide input to the USACE for project budget justifications.

Although USACE is committed to finding balance among economic, recreation, and the environment with their projects, their Civil Works program focuses on coastal protection, disaster preparedness and response, environmental protection and restoration, flood risk management, recreational opportunities, and others. This could be an important focus in requesting a project be completed.

General:

- Whenever possible, cite the source of the factual information provided.
- If possible, information should be specific to the project.
- In addition to specific factual information, the sponsor or stakeholder may provide a narrative describing the importance of the project from their perspective.
- Not all factors apply to each project. Use the best information you can obtain in the categories that follow. Sooner is better. Provide what you can in the short term, and follow up with information that takes longer to obtain.

Commerce (commodities, tonnages, cargo value, transportation savings):

- Estimated annual tonnages by commodity moving on the project (sand/gravel, aggregates, petroleum, grain, fish, shellfish, etc.)
- Whenever possible, list by name the various businesses that use the project.
- For fish/shellfish, if available provide estimated cargo value relating to the tonnage.
- Estimated number, size, draft and type of commercial vessels using the project.
- Estimated annual trips for commercial vessels (count both inbound and outbound.)
- Estimated transportation savings vs. other mode or other harbor.
- If project were not dredged, estimate the additional costs for light loading, waiting for tide, using truck or rail, or going to another harbor.
- Are you already being forced to light load or wait for tide? Estimate savings to you if channel or harbor is dredged.
- List and describe other commercial uses with supporting information.
 - Seafood buyers and processors located on or adjacent to the project.
 - Charter boats, head boats – size, number of boats, estimated annual trips.
 - Ferries, tour boats, eco-tours, scientific and educational tours. Cite estimated annual vessel trips and estimated passengers carried on the project.
 - Boat repair yards, commercial marinas, etc.

Safety and Public Health:

- Does the project serve as a harbor of refuge? If so, estimate the typical number of vessels that use the harbor in a storm, and identify the next closest available harbor.

- US Coast Guard – use of the project as a base for Search & Rescue activities, ice- breaking, aids to navigation maintenance, etc.
- Life threatening situations caused by shoaling – cite sources if available.
- Groundings on shoals, accidents, injuries and fatalities at the project.

National, State and Local Security:

- Cite any military use such as Navy or Marines.
- Coast Guard use for Homeland Security activities.
- Shipment of any commodities or equipment used by the military.
- Use by local or state law enforcement activities.

Recreation:

- Estimated number of recreation boats using the project and vessel trips.
- Number of boat ramps and marinas on the project.

Environmental Factors:

- Does the project factor into a local, state or federal environmental initiative?
- What environmental benefits are to be gained from the project?
- Is the work required to support agreements with other agencies?
- Be sure to explain why such factors should influence priority.

Consequences:

- What happens if the project is not dredged?
- Jobs lost and businesses affected.
- Lost tax revenues.
- Describe extent and value of local investments that would go unrealized.
 - Local investments in dredging, dredged material placement sites and other real estate, bulkheads, piers, public landings, boat ramps, etc.
 - Private investments in businesses.

Other Remarks:

- Unique features available only at that project.
- Cultural or historic values.
- Why is the project important to you?

Appendix E. - Users Guide to Dredging on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

The intention of this appendix is to provide guidance through a dredging project – from the identification of a dredging need, to identification of sediment disposal site, to applying for a dredging permit, to the dredging of a channel. Much thanks to the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission for sharing their 2011 publication: *Users Guide to Dredging in Tidewater Virginia*, which provided a template and much information for this asset to this Report.

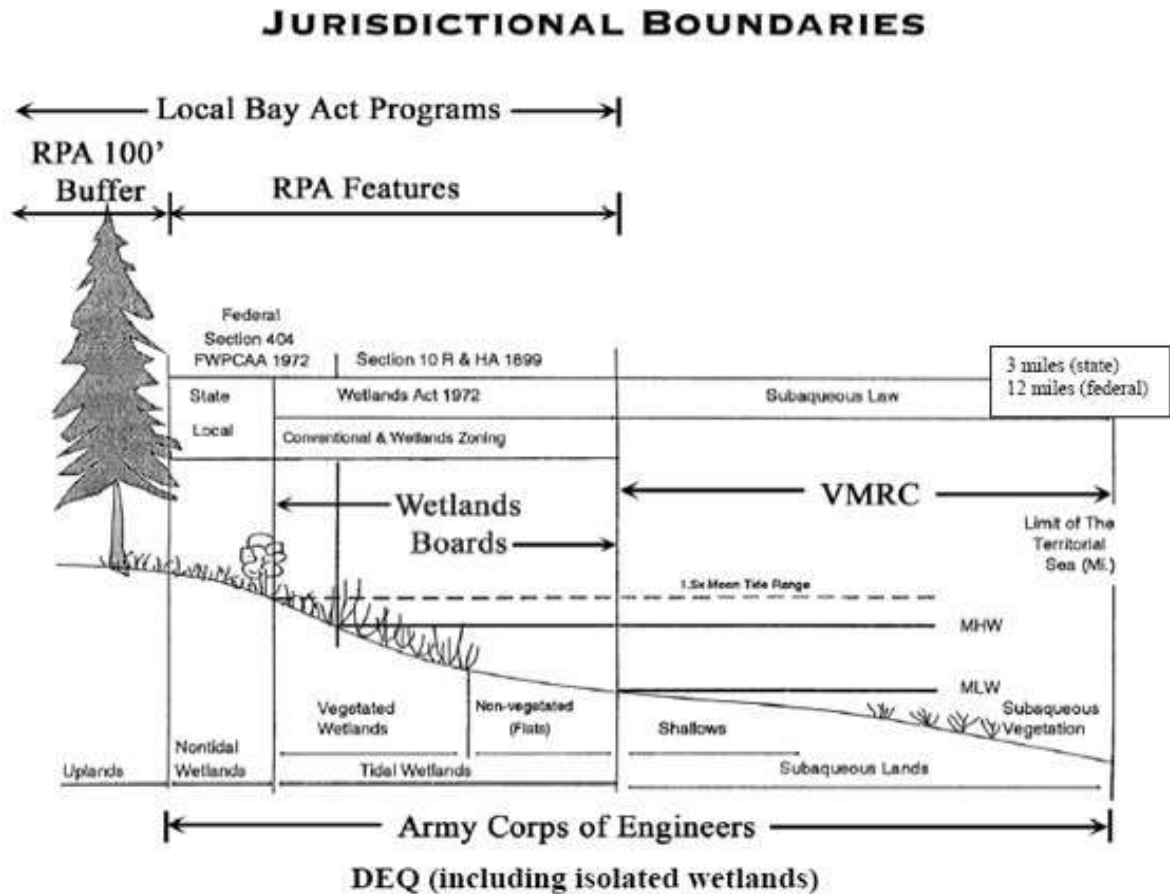
STEPS: The Execution of a Dredging Project

1. Identify Channel with Dredging Need:

To begin the dredging process, a navigable channel must be identified as having a need for dredging, which is evident when navigation becomes obstructed and/or limited, particularly due to shoaling. The need may be identified by a private or public entity, but may also be identified by the USACE if a problem is noticed during a routine survey of a channel. Following the identification of a channel in need of dredging, the party interested in having the channel dredged may choose to meet with the regulatory agencies responsible for the review and permitting of the proposed dredging. These agencies typically include the USACE, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and local wetlands board. Locally, we have the Eastern Shore Navigable Waterways Committee which will often will facilitate and assist with this process. The agencies will review the channel in question and the associated project need. Preliminary comments will be offered relative to the information necessary to complete the JPA and the agencies will recommend design considerations necessary to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. Also there will be consideration and discussing regarding the suitability of the proposed disposal site as well as the associated permit fees, royalties and/or mitigation costs.

The Role of Jurisdictional Boundaries

The jurisdictional boundaries of the Virginia Commonwealth in conjunction with the specifics of the individual dredging project will ultimately determine the permits necessary to complete a dredging project. As shown in the figure below, the jurisdictional boundaries of federal, state and local jurisdictions have the tendency to overlap, which makes the permitting process project specific and at times complicated.



With a specific channel identified, it is important to note whether the channel has been previously dredged or not. This will likely influence the amount of permit fees and royalties required by the permitting agencies. According to VMRC's Subaqueous Guidelines Section II, K, II maintenance dredging is defined by VMRC as dredging activities for navigation purposes that have been previously authorized by the Commission, to the depth previously authorized by the Commission, and where a royalty, if applicable, has been previously paid to the Commission for the initial removal of State-owned submerged lands. (Please note that public entities, including towns, cities and counties are exempt from dredging royalties). As a maintenance dredging project, the applicant is required to pay VMRC's permit fee, but shall be exempt from all other fees and royalties. Typically, maintenance dredging requires no additional permit fees from the USACE or DEQ, however, mitigation costs may or may not be applicable. If a project is within the jurisdiction of the local

wetlands board, permit fees and/or mitigation costs may be required. This will vary between counties.

2. Pre-Dredge Bathymetric Survey:

For the identified channel, a pre-dredge bathymetric survey is needed to determine the water depths relative to mean low water (MLW). The pre-dredge survey may be performed by anyone (i.e. certified engineer, licensed land surveyor or firm, private entity, etc.), but should include sufficient transects and be referenced to MLW. The survey evaluates current depth conditions and ultimately guides the amount of dredging that will occur at the site. For private channels, maximum project depths typically are governed by the draft of the vessels utilizing the area. For channels designated as federally maintained, maximum project depths are previously established by the District Engineer (USACE) or by Congress.

3. Identify and Select a Disposal Site:

Once a channel is identified as having a dredging need, a disposal site location should be determined and prepared to receive and permanently contain the dredged material. Since overboard disposal of dredged material into tidal waters is generally not permitted (VMRC Subaqueous Guidelines Section III, E), applicants will need to consider disposal areas that are acceptable to the various permitting agencies. Factors to consider for a disposal site, include, but are not limited to the following (VMRC Subaqueous Guidelines Section III, C):

1. Encroachment into natural drainage ways;
2. Chemical nature of the dredged material and its potential for polluting adjacent or nearly underground water supplies;
3. Encroachment over the underground utilities, i.e. water lines and sewer facilities;
4. Value of the site to the natural environment;
5. Proximity to populated areas; and
6. Anticipated use of the material or disposal site after dredging material is placed and consolidated.

According to §10.1-704 of the Code of Virginia, the beaches of the Commonwealth (i.e. beaches classified as public) shall be given priority consideration as sites for the disposal of dredged material determined to be suitable for beach nourishment for public benefit. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall have the responsibility of determining if the dredged material is suitable for beach nourishment; however, if a public beach placement site is not suitable or available, dredged material may be placed on private beach, or in a private or public upland containment site. In general, the regulatory and advisory agencies reach a decision on the suitability of an area for beach nourishment.

Depending on the sediment disposal site, VMRC has associated royalties. Such royalties may be important in determining the most feasible disposal site for the dredge project:

- a. Public Beach

Appendix E. - Users Guide to Dredging on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

If a public beach is chosen as the disposal site, fee simple and adjacent property owners may benefit from the additional protection offered by the larger beach. VMRC requires a permit and charges an encroachment royalty of \$0.05 per square foot for placement of sandy dredge material over the adjacent State-owned subaqueous lands (i.e. area channelward of MLW). The placement of sandy dredge material on public or

b. Private Beach or Shoreline

Applicants may have to work with fee simple and adjacent property owners to obtain an easement if the proposed disposal site is a private beach or shoreline. If the private property owner is unwilling to relinquish property rights to the applicant, then they will need to apply for permits to allow for the placement of the dredge material on their property. Ideally the applicant and property owner will be co-applicants on the VMRC JPA (see Section 3 for more information). VMRC has no jurisdiction landward of MLW; therefore, there will never be a placement royalty assessed by VMRC for the disposal of dredge material above MLW. The placement of sandy dredge material on public or private beaches, landward of MLW, is exempt from local wetlands boards. Permits may, however, be required from the DEQ and the USACE. The placement of dredge material on intertidal shorelines which do not meet the definition of a beach will require permits from the local wetland board, DEQ and the USACE.

c. Private Upland Containment Site

A containment site owned privately may be used for disposal of dredged material, particularly if the dredge material is unsuitable for beach nourishment. The upland containment site acts as a permanent reserve for dredged sediment and in some case acts as a holding location for dredged material to dry. Also in ideal situations the upland containment site is not located within the Resource Protection Area (RPA).

d. Public Upland containment site

A containment site owned by a public entity may be used for disposal of dredged material, if it is unsuitable for beach nourishment. The upland containment site acts as a permanent reserve for dredged sediment and in some case acts as a holding location for dredged material to dry. Also in ideal situations the upland containment site is not located within the RPA.

Additionally, as county wetland boards regulate the use and development of wetlands, the placement of dredged material on public and private beach, and/or upland private or public containment site may fall in the jurisdiction of the local Wetlands Board. Wetlands Boards within the Eastern Shore have very similar wetland permit application fees and those fees are the same for both residential and commercial projects. Wetland Boards will receive the JPA application for review and within 45 days the Wetland Board will notify the applicant if a wetland permit is required or not. The table below reviews the fee schedule for wetland permits for each county within the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

County	Wetland Permit Fee	Contact for more information
<i>Accomack</i>	Non-commercial/residential or Commercial Project: \$297.00 (+ \$160.00 advertisement costs for public notice)	(757) 787-5721
<i>Northampton</i>	Non-commercial/residential or Commercial Projects: \$300 application (+ advertisement costs for public notice)	(757) 678-0443 ext. 544

4. Submission of the Joint Permit Application:

One of three parties, including a public entity (i.e. political subdivision), private entity (i.e. home owner, home owner association), or a public private partnership, may request a dredging project. This request is made upon the completion and submission of a Local/State/Federal Standard Joint Permit Application (JPA) to VMRC. Commission serves as the clearinghouse agency for the distribution of the JPA to the advisory and regulatory agencies routinely involved in the review and permitting of dredge projects. This application must be submitted for any and all projects which propose to impact to tidal and non-tidal shorelines and submerged lands. This includes dredging projects, erosion control project, private or commercial piers, utility and road crossings, etc. Upon receipt of a given application by all of these regulatory agencies, the JPA is concurrently reviewed by the wetlands board, VMRC, USACE, and DEQ. Most dredge projects additionally are received by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and possibly other State advisory agencies.

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, VMRC assesses a permit fee of \$25 for projects costing \$10,000 or less, and \$100 for projects costing more than \$10,000. Copies of the JPA may be obtained from the local wetlands boards, VMRC, DEQ, USACE, or can be downloaded from the Norfolk District Corps of Engineers web site at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/JPA.aspx>.

Agencies will review the JPA application and contact the applicant individually about additional permit requirements for the project. As mentioned earlier each project is unique which requires unique consideration as well as associated permits.

As the USACE has regulatory authority over Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344), Section 10 of the Rivers Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. C. §403), and Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (33 U.S.C. §1413), shallow water dredging projects may qualify for additional national and regional permits. The USACE will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receiving the JPA application whether the project may proceed under the nationwide permit or whether an individual permit is required. If, after reviewing the notification, the District Engineer determines that the proposed activity would have more than a minimal individual or cumulative adverse impact on the aquatic environment or otherwise may be contrary to the public interest, the engineer will either condition the nationwide permit authorization or reduce or eliminate the adverse impacts, or notify the prospective permittee that the activity is not authorized by the nationwide permit and provide the permittee with instruction on how to seek

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authorization under an individual permit. The specifics of the projects will determine the type of permits required for the project, but below is sample of permits that dredging project may require:

- Nationwide Permit 3 Maintenance²: authorizes the removal of accumulated sediments and debris in the vicinity of and within an existing structure and the placement of new or additional riprap to the structure. The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the immediate vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure(s) was built but cannot extend further than 200 feet in any direction from the structure.
- Nationwide Permit 19 Minor Dredging³: authorizes dredging of no more than 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high watermark or the mean high water mark from navigable waters of the United States.
- LOP-2 (Letter of Permission)⁴: authorizes dredging (channels and basins) for certain navigationally-related recreational and commercial dredging projects, by either mechanical or hydraulic method, in waters of the United States, within the geographical limits of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Norfolk District Corps, subject to the terms and conditions further set out herein.

To have questions answered about particular projects within the region please call the Norfolk District Public Affairs Office at 757-201-7500 or cenao-pa@usace.army.mil.

As the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality administers the Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit Program (§§ 62.1-44.15 and 62.1-44.15:20 of the Code of Virginia) for the Commonwealth, impacts to surface waters such as land clearing, dredging, filling, excavation, draining or ditching in open water, streams and wetlands require such a permit. For maintenance dredging previously authorized, a regional permit 19 (RP-19) may be required which does not include a fee. However, if it is determined that a permit from DEQ is required, then the fee structure is based on the size of the area to be dredged, the amount of material to be removed, the habitat of the area, and if the area is tidal or non-tidal. Since each project is case specific and such things as avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts, and project purpose and need are all taken into consideration it is best to call the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office for more details at (757) 518-2158.

Once the application has been approved by all of the regulatory agencies exerting jurisdiction, the permittee is responsible for the project's permit fees, associated dredging and placement royalties and/or mitigation costs. With respect to VMRC, according to VA Code §28.2-1206 Section E, "All counties, cities and towns of the Commonwealth shall pay the required permit fee but shall be exempt from all other fees;" such fees include dredging and placement fees. For private applicants, dredging fees will apply while VMRC will consider the dredging fees for private public partnerships on a case by case basis. The approved permit shall specify a royalty which may not be less than \$0.20 per cubic yard and no more than \$0.60 per cubic yard. In establishing the royalty, VMRC takes the following factors into consideration:

1. The primary and secondary purpose for removing the bottom material;

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2. Whether the material has any commercial value and whether it will be used for any commercial purpose;
3. The use to be made of the removed material and public benefit or adverse effect upon the public that will result from the removal or disposal of the material;
4. The physical characteristics of the material to be removed; and
5. The expense of removing and disposing of the material.

In most cases the applicant is charged \$0.45 per cubic yard for dredged material, proposed to be removed from State-owned bottom. If the dredged material is high quality and has the potential for commercial use, then the applicant may be charged \$0.60 per cubic yard.

As stated earlier, another factor contributing to the projects associated dredging royalty is whether the project is considered a maintenance dredge project or not. A maintenance dredge, as defined by VMRC, is a dredging activity for navigation purposes that have been previously authorized by the Commission, to the depth previously authorized by the Commission, and where a royalty, if applicable, has been previously paid to the Commission for the initial removal State-owned submerged lands (Constitution VMRC Subaqueous Guidelines Section II). Therefore, if one's project meets this definition the permittee is exempt from dredging royalties. If the project is not considered maintenance, then the permittee will be charged \$0.20-\$0.60 per cubic yard.

A permittee is also responsible for placement royalties. If the dredged sediment is placed below mean low tide then the associated royalty is \$0.05 per square foot. However, to place dredged material above the mean low water mark on private property, the private property owner may have to obtain a wetlands or coastal primary sands dunes and beaches permit.

Ultimately the permittee is liable for the proper completion of the project, in particular closely adhering to all of the permit conditions issued by the regulatory agencies. These include strict adherence to the maximum permissible project depths, vegetated wetlands buffers, allowable dredge footprints and proper erosion and sediment control at the dredge cut, pipeline or transfer route and dredge disposal site. The permittee is also required to adhere to any regulations or laws that protect threatened and endangered species and other sensitive habitats such as submerged aquatic vegetation or oyster reefs.

For a comprehensive overview of permit fees, dredging fees, and encroachment/placement fees associated with dredging projects, please refer to the Dredging Project Table on the following page.

5. Selection of a contractor:

With the parameters for a dredged project approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies, the permittee seeks bids from marine contractors and subcontractors capable of meeting the permits parameters.

6. Pre-dredging conference:

Often, as permit condition, a pre-dredging conference is held at the site prior to the commencement of dredging. The permittee, the dredging contractor, and a member of the VMRC staff must attend the meeting. Other agencies may choose to participate. Held seven days prior to the commencement of dredging, the conference includes an inspection of the dredge material containment area, an inspection of the previously staked dredge area, and a discussion of the terms and conditions of the permit.

7. Dredging

Initiation of the dredge project commences only after all parties acknowledge that they understand the terms and conditions of the permits issued.

8. Post-Dredge Bathymetric Survey:

The permittee will often be required to provide a post-dredging bathymetric survey of the dredged area within 30 days following dredging of the channel. The survey must be signed and dated as being accurate and true. The survey must be referenced to mean low water and include a transect at the channelward end of the dredge cut and at specified intervals along the dredged channel to the landward terminus of the dredged area. Accurate bathymetric data from each transect shall be used to establish the top width of the dredge cut ($\pm 1'$) and must include a depth measurement exterior to both sides of the dredge cut. If applicable, the survey must also indicate the horizontal distance between the top of the dredge cut and the vegetated wetlands depicted on the project drawings.

9. VMRC Final Review:

VMRC is responsible for regulating activities on State-owned submerged land, tidal wetlands and dunes/beaches pursuant to Chapters 12, 13, and 14, Subtitle III, of Title 28.2 of the Code of Virginia. Hence, following dredging activities and receipt of the required post-dredge bathymetric survey, VMRC staff will review the dredged activity to verify that it was completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of their permit. The remaining permitting authorities will also review the project to insure project compliance with their laws and regulations.

Table 3: This matrix identifies sediment disposal options as well as the associated costs (i.e. permit fees, dredging fees and royalties and encroachment fees) for entities interested in pursuing a maintenance or new dredging project.

Dredging Project Applicant	Type of Dredging		Sediment Disposal Site Options					Associated Costs		
	Maintenance	New	Public Beach	Private Beach Easement	No Beach Easement	Public Upland Containment Site	Private Upland Containment Site	Permit Fees	Dredging fees and royalties	Encroachment/Placement royalties
Public Entity	*		✓	✓		✓	✓	VMRC: Dredging Permit is \$25, but if the cost of the project is to exceed \$10,000 the permit fee of \$100 shall be paid DEQ: will vary based on permit requires (i.e. Virginia Water Protection Permit) USACE: individual permits may require a fee up to \$100 (case sensitive); additional permits related to a nationwide permit there are no additional permit fees Local Wetland Board: Wetland Permit fees vary (Refer to Table 2)	Counties, Cities and Towns are exempt from all other dredging royalties	Counties, Cities, and Towns are exempt from all other dredging royalties
Public Entity		*	✓	✓		✓	✓			Counties, Cities, and Towns are exempt from all other dredging royalties
Public Entity	*		✓		✓	✓	✓			Counties, Cities, and Towns are exempt from all other dredging royalties
Public Entity		*	✓		✓	✓	✓			Counties, Cities, and Towns are exempt from all other dredging royalties
Private Entity	*		✓	✓		✓	✓	VMRC: Dredging Permit is \$25, but if the cost of the project is to exceed \$10,000 the permit fee of \$100 shall be paid DEQ: will vary based on permit requires (i.e. Virginia Water Protection Permit) USACE: individual permits may require a fee up to \$100 (case sensitive); additional permits related to multi-user permits there are no additional permit fees Local Wetland Board: Wetland Permit fees vary (Refer to Table 2)	Exempt from all other fees and royalties due to being a maintenance dredging activity \$0.20 - \$0.60, per cubic yard ; in the majority of cases the fee is \$0.45	\$0.05 / ft ² below MLLW and the applicant may have to pay legal fees to obtain an easement for placement on private property
Private Entity		*	✓	✓		✓	✓		Exempt from all other fees and royalties due to being a maintenance dredging activity \$0.20 - \$0.60, per cubic yard ; in the majority of cases the fee is \$0.45	\$0.05 / ft ² below MLLW and private land owners may need to obtain a permit for beach nourishment along and adjacent to private property
Private Entity	*		✓		✓	✓	✓		Exempt from all other fees and royalties due to being a maintenance dredging activity \$0.20 - \$0.60, per cubic yard ; in the majority of cases the fee is \$0.45	private land owners may need to obtain a permit for beach nourishment along and adjacent to private property
Public Private Partnership		*	✓	✓		✓	✓	VMRC: Dredging Permit is \$25, but if the cost of the project is to exceed \$10,000 the permit fee of \$100 shall be paid DEQ: will vary based on permit requires (i.e. Virginia Water Protection Permit) USACE: individual permits may require a fee up to \$100 (case sensitive); additional permits related to multi-user permits there are no additional permit fees Local Wetland Board: Wetland Permit fees vary (Refer to Table 2)	Exempt from all other fees and royalties due to being a maintenance dredging activity \$0.20 - \$0.60, per cubic yard ; in the majority of cases the fee is \$0.45	\$0.05 / ft ² below MLLW and the applicant may have to pay legal fees to obtain an easement for placement on private property
Public Private Partnership	*		✓		✓	✓	✓		Exempt from all other fees and royalties due to being a maintenance dredging activity \$0.20 - \$0.60, per cubic yard ; in the majority of cases the fee is \$0.45	\$0.05 / ft ² below MLLW and private land owners may need to obtain a permit for beach nourishment along and adjacent to private property
Public Private Partnership		*	✓		✓	✓	✓		Exempt from all other fees and royalties due to being a maintenance dredging activity \$0.20 - \$0.60, per cubic yard ; in the majority of cases the fee is \$0.45	private land owners may need to obtain a permit for beach nourishment along and adjacent to private property

Appendix F – Notes and Additional Resources

Notes

Colman, et al., 1988. The record of major Quaternary sea-level changes in a large Coastal Plain estuary, Chesapeake Bay, eastern United States: *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, v. 68, no. 2-4, p. 99–116.

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Additional Resources

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A-NPDC. 2015. Eastern Shore of Virginia Seaside Commercial Use Assessment Report (SCUAR)

A-NPDC. 2014. Working Waterfronts Inventory *DRAFT*

MPPDC. September 2011. Users Guide to Dredging in Tidewater Virginia

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Navionics. Information comes from multiple public and private sources, including government and Hydrographic Office charts, their own survey data, as well as Community sonar logs. Navionics provides acknowledgement of third party notices and copyright licenses at <http://www.navionics.com/acknowledgements>.

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Reports

4-5-2021

Fisheries Landings for the Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) 2021

Richard A. Snyder
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

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fisheries Landings for the Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) 2021.

VIMS ESL Technical Report #10.

Richard A. Snyder
Professor and Director, Eastern Shore Laboratory
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary
Wachapreague, Virginia
<http://www.vims.edu/esl/>

6 April 2021

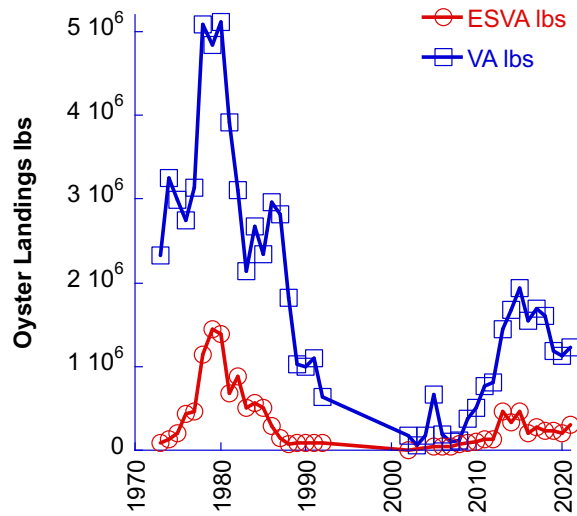
Virginia (VA) landings data were requested from VMRC (Table 1) and analyzed by Richard Snyder at VIMS ESL. Landings data reflect where seafood entered market systems, and so may have different origins that will blur categorizing economic activity ascribed to the act of harvest and the act of processing for market. For example, almost all menhaden are landed in Deltaville, VA, some of the conch/welks and dogfish recorded for Accomack may have originated elsewhere to be processed in Wachapreague, and visiting Maryland crabbers early in the season contribute to blue crab landings. Shellfish data (oysters and clams) are separated as “public” and “private” to indicate the origin of the shellfish on public grounds or on private lease grounds. Aquacultured oysters and clams are embedded in the “private” designation, which includes harvest of wild shellfish on private leases, hatchery-based extensive culture (spat on shell), and intensive aquaculture (containerized).

Table 1. Fisheries data request criteria supplied by VMRC data management staff.

Date; 3/21/22
 Dept: Plans and Statistics - JD
 Database: FSMRPT (Trip level and Historical database)
 Criteria:
 Year(s): 1929-2021
 Species: All Species
 County: 1 (Accomack), 45 (Northampton)
 Systems: 1-9 All Virginia Waters
 *2020 & 2021 Offshore landings not available

Trends in oyster and clam landings over time are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. After a period of low harvests 1990 to 2005, both public and private oyster landings have increased, with landings from private lease holdings exceeding the public grounds harvest. Some of this is undoubtedly due to the emergence of intensive aquaculture. The clam landings almost entirely represent aquaculture production, with a spike seen in 2021 doubling the previous year's landings. For 2021, ESVA oyster landings were 23.1% of the total VA public and 16.5% of the total VA private landings. The clam landings for ESVA are 99.9% of the total for Virginia (Tables 2, 3, & 4), with 16.6% coming into Accomack County and 83.4% coming into Northampton County (Tables 3 & 4). The divergence in the 2019 and 2020 clam data are likely misallocations of data by year that would offset each other. Clam data does not include “Ocean” or “Public” harvest which is a small fraction of the total.

Public Oyster Harvest



Private Oyster Harvest

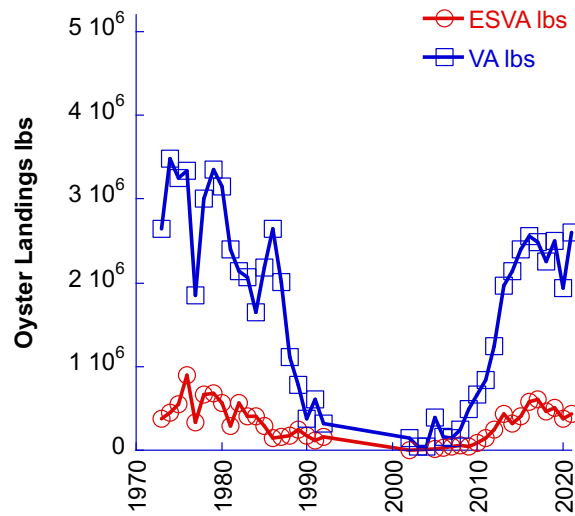
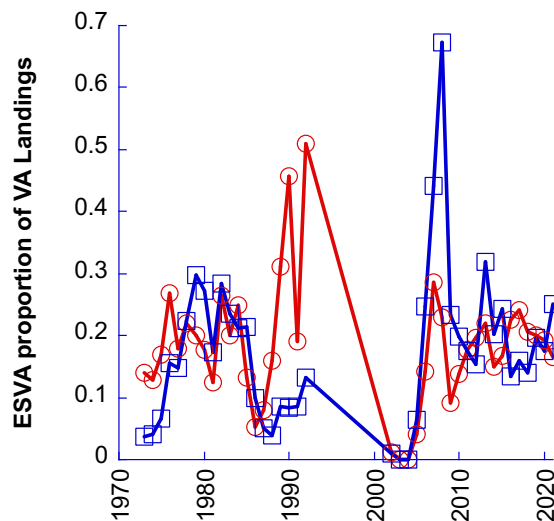


Figure 1. Oyster landings for Virginia from public grounds and private leases.

ESVA Portion of VA Oyster landings
 Red = Private Harvest
 Blue = Public Harvest



Private Hard Clam Harvest

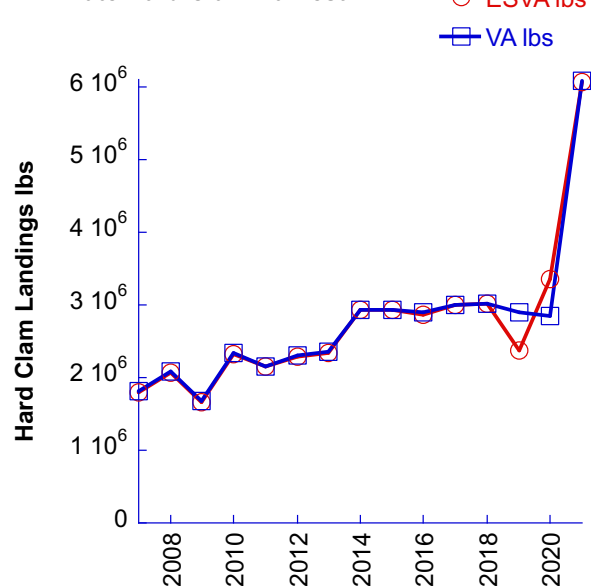


Figure 2. ESVA (Accomack and Northampton Counties) portion of Virginia total oyster landings from public and private grounds (left) and private grounds clam landings for ESVA and all of Virginia (right).

Table 2. Landings of all species for 2021 in all Virginia waters sorted by value (\$; left) and by total weight (lbs; right)

2021 All VA by \$	\$	Lbs	2021 All VA by lbs	\$	Lbs
QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$57,759,879	6,078,173	CRAB, BLUE	\$31,908,190	16,920,630
CRAB, BLUE	\$31,908,190	169,20,630	QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$57,759,879	6,078,173
OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$21,647,262	2,594,187	MENHADEN	\$713,465	5,321,554
OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$8,371,194	1,224,481	OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$21,647,262	2,594,187
SPOT	\$3,467,514	1,156,127	CATFISH, BLUE	\$1,331,697	2,563,897
BASS, STRIPED	\$2,806,056	836,158	DOGFISH, SPINY	\$407,014	2,414,282
CATFISH, BLUE	\$1,331,697	2,563,897	OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$8,371,194	1,224,481
CONCHS	\$1,248,373	438,600	SPOT	\$3,467,514	1,156,127
MENHADEN	\$713,465	5,321,554	BASS, STRIPED	\$2,806,056	836,158
SHRIMP (PENAEID)	\$599,917	239,967	CONCHS	\$1,248,373	438,600
CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$509,920	272,932	CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$422,128	347,386
CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$422,128	347,386	CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$509,920	272,932
DOGFISH, SPINY	\$407,014	2,414,282	SHAD, GIZZARD	\$42,830	270,253
BASS, BLACK SEA	\$333,828	129,019	SHRIMP (PENAEID)	\$599,917	239,967
MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$288,346	143,318	MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$288,346	143,318
QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$132,164	20,753	FISH, BAIT	\$104,647	143,016
BUTTERFISH	\$126,191	22,374	BASS, BLACK SEA	\$333,828	129,019
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$120,599	51,594	CATFISH, NK	\$60,961	115,916
COBIA	\$110,888	29,425	BLUEFISH	\$74,386	75,555
FISH, BAIT	\$104,647	143,016	DRUM, BLACK	\$31,670	63,340
WHITING, KING	\$82,537	36,343	SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$120,599	51,594
BLUEFISH	\$74,386	75,555	CARP	\$6,738	50,509
CATFISH, NK	\$60,961	115,916	EEL, AMERICAN	\$60,432	40,288
EEL, AMERICAN	\$60,432	40,288	ALEWIFE	\$4,456	39,555
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$52,336	32,315	RIBBONFISH	\$36,433	36,894
DRUM, RED	\$50,364	17,788	WHITING, KING	\$82,537	36,343
SEATROUT, GREY	\$49,810	27,884	MINNOW	\$36,463	34,053
SHAD, GIZZARD	\$42,830	270,253	FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$52,336	32,315
MINNOW	\$36,463	34,053	COBIA	\$110,888	29,425
RIBBONFISH	\$36,433	36,894	SEATROUT, GREY	\$49,810	27,884
DRUM, BLACK	\$31,670	63,340	DOGFISH, SMOOTH	\$9,630	25,416
MULLET	\$20,543	14,642	BUTTERFISH	\$126,191	22,374
PUFFER, NORTHERN	\$15,875	5,951	QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$132,164	20,753

SPADEFISH	\$10,898	9,926
PERCH, WHITE	\$10,366	15,942
DOGFISH, SMOOTH	\$9,630	25,416
HARVESTFISH	\$8,211	3,227
CARP	\$6,738	50,509
TAUTOG	\$6,255	2,145
TRIGGERFISHES	\$4,820	2,124
SHARK, BLACKTIP	\$4,792	6,389
ALEWIFE	\$4,456	39,555
TOADFISH, OYSTER	\$4,029	1,791
POMPANO, COMMON	\$3,449	832
MACKEREL, KING	\$3,200	1,421
WHELK, KNOBBED	\$2,291	1,909
WHITING, KING	\$1,624	706
PERCH, YELLOW	\$1,051	876
SHEEPSHEAD	\$943	472
SHAD, HICKORY	\$750	1,955
REDFISH	\$731	1,475
CREVALLE	\$711	711
SHAD, AMERICAN	\$668	2,184
SHAD, AMERICAN	\$497	1,158
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	\$442	1,000
PIGFISH	\$245	817
CREVALLE	\$181	181
AMBERJACK	\$150	120
GARFISH	\$30	203

DRUM, RED	\$50,364	17,788
PERCH, WHITE	\$10,366	15,942
MULLET	\$20,543	14,642
SPADEFISH	\$10,898	9,926
SHARK, BLACKTIP	\$4,792	6,389
PUFFER, NORTHERN	\$15,875	5,951
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PERCH, YELLOW	\$1,051	876
POMPANO, COMMON	\$3,449	832
PIGFISH	\$245	817
CREVALLE	\$711	711
WHITING, KING	\$1,624	706
SHEEPSHEAD	\$943	472
GARFISH	\$30	203
CREVALLE	\$181	181
AMBERJACK	\$150	120

Total 2021 VA: \$133,111,071 and 41,892,137 lbs

Table 3. Landings data form Accomack and Northampton Counties, 2021, sorted by value (\$).

Accomack 2021 by value (\$)			Northampton 2021 by value (\$)		
SPECIES NAME	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS	SPECIES NAME	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS
QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$8,177,127	1,124,802	QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$49,503,027	4,945,649
CRAB, BLUE	\$6,176,515	3,075,611	CRAB, BLUE	\$5,514,163	3,494,388
OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$2,152,765	301,541	OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$1,839,749	207,604
OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$2,043,169	222,959	CONCHS	\$403,219	131,244
SPOT	\$998,725	332,909	BASS, STRIPED	\$157,401	44,580
BASS, STRIPED	\$639,582	188,016	CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$62,788	35,952
CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$375,029	303,363	CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$47,100	44,022
CONCHS	\$197,328	70,474	SPOT	\$44,895	14,965
DOGFISH, SPINY	\$156,439	819,709	OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$39,900	5,588
CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$141,749	68,432	FISH, BAIT	\$25,564	17,443
MINNOW	\$33,275	31,456	RIBBONFISHES	\$24,418	24,460
BLUEFISH	\$26,679	17,090	DRUM, BLACK	\$13,767	27,534
QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$25,278	3,995	MENHADEN	\$11,538	90,477
MENHADEN	\$23,940	206,048	SPADEFISH	\$9,805	8,938
MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$22,469	10,162	BLUEFISH	\$8,058	4,112
FISH, BAIT	\$19,842	26,302	COBIA	\$7,873	2,080
DRUM, BLACK	\$17,724	35,449	QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$6,462	2,439
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$13,341	7,129	SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$6,004	2,492
WHITING, KING	\$11,845	5,180	BUTTERFISH	\$5,768	824
DOGFISH, SMOOTH	\$8,837	23,433	SEATROUT, GREY	\$4,994	2,863
DRUM, RED	\$7,691	2,030	FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$4,446	1,972
PUFFER, NORTHERN	\$7,053	2,015	WHITING, KING	\$3,133	1,368
SEATROUT, GREY	\$5,899	3,159	DRUM, RED	\$2,732	1,187
MACKEREL, KING	\$3,180	1,413	MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$2,609	1,267
BUTTERFISH	\$1,858	1,268	WHELK, KNOBBED	\$1,550	1,292
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$647	232	POMPANO, COMMON	\$1,470	323
SHARK, BLACKTIP	\$322	429	TAUTOG	\$513	179
MULLET	\$280	278	SHEEPSHEAD	\$242	121
SHEEPSHEAD	\$182	91	MULLET	\$161	142
RIBBONFISHES	\$61	61			
PERCH, WHITE	\$44	106			
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	\$36	67			

Table 4. Landings data from Accomack and Northampton Counties, 2021, sorted by weight (lbs).

Accomack 2021 by weight (lbs)			Northampton 2021 by weight (lbs)		
SPECIES NAME	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS	SPECIES NAME	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS
CRAB, BLUE	\$6,176,515	3,075,611	QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$49,503,027	4,945,649
QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$8,177,127	1,124,802	CRAB, BLUE	\$5,514,163	3,494,388
DOGFISH, SPINY	\$156,439	819,709	OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$1,839,749	207,604
SPOT	\$998,725	332,909	CONCHS	\$403,219	131,244
CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$375,029	303,363	MENHADEN	\$11,538	90,477
OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$2,152,765	301,541	BASS, STRIPED	\$157,401	44,580
OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$2,043,169	222,959	CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$47,100	44,022
MENHADEN	\$23,940	206,048	CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$62,788	35,952
BASS, STRIPED	\$639,582	188,016	DRUM, BLACK	\$13,767	27,534
CONCHS	\$197,328	70,474	RIBBONFISHES	\$24,418	24,460
CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$141,749	68,432	FISH, BAIT	\$25,564	17,443
DRUM, BLACK	\$17,724	35,449	SPOT	\$44,895	14,965
MINNOW	\$33,275	31,456	SPADEFISH	\$9,805	8,938
FISH, BAIT	\$19,842	26,302	OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$39,900	5,588
DOGFISH, SMOOTH	\$8,837	23,433	BLUEFISH	\$8,058	4,112
BLUEFISH	\$26,679	17,090	SEATROUT, GREY	\$4,994	2,863
MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$22,469	10,162	SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$6,004	2,492
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$13,341	7,129	QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$6,462	2,439
WHITING, KING	\$11,845	5,180	COBIA	\$7,873	2,080
QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$25,278	3,995	FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$4,446	1,972
SEATROUT, GREY	\$5,899	3,159	WHITING, KING	\$3,133	1,368
DRUM, RED	\$7,691	2,030	WHELK, KNOBBED	\$1,550	1,292
PUFFER, NORTHERN	\$7,053	2,015	MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$2,609	1,267
MACKEREL, KING	\$3,180	1,413	DRUM, RED	\$2,732	1,187
BUTTERFISH	\$1,858	1,268	BUTTERFISH	\$5,768	824
SHARK, BLACKTIP	\$322	429	POMPANO, COMMON	\$1,470	323
MULLET	\$280	278	TAUTOG	\$513	179
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$647	232	MULLET	\$161	142
PERCH, WHITE	\$44	106	SHEEPSHEAD	\$242	121
SHEEPSHEAD	\$182	91			
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	\$36	67			
RIBBONFISHES	\$61	61			

Table 5. ESVA counties total landings value and weight.

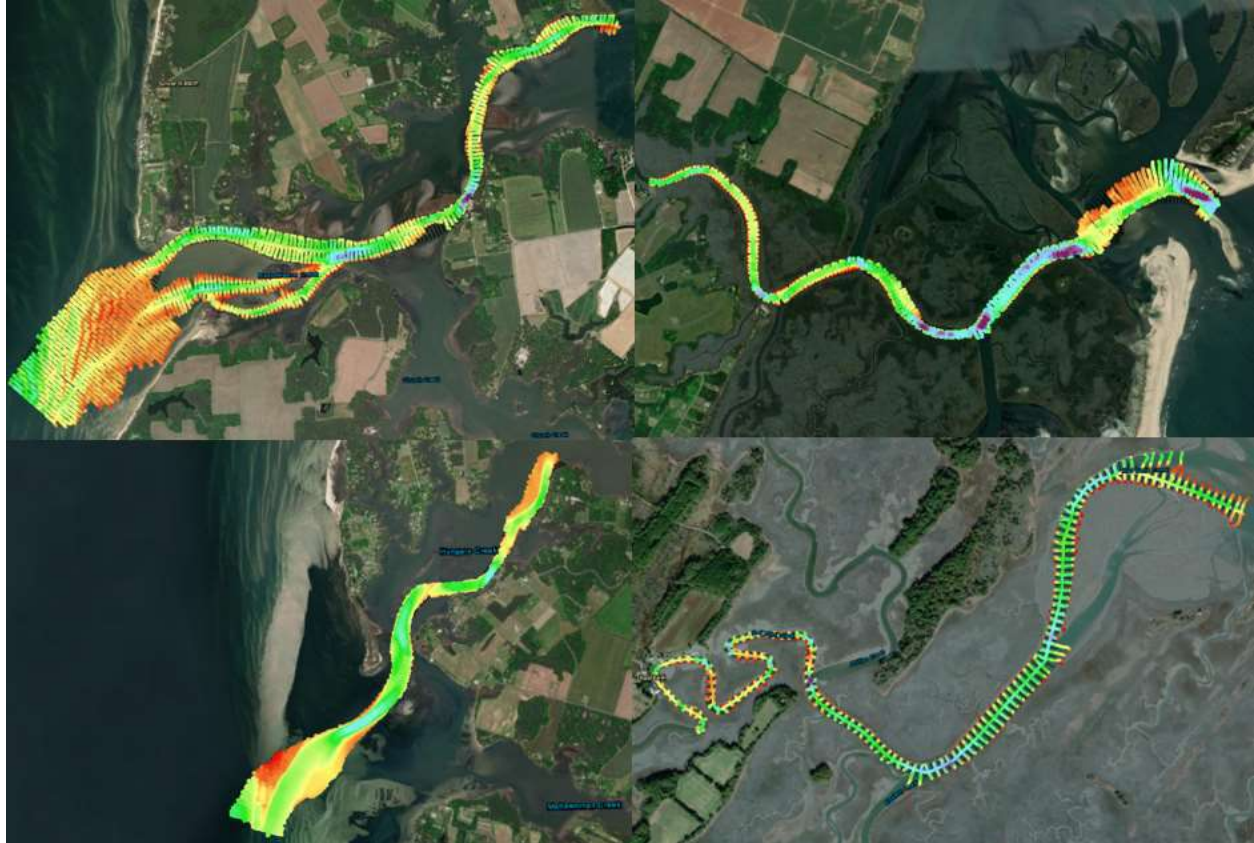
Accomack	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS	Northampton	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS
	\$21,288,907	6,885,210		\$57,753,347	9,115,504

Table 6. ESVA (Accomack + Northampton Counties) 2021 landings totals sorted by value (left) and weight (right)

SPECIES NAME	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS	SPECIES NAME	SUM VALUE	SUM POUNDS
QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$57,680,154	6,070,450	CRAB, BLUE	\$11,690,677	6,569,999
CRAB, BLUE	\$11,690,677	6,569,999	QUAHOG, PRIVATE	\$57,680,154	6,070,450
OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$3,882,918	430,563	DOGFISH, SPINY	\$156,439	819,709
OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$2,192,665	307,129	OYSTERS, PRIVATE	\$3,882,918	430,563
SPOT	\$1,043,620	347,874	SPOT	\$1,043,620	347,874
BASS, STRIPED	\$796,983	232,596	CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$422,128	347,386
CONCHS	\$600,547	201,719	OYSTERS, PUBLIC	\$2,192,665	307,129
CRAB, HORSESHOE	\$422,128	347,386	MENHADEN	\$35,478	296,525
CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$204,537	104,384	BASS, STRIPED	\$796,983	232,596
DOGFISH, SPINY	\$156,439	819,709	CONCHS	\$600,547	201,719
FISH, BAIT	\$45,406	43,745	CROAKER, ATLANTIC	\$204,537	104,384
MENHADEN	\$35,478	296,525	DRUM, BLACK	\$31,492	62,983
BLUEFISH	\$34,737	21,202	FISH, BAIT	\$45,406	43,745
MINNOW	\$33,275	31,456	MINNOW	\$33,275	31,456
QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$31,740	6,434	RIBBONFISHES	\$24,479	24,521
DRUM, BLACK	\$31,492	62,983	DOGFISH, SMOOTH	\$8,837	23,433
MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$25,078	11,429	BLUEFISH	\$34,737	21,202
RIBBONFISHES	\$24,479	24,521	MACKEREL, SPANISH	\$25,078	11,429
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$17,787	9,101	FLOUNDER, SUMMER	\$17,787	9,101
WHITING, KING	\$14,978	6,548	SPADEFISH	\$9,805	8,938
SEATROUT, GREY	\$10,893	6,022	WHITING, KING	\$14,978	6,548
DRUM, RED	\$10,422	3,217	QUAHOG, PUBLIC	\$31,740	6,434
SPADEFISH	\$9,805	8,938	SEATROUT, GREY	\$10,893	6,022
DOGFISH, SMOOTH	\$8,837	23,433	DRUM, RED	\$10,422	3,217
COBIA	\$7,873	2,080	SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$6,651	2,724
BUTTERFISH	\$7,626	2,092	BUTTERFISH	\$7,626	2,092
PUFFER, NORTHERN	\$7,053	2,015	COBIA	\$7,873	2,080
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	\$6,651	2,724	PUFFER, NORTHERN	\$7,053	2,015
MACKEREL, KING	\$3,180	1,413	MACKEREL, KING	\$3,180	1,413
WHELK, KNOBBED	\$1,550	1,292	WHELK, KNOBBED	\$1,550	1,292
POMPANO, COMMON	\$1,470	323	SHARK, BLACKTIP	\$322	429
TAUTOG	\$513	179	MULLET	\$441	420
MULLET	\$441	420	POMPANO, COMMON	\$1,470	323
SHEEPSHEAD	\$424	212	SHEEPSHEAD	\$424	212
SHARK, BLACKTIP	\$322	429	TAUTOG	\$513	179
PERCH, WHITE	\$44	106	PERCH, WHITE	\$44	106
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	\$36	67	MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	\$36	67
Totals	\$79,042,254	16,000,714			

Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Surveys

Spring 2021



DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Submitted by:



Submitted to:



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Geodynamics was contracted by Moffatt & Nichol to perform bathymetric channel surveys of four waterways throughout Accomack and Northampton Counties. The work includes elevation and position data collected along specified azimuths at specified intervals relative to designated channels, and at the surveyor's discretion in morphologically complex locations. This work utilized hydrographic surveying techniques that meet or exceed the criteria outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrographic Surveying Manual, EM 1110-2-1003.

1.2 Survey Area

The survey covers four creeks on the Eastern Shore of Virginia (Figure 1 - Figure 4). Data were collected in four waterways including Folly Creek and Red Bank Creek on the Atlantic Ocean side of the Delmarva Peninsula, and Nassawadox Creek and Hungars Creek on the Chesapeake Bay side of the peninsula. For each channel, data were acquired along centerlines and 100' spaced channel crosslines.



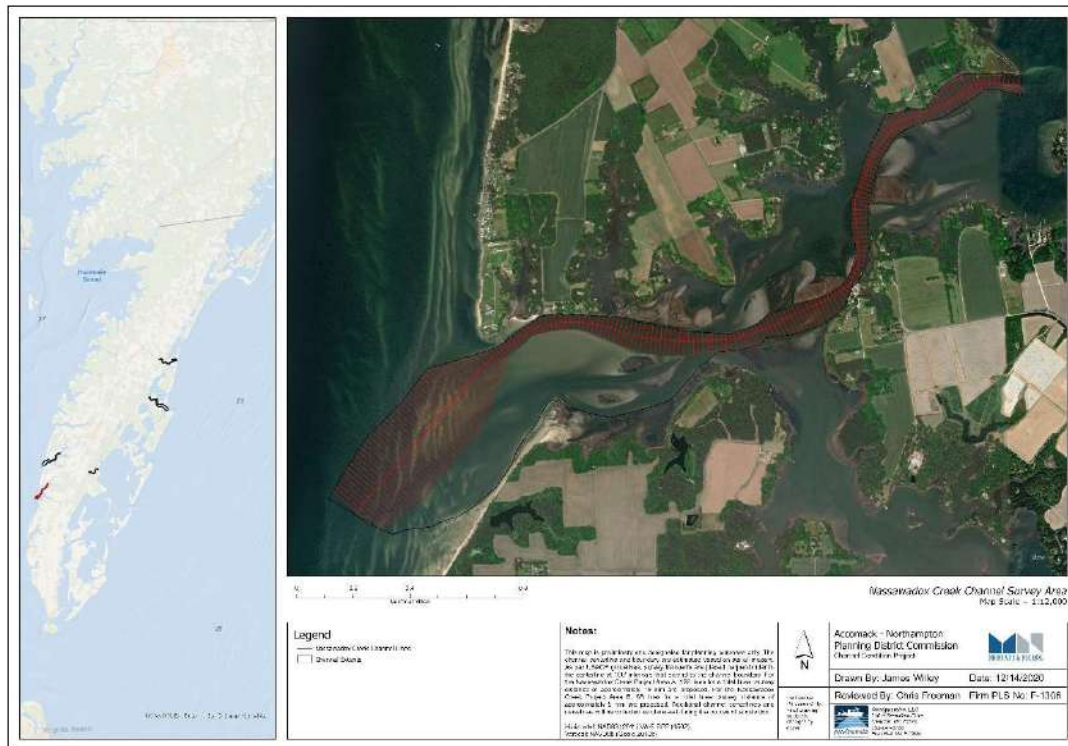


Figure 3. Planning map overview of the Nassawadox Creek Survey Area.



Figure 4. Planning map overview of the Hungars Creek Survey Area.

1.3 Survey Objectives

As outlined in the official Scope of Work (SOW) (Appendix F), the specific goals of the survey were to provide the following data products:

- ASCII text files of all soundings.
- Shapefiles for all SBES lines.

1.4 Report Purpose

The purpose of this document is to summarize the survey activities and report on the acquisition and processing methodology performed during the project. This report also serves to provide illustrations and descriptions of deliverable items. For any additional information regarding survey activities, contact Geodynamics (252) 247-5785.

1.5 Survey Logistics

Survey activity was conducted during 3/1-3/2 and 4/2-4/7. Listed below is a generalized timeline of data acquisition (Table 1). A detailed summary of daily field activities related to the survey is presented in Appendix A.

Table 1. Summary of Survey Activities

Date	Julian Day	Activity
3/01/21	60	Crew mobilized R/V Echo and traveled to Exmore, VA.
3/02/21	61	R/V Echo conducted SBES survey in Red Bank Creek. Crew demobilized after survey completion.
4/02/21	92	R/V War Eagle was mobilized to Exmore, VA.
4/03/21	93	R/V War Eagle conducted SBES survey in Folly Creek and collected a SBES centerline in Nassawadox Creek.
4/04/21	94	R/V War Eagle conducted SBES in Hungars Creek.
4/05/21	95	R/V War Eagle conducted SBES survey in Nassawadox Creek.
4/06/21	96	R/V War Eagle conducted SBES survey in Nassawadox Creek.
4/07/21	97	Crew demobilized to Newport, NC.

1.6 Survey Conditions

Figure 5 displays graphs of NOAA predicted and verified tides for the nearest station located at Wachapreague, VA (Station ID# 8631044) as well as surface wind and air temperature throughout the survey.

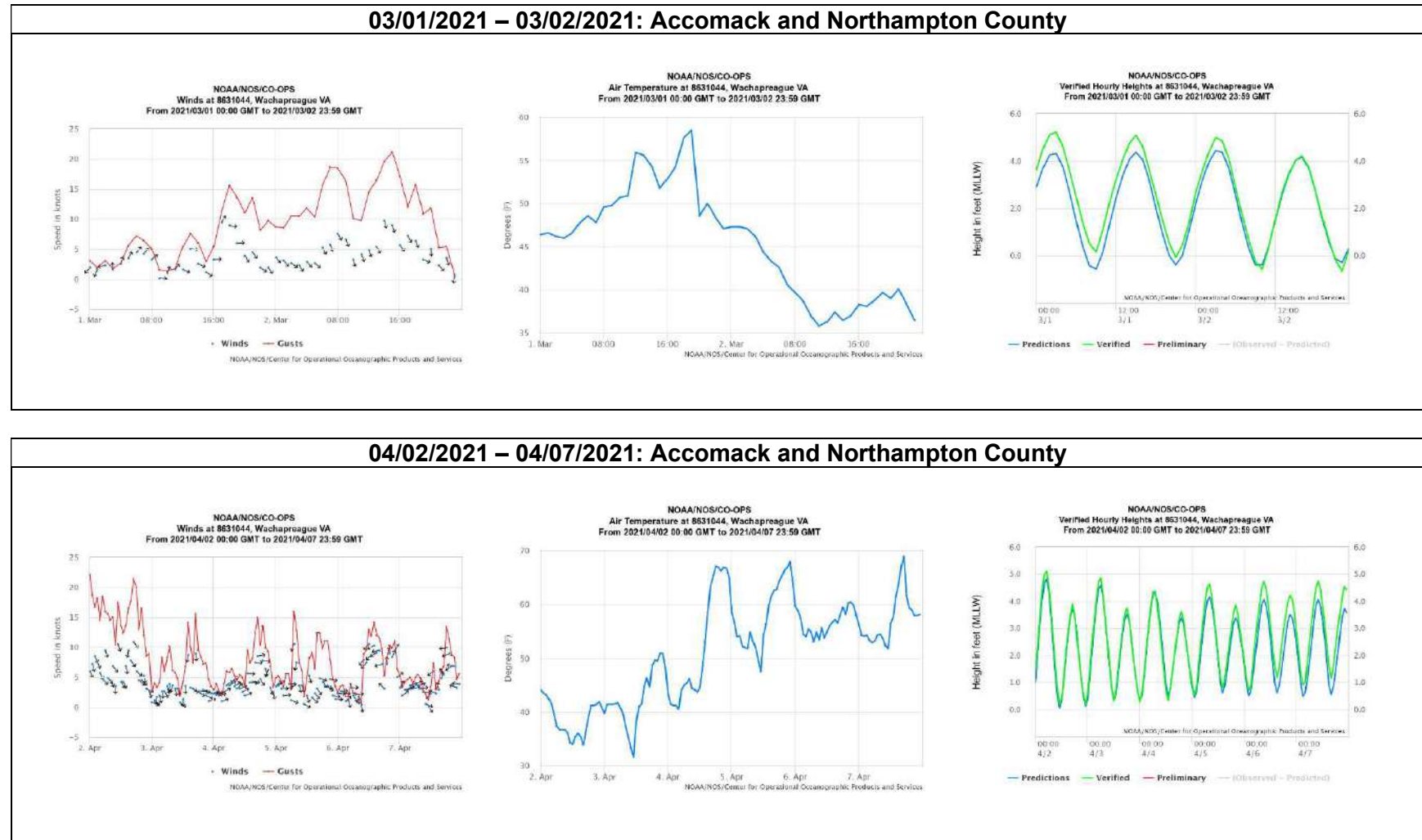


Figure 5. Atmospheric and tidal records for survey days.

1.7 Survey Personnel

All survey crew throughout the survey were provided by Geodynamics. These personnel contributed to the vessel mobilization, data collection, vessel demobilization efforts, processing, reporting, QA-QC and final certification (Table 2).

Table 2. List of Survey Personnel and Responsibilities

Survey Participant	Title	Affiliation
Dave Bernstein	Project Manager / PLS	Geodynamics
Kurt Baker	Data Manager / GIS Analyst	Geodynamics
Ben Sumners	Data Manager / GIS Analyst	Geodynamics
James Willey	Field Surveyor	Geodynamics
Anna Atencio	Field Surveyor	Geodynamics
Zach Gray	Field Surveyor	Geodynamics

1.8 Navigation and Positioning

All data points obtained during the hydrographic and topographic survey activities have a geographic location associated with them to facilitate database entry and display of these data within a GIS framework. To accurately position data, elevations/soundings were collected with Real Time Kinematic (RTK) Virtual Reference Station (VRS) GNSS corrections to provide $< \pm 0.20$ ft vertical and $< \pm 1.0$ ft horizontal accuracy. RTK-VRS corrections were generated via the Virginia LEICA GNSS SmartNet was used to provide real-time kinematic corrections via the internet. A Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) enabled, Trimble Zephyr Model 2 with ground plane receiver installed by Geodynamics was used to collect static GNSS observations to provide additional quality assurance during post-processing. HYPACK utilized an X/Y grid system based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83), Virginia-South State Plane Feet Zone 4502 (VA-South SPF83) and reduced from the ellipsoid using Geoid 2012b. Data were collected in the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88), and final deliverable data were transformed to Mean Low Water and Mean Lower Low Water vertical reference frames.

Table 3. RTK-VRS GNSS base station coordinates.

Base station Name	Latitude	Longitude	Ellipsoid Height (NAD83)
LOYOLA LOYW CORS ARP	37 31 40.99507	075 50 52.66304	-22.441

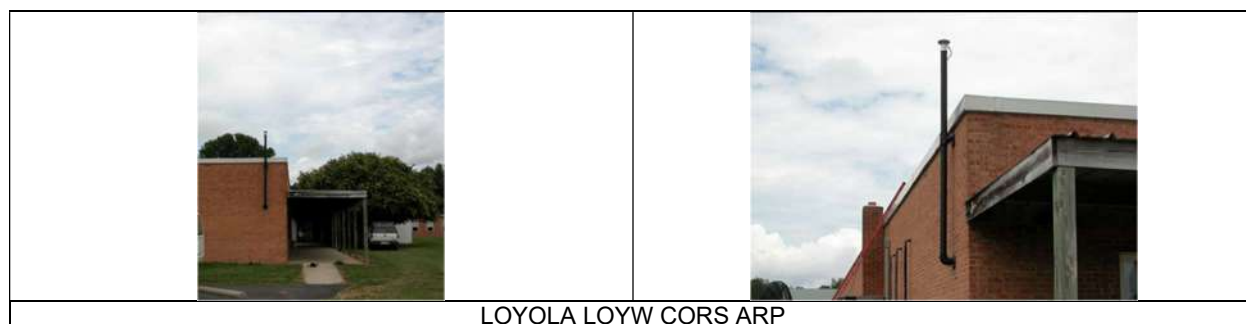


Figure 6. Photos showing sources of survey control used throughout survey operations.

2.0 Singlebeam Sonar Bathymetric Survey Methodology

2.1 Equipment and Control

2.1.1 Vessels

2.1.1.1 R/V Echo

The R/V Echo served as the initial survey platform for nearshore singlebeam data acquisition (Figure 7, Table 4). The R/V Echo is specifically designed to be a vessel of opportunity for shallow water inshore and coastal ocean mapping. The R/V Echo is equipped with a thru-hull transducer that is tightly coupled with inertial navigation system (INS) for positioning and elevation. On-the-fly sound speed sensors and customized computer systems allow seamless logging of bathymetric data.



Figure 7. R/V Echo.

Table 4. R/V Echo Vessel Specifications

Dimensions:	21' x 9' x 1.2'
USCG:	Designated Research Vessel
Flag:	U.S.
Registry:	North Carolina
Official Number:	NC 7341 DT
Tonnage:	1
Lab space:	1 open console operator station
Max Speed:	30 knots
Min. survey speed:	2.5 knots
Propulsion:	1 x 140 HP Suzuki 4-Stroke Outboard Motor -2011
Auxiliary Power:	24v DC battery bank and 12v DC parallel battery banks
Fuel capacity:	60 gallons
GPS:	Simrad
Sounder:	Lowrance StructureScan
Compass:	n/a
Radar:	n/a
Autopilot:	n/a
VHF:	Icom 25 watt
Internet:	Verizon 4G Jetpack

2.1.1.2 R/V War Eagle

The R/V War Eagle served the survey platform for shallow water singlebeam data acquisition during the second mobilization (Figure 8, Table 5). The R/V War Eagle is specifically designed to be a vessel of opportunity for inshore shallow water and close-quarters mapping. The R/V War Eagle is equipped with a pole-mounted transducer that is tightly coupled with inertial navigation system (INS) for positioning and elevation. On-the-fly sound speed sensors and customized computer systems allow seamless logging of bathymetric data.



Figure 8. R/V War Eagle.

Table 5. R/V War Eagle Vessel Specifications

Dimensions:	15' x 5' x 1'
USCG:	Designated Research Vessel
Flag:	U.S.
Registry:	North Carolina
Official Number:	NC 9625 EC
Tonnage:	1
Lab space:	1 open console operator station
Max Speed:	20 knots
Min. survey speed:	2.5 knots
Propulsion:	1 x 15 HP Yamaha 4-Stroke Outboard Motor
Auxiliary Power:	24v DC battery bank and 12v DC parallel battery banks
Fuel capacity:	5 gallons
GPS:	n/a
Sounder:	n/a
Compass:	n/a
Radar:	n/a
Autopilot:	n/a
VHF:	iCom Handheld
Internet:	Verizon 4G Jetpack

2.1.1.3 Software Systems Inventory

Software utilized throughout the project can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Singlebeam Software Systems Inventory

	Software	Version
Data Acquisition	HYPACK	2018
	Odom E-Chart	1.4.0
	POSVIEW	10.2
	CastAway-CTD	V1.5
Data Processing	HYPACK	2018
	POSPac	8.3 SP3
	ArcGIS Pro	2.5.1
	MS Office	2018

2.1.1.4 Hardware Systems Inventory

Hardware utilized throughout the project can be seen in Table 7.

Table 7. Singlebeam Hardware Systems Inventory

	Hardware Equipment	Manufacturer	Model
Horizontal & Vertical Control	RTK Radio Modem	Trimble	TDL 450H
	RTK Radio Antenna	Pacific Crest	n/a
	GNSS Antenna	Trimble	Zephyr Model 2
	Cellular Internet Card	Verizon	4G LTE JetPack
	POS MV	Applanix	WaveMaster, SurfMaster One
Echo Sounding	StructureScan (while in transit)	Simrad	1.7.0
	ODOM CV100	ODOM	CV100
	Operator Station	OnLogic	Karbon 700
Attitude Positioning	Inertial Motion Unit (IMU)	Applanix	WaveMaster, SurfMaster One
	Position Compute System (PCS)	Applanix	WaveMaster, SurfMaster One
	Primary GNSS Antenna (port)	Trimble	Zephyr Model 2
	Secondary GNSS Antenna	Trimble	Zephyr Model 2
Sound Speed	Sound Profile Velocimeter	SonTek	CastAway-CTD

2.1.1.5 Sonar Equipment

An Odom CV100 singlebeam sonar system was used to acquire singlebeam bathymetry data during the survey (Figure 9). The CV100 system operates at frequencies in the 200 kHz band: ideal for shallow depths. The transducer forms a 4-degree conical beam. With an operational depth range from <30 cm to 600 m and a ping rate up to 20 Hz, the CV100 is ideal for shallow water surveys (Table 8).

Table 8. CV100 specification

Frequencies.	200 kHz / 33 kHz
Maximum ping rate.	up to 20 Hz
Heave compensation	Yes
Depth resolution	1 cm
Transducer	Airmar SMSW200-4a



Figure 9. Odom CV100 digital echosounder mounted on the R/V Echo and R/V War Eagle.

2.1.2 Vertical Control

The vertical datum for the final survey data is NAVD88. The ellipsoid-based real-time vertical water level corrections were reduced by integrating a local Geoid 2012b model in the singlebeam data processing stage. An additional transformation to Mean Low Water and Mean Lower Low Water were completed using NOAA's online Vertical Datum Transformation (VDatum) conversion utility at the request of the client.

2.1.3 Horizontal Control

Horizontal positioning and vessel attitude for singlebeam data was provided by the POS MV system and was corrected using Inertial-Aided Real-Time Kinematic (IARTK) technology. This system provides roll and pitch accuracy to 0.01°, heading to 0.02° (with a 2 m antenna baseline), and heave accuracy to 5 cm or 5% (whichever is greater).

2.2 Singlebeam Data Acquisition

2.2.1 Data Acquisition Software

The HYPACK software suite was used during survey preparation to create survey line plans and evaluate the overall survey scheme. The initial line plan was created in HYPACK using a line spacing designed to acquire survey data sufficient for DEM development. HYPACK was also used during the survey to record sounding and position data, log targets of importance, and provide the captain with line tracking.

The ODOM eChart software was used as a start-up interface to establish communications with the echosounder, check/verify essential echosounder settings and provide transmit and receive gain controls of the singlebeam echosounder.

The POSView software by Applanix was used with the POS MV system. The software provides the interface to view, monitor, and record tightly coupled integration of the attitude measurements from the IMU and position and heading measurements recorded by the GNSS. The recorded POSPac file which contains all attitude, positioning, heading, and error estimates provides a method to post-process attitude and navigation data in the event of RTK-GNSS cycle slips. Additionally, this software provides an access point to RTK-VRS corrections.

2.3 Singlebeam Data Processing

2.3.1 Processing Workflow

Figure 10 illustrates the workflow for singlebeam sonar data processing.

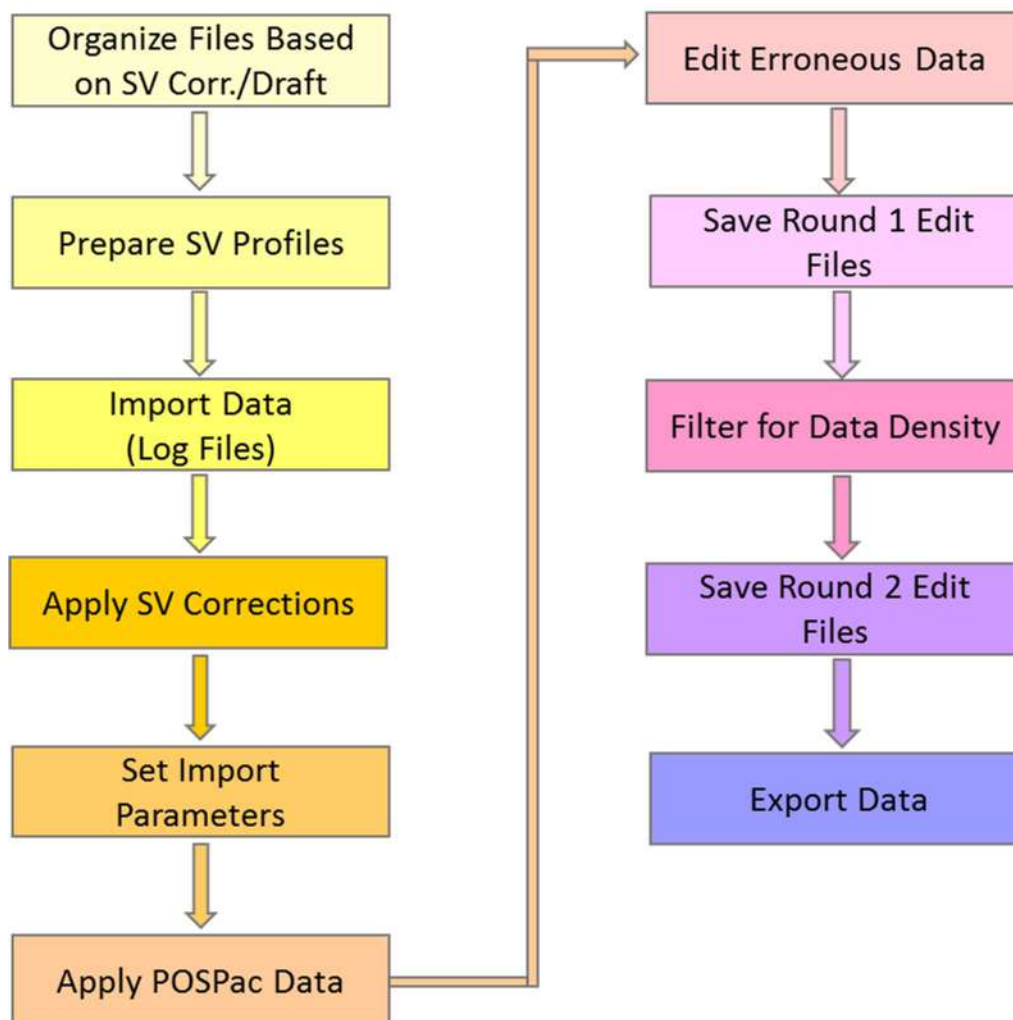


Figure 10. HYPACK singlebeam data processing workflow.

2.4 Corrections to Echo Soundings

2.4.1.1 POS MV SM Correctors

The Applanix POS MV unit was setup to receive phase-differential RTK position offsets from the RTK-GNSS base station. This configuration allowed the POS MV to integrate decimeter positional solutions with highly accurate vessel attitude positions obtained from the IMU. When the GAMS is online, positional solutions were being received from 5 or more satellite fixes with a Positional Dilution of Precision (PDOP) equal to or less than 3. When these conditions were not satisfied, the GAMS solution becomes dormant. The GAMS program continues to track satellites while in this state but does not process the phase-differential corrections real-time.

A verification of the GAMS system was conducted prior to the start of the project for each vessel. The values in use for this survey were obtained from GAMS calibrations that followed the auto-start procedure laid out in the POS MV V5 Installation and Operation Guide. The GAMS parameters in the setup menu were initially set to zero, except for the heading calibration threshold which was set to 0.500°. The vessel then made aggressive figure-8 maneuvers until the GAMS solution came online and the values in the parameter setup menu were automatically updated. This calibration remains valid until vessel offsets are changed.

Due to inherent and common problems associated with RTK-VRS, such as cycle slips, high DOP periods, and data gaps, the POSpac data is routinely post-processed in the Applanix POSpac software suite. While RTK-VRS quality was acceptable during hydrographic data collection, adding the processed POSpac data to the final hydro data was done as a precaution to verify and provide quality assurance for Real-Time corrections.

2.4.1.2 Dynamic Draft Correctors

Dynamic draft is the summation of the static draft, settlement and squat corrections and is a required corrector for echo sounders. Dynamic draft was accounted for in the echo soundings by using RTK-VRS ellipsoid-based vertical corrections. The combined correctors work to continuously factor out the static draft, settlement, and squat of the survey vessel.

2.4.1.3 Sound Speed Correctors

The SonTek CastAway-CTD was used during the survey to obtain accurate sound velocity profiles throughout the survey area (Figure 11). The unit acquires latitude and longitude internally before and after each profile. Conductivity, temperature, salinity, and sound speed are plotted versus depth on the unit, and it transmits data wirelessly for processing. Additionally, sound speed data can be exported into a Hypack compatible format (.vel file). Sound speed profiles were taken at the start of each survey day, and again throughout the day as warranted by the survey area and water properties. Sound speed profiles were also acquired when the survey vessel moved to a different location in the survey area. Each sound speed cast was assessed in processing to determine water properties in a specific zone of the survey area.



Figure 11. SonTek CastAway-CTD sound speed profiler.

2.4.1.4 Water Level Correctors

RTK-GNSS based tidal measurements were continuously recorded throughout the survey by HYPACK Survey. The GPS height determined by the POS MV was integrated into the raw singlebeam sonar data during data acquisition in real-time. After importing the raw singlebeam data in HYPACK, the GPS tide was merged with the heave to provide accurate tidal corrections and subtract vessel heave from the final elevations.

2.5 Quality Control

2.5.1 Singlebeam Data Acquisition and Monitoring

At the start of each acquisition day, a series of pre-survey protocols were run to aid in quality control and to determine any possible errors/issues prior to surveying. For hydro, the GAMS parameters and POS MV installation parameters located under the installation settings of the POS MV were all checked prior to enabling Ethernet logging of POSpac data.

Data were collected at vessel speeds of approximately 3 - 7 kt. The HYPACK data acquisition software provides data waterfalls and coverage indicators, which allowed for real-time monitoring of the data quality and coverage. Data displays in HYPACK Survey were used to monitor all survey parameters and the quality of data being recorded.

Sound speed profiles were acquired routinely and when the survey vessel moved to a different survey area. Each successive sound speed cast was compared and assessed to determine the optimal casts per survey reach.

2.5.2 Singlebeam Calibration Checks

Geodetic and mechanical bar index checks have been performed to calibrate for a constant, electronic offset, inherent in all singlebeam systems (Figure 12). Please refer to Appendix C: Singlebeam Echosounder Calibration Report for more details.



Figure 12. Image illustrating the mechanical bar check of sonar index.

A more recent technique to calibrate sonars for sound velocity is a digital bar check, or sound speed cast. Digital bar checks, which are similar in theory to mechanical bar checks, are a safer and more efficient alternative to traditional bar checks, and are critical to sonar data acquisition in shallow, inter-tidal, coastal zones. Therefore, in order to maintain the best data quality across vast areas in this dynamic coastal environment, the traditional mechanical bar check (Figure 12) is only used to verify the sonar system index since corrections are made to the transducer (not

the waterline) and sound speed profiles correct the sounder for speed of sound in the water column.

3.0 Bathymetric Survey Results

3.1 Sounding Data

Sounding data acquired during the survey are displayed below in figures Figure 13 - Figure 16. Soundings were collected relative to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) and are presented in NAVD88 below. Per the client's request, data were transformed during post processing to Mean Low Water and Mean Lower Low Tidal datums and included in the data deliverable. Refer to Appendix E for a comprehensive explanation of this transformation.







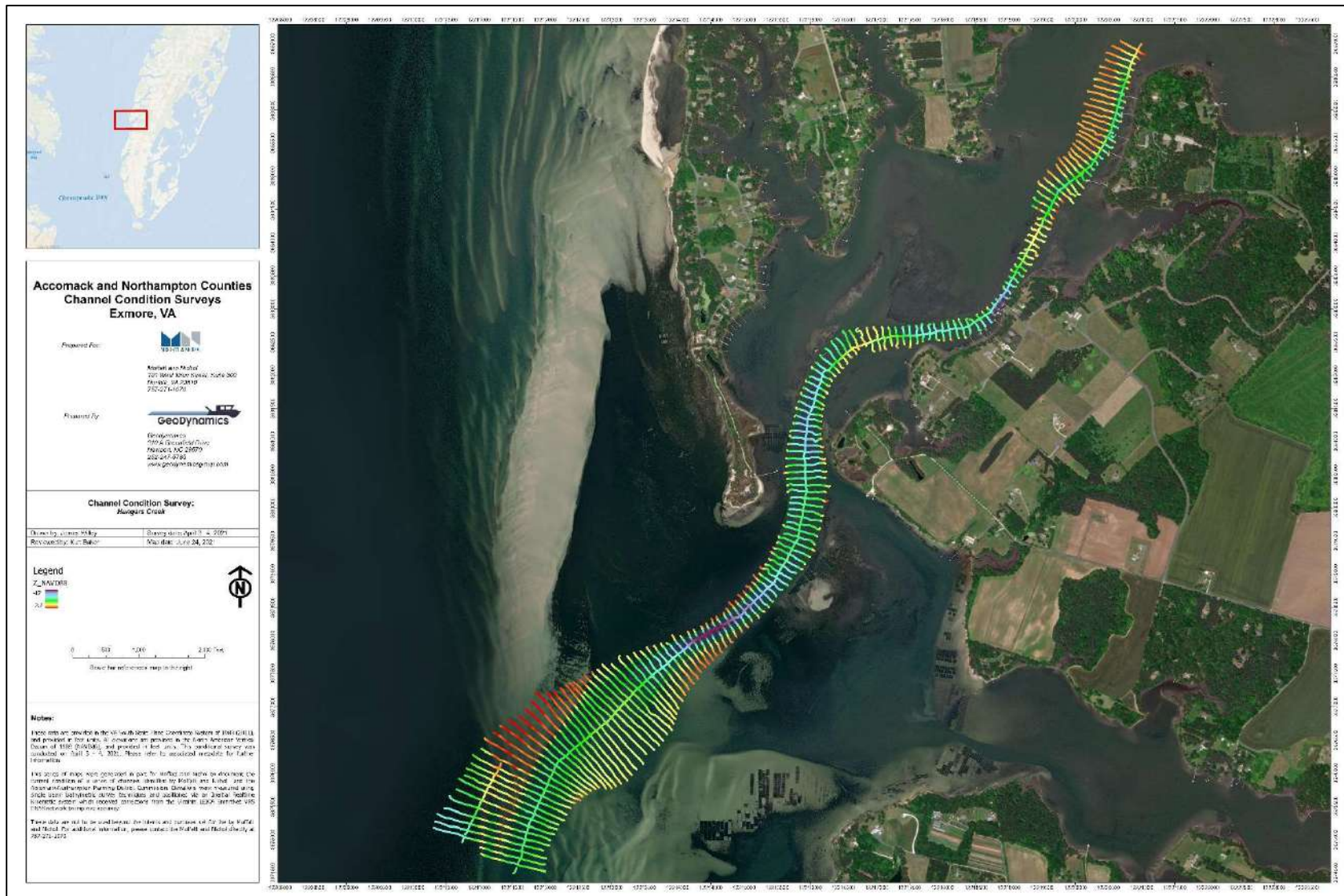


Figure 16. Topo-bathy survey coverage of Hungars Creek.

4.0 Quality Assurance and Control Methodology

After final processing, a rigorous review was completed to ensure the accuracy of all soundings set to be used in the final products.

4.1 Crossing Data Review

To demonstrate consistency throughout the survey, crossing data from each survey site were analyzed. Any bias in vessel installation parameters, erroneous or missing corrections, or other source of error would be apparent as a large average difference between crossing data. Results for the R/V Echo in Red Bank Creek are shown in Figure 17, and the R/V War Eagle in Folly Creek, Nassawadox Creek, and Hungars Creek are presented in Figure 18 through Figure 20. The averages and stand deviations from each site are acceptable and demonstrate the overall accuracy and quality of these data.

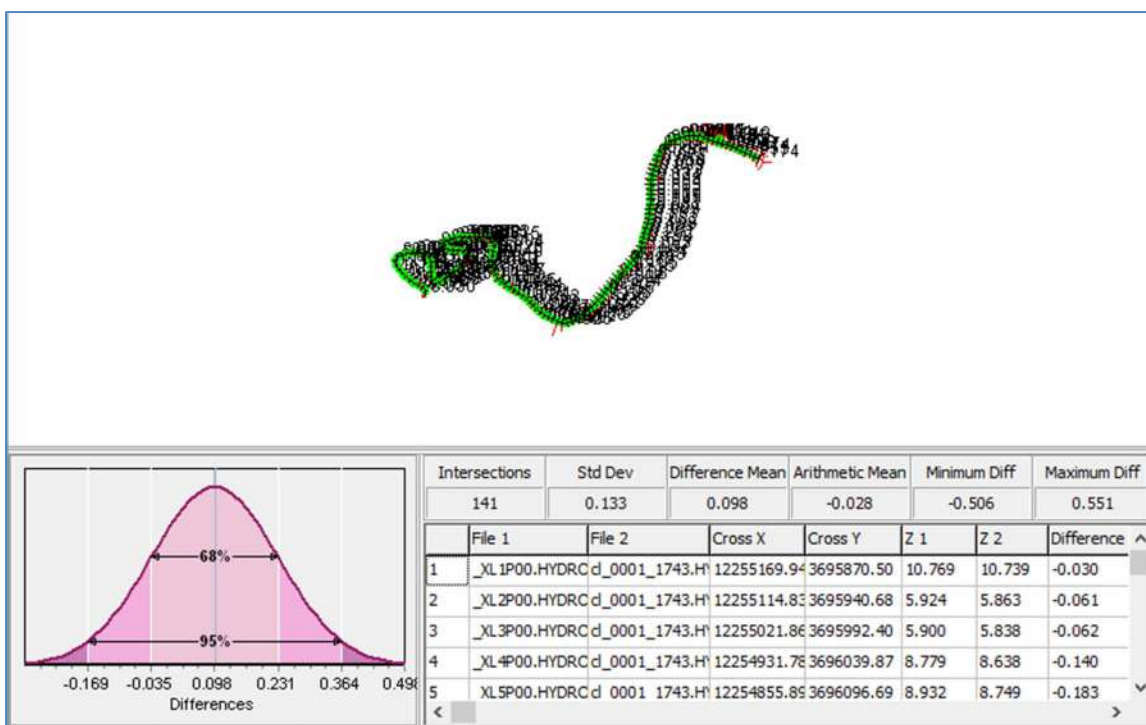


Figure 17. Image illustrating crossing data statistics from Red Bank Creek.

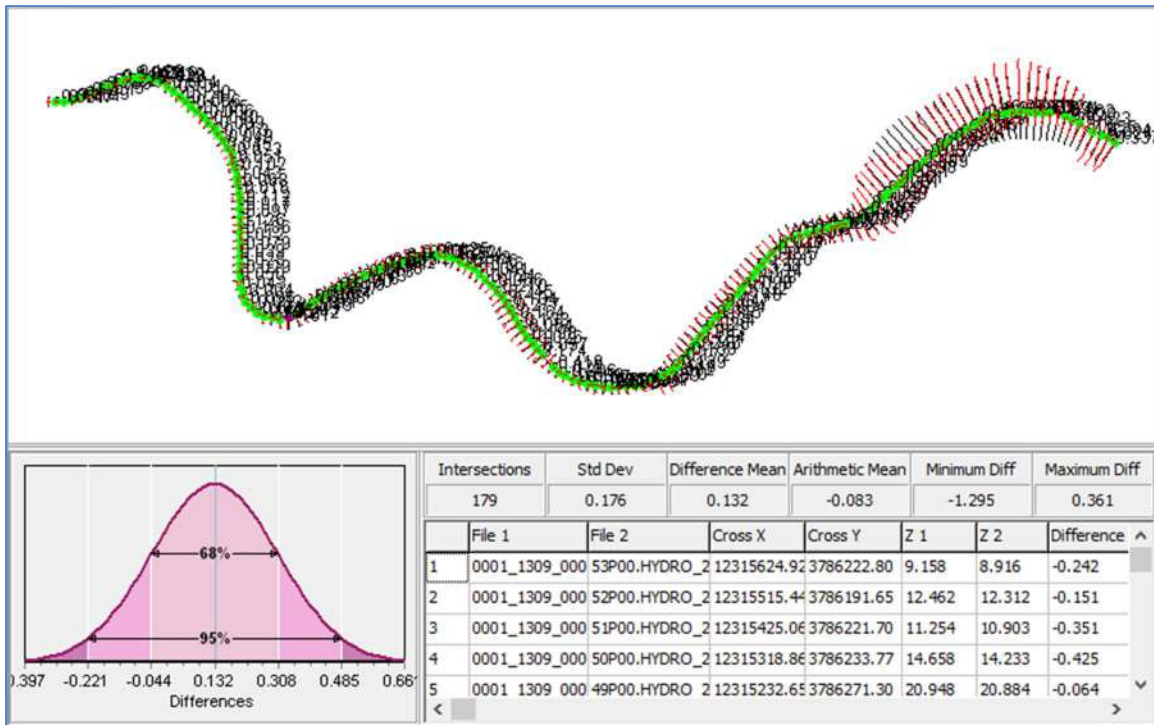


Figure 18. Image illustrating crossing data statistics from Folly Creek.

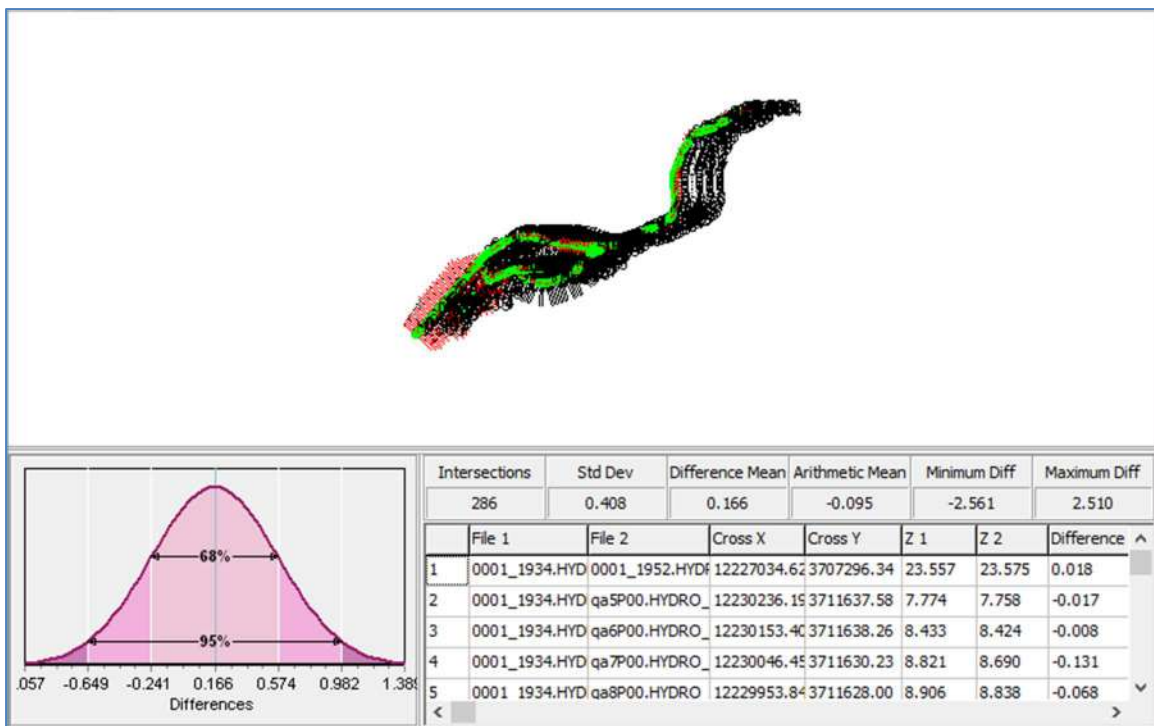


Figure 19. Image illustrating crossing data statistics from Nassawadox Creek.

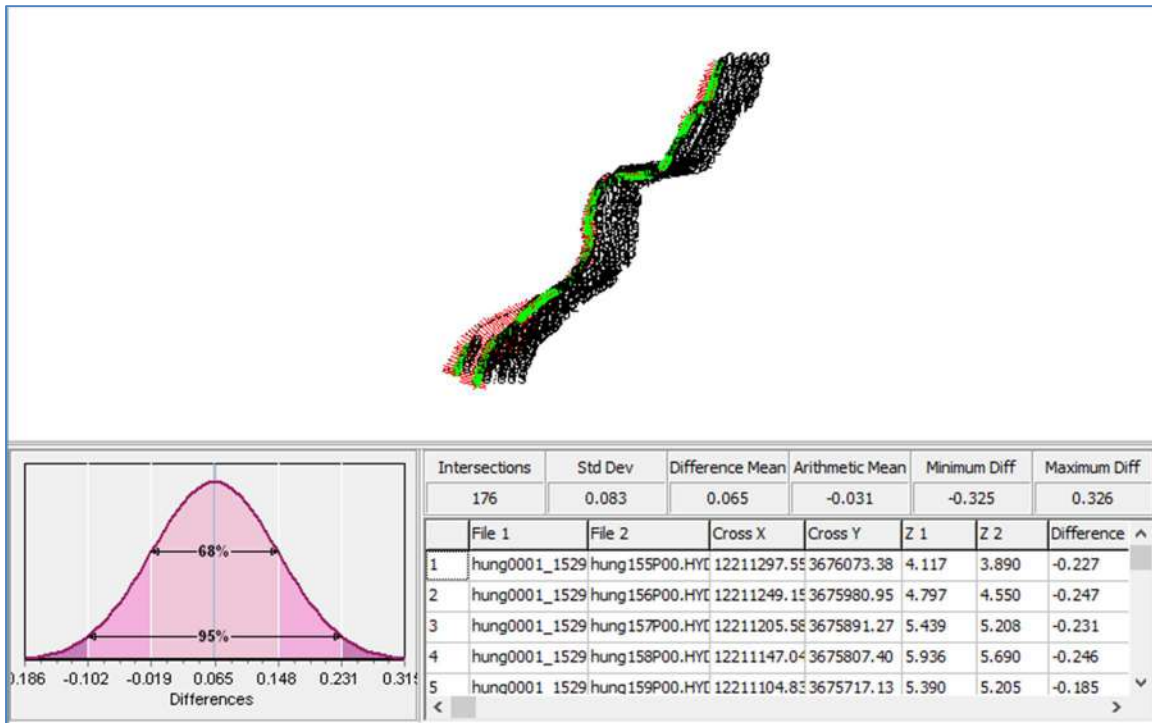


Figure 20. Image illustrating crossing data statistics from Hungars Creek.

A. CONCLUDING REMARKS

All bathymetric data were checked for consistency and accuracy. Data are delivered in ASCII format. Also included are shapefiles of soundings/elevations with the following attributes: X (Easting), Y (Northing), and Z in NAVD88. Additional ASCII formatted files are provided for each survey site which include a file with X (Easting), Y (Northing), and Z in Mean Low Water attributes and a file with X (Easting), Y (Northing), and Z in Mean Lower Low Water attributes.

The extents set forth in the scope of work were achieved or exceeded, and the quality of the data is sufficient.

APPENDIX A: SURVEY ACTIVITY LOGS

Daily Survey Field Notes				
Date:	3/1/2021		Day of Year:	60
Time SOS (local):	8:00		Time EOS (local):	18:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey			
Survey Location:	Red Bank Creek, Virginia			
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Anna Atencio		
Topo Crew:				
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions		
Sky:	Overcast		Swell:	0 - 0.5 ft
Wind Speed:	15-20 KT		Chop:	1-2 ft
Wind Direction:	N		Temp:	40-50 F
Temp:	40-50 F			
Survey Activities				
Control				
Temporary benchmark was installed at the Barrier Island Center and static observations were collected. Tankard RM2 was located and verified using the Virginia Leica Network.				
Topo				
N/A				
Hydro				
Hydro crew mobilized the R/V Echo from Geodynamics Headquarters in Newport, NC to Exmore, VA, established control, and conducted a site visit to the Red Bank Boat Ramp.				

Daily Survey Field Notes			
Date:	3/2/2021	Day of Year:	61
Time SOS (local):	5:30	Time EOS (local):	20:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey		
Survey Location:	Red Bank Creek, VA		
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Anna Atencio	
Topo Crew:			
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions	
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	0.5 - 1.0 ft
Wind Speed:	10-15 KT	Chop:	0.5 - 1.0 ft
Wind Direction:	N	Temp:	40-50 F
Temp:	40-50 F		
Survey Activities			
Control			
TANKARD RM2 checked with good results.			
Topo			
N/A			
Hydro			
R/V Echo was launched from the Red Bank Boat Ramp in Red Bank, VA and collected SBES for the channel centerline and 100' cross sections for the length of the survey area. After completing acquisition, the vessel was trailered and the crew demobilized to Geodynamics Headquarters in Newport, NC.			

Daily Survey Field Notes			
Date:	4/2/2021	Day of Year:	92
Time SOS (local):	7:00	Time EOS (local):	18:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey		
Survey Location:	Exmore, VA		
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Zach Gray	
Topo Crew:			
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions	
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	1-2 ft
Wind Speed:	15-20 KT	Chop:	1-2 ft
Wind Direction:	N	Temp:	50-60 F
Temp:	30-40 F		
Survey Activities			
Control			
Benchmarks 863 1044 G 1981, 863 1044 J TIDAL, 863 1044 K TIDAL, WILLIS, and TANKARD RM 2 were checked with good results. Static data collected on the temporary benchmark installed at the Barrier Islands Center.			
Topo			
N/A			
Hydro			
Hydro crew mobilized the R/V War Eagle from Geodynamics Headquarters in Newport, NC to Exmore, VA. Control was established and all sites were visited.			

Daily Survey Field Notes				
Date:	4/3/2021		Day of Year:	93
Time SOS (local):			Time EOS (local):	
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey			
Survey Location:	Folley Creek, VA			
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Zach Gray		
Topo Crew:				
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions		
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	0.5 - 1.0 ft	
Wind Speed:	10-15 KT	Chop:	0.5 - 1.0 ft	
Wind Direction:	N	Temp:	40-50 F	
Temp:	40-50 F			
Survey Activities				
Control				
Benchmark 863 1044 K TIDAL was checked with good results.				
Topo				
N/A				
Hydro				
R/V War Eagle was launched from the Folly Creek Boat Ramp. A channel centerline was collected for the survey reach, and then transects spaced at 100'. After completing survey operations for Folly Creek, the War Eagle was loaded and mobilized to the Nassawadox Creek survey site. The War Eagle was launched from the Bayford Boat Ramp, and collected a centerline along the primary channel for the entire survey reach.				

Daily Survey Field Notes			
Date:	4/4/2021	Day of Year:	94
Time SOS (local):	7:00	Time EOS (local):	19:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey		
Survey Location:	Hungars Creek, VA		
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Zach Gray	
Topo Crew:			
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions	
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	1-2 ft
Wind Speed:	5-10 KT	Chop:	0.5 - 1.0 ft
Wind Direction:	WNW	Temp:	50-60 F
Temp:	50-60 F		
Survey Activities			
Control			
Benchmark WILLIS was checked with good results.			
Topo			
N/A			
Hydro			
R/V War Eagle was launched from the Bayford Boat Ramp, and transited to Hungars Creek. A centerline was collected along the primary channel, and then 100' spaced channel transects were collected for the survey area. R/V War Eagle then transited back to the Bayford Boat Ramp.			

Daily Survey Field Notes			
Date:	4/5/2021	Day of Year:	95
Time SOS (local):	7:00	Time EOS (local):	20:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey		
Survey Location:	Nassawadox Creek, VA		
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Zach Gray	
Topo Crew:			
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions	
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	0.5 - 1.0 ft
Wind Speed:	5-10 KT	Chop:	0.5 - 1.0 ft
Wind Direction:	SE	Temp:	50-60 F
Temp:	50-60 F		
Survey Activities			
Control			
Benchmark TANKARD RM2 checked with good results.			
Topo			
N/A			
Hydro			
R/V War Eagle was launched from the Bayford Boat Ramp. Acquisition began in Nassawadox Creek on channel cross lines spaces every 100' along the survey area. After completing section B, the crew transitioned to Section B and continued 100' spaced crosslines working towards the mouth of the creek.			

Daily Survey Field Notes			
Date:	4/6/2021	Day of Year:	96
Time SOS (local):	6:30	Time EOS (local):	5:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey		
Survey Location:	Nassawadox Creek, VA		
Hydro Crew:	James Willey	Zach Gray	
Topo Crew:			
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions	
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	0 - 0.5 ft
Wind Speed:	5-10 KT	Chop:	0 - 0.5 ft
Wind Direction:	WSW	Temp:	50-60 F
Temp:	60-70 F		
Survey Activities			
Control			
Benchmark TANKARD RM2 checked with good results.			
Topo			
N/A			
Hydro			
R/V Echo was launched from the Bayford Boat Ramp. Channel centerlines were collected for the various branches of the main channel near the mouth of the creek in section A. After completing the centerlines, the crew collected all remaining cross lines, spaced a 100',			

Daily Survey Field Notes			
Date:	4/7/2021	Day of Year:	97
Time SOS (local):	6:30	Time EOS (local):	5:00
Project:	Accomack and Northampton County Channel Condition Survey		
Survey Location:	Red Bank Creek, VA		
Hydro Crew:			
Topo Crew:	Zach Gray	James Willey	
Atmospheric Conditions		Water Conditions	
Sky:	Clear	Swell:	0 - 0.5 ft
Wind Speed:	0-5 KT	Chop:	0 - 0.5 ft
Wind Direction:	SW	Temp:	50-60 F
Temp:	70-80 F		
Survey Activities			
Control			
Benchmark TANKARD RM2 was checked with good results.			
Topo			
Additional static LiDAR data was collected near the public boat launch on Red Bank Creek, VA. After completing control and the static laser acquisition, the crew demobilized from the site and returned to Geodynamics Headquarters in Newport, NC.			
Hydro			
N/A			

APPENDIX B: HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY CONRTOL

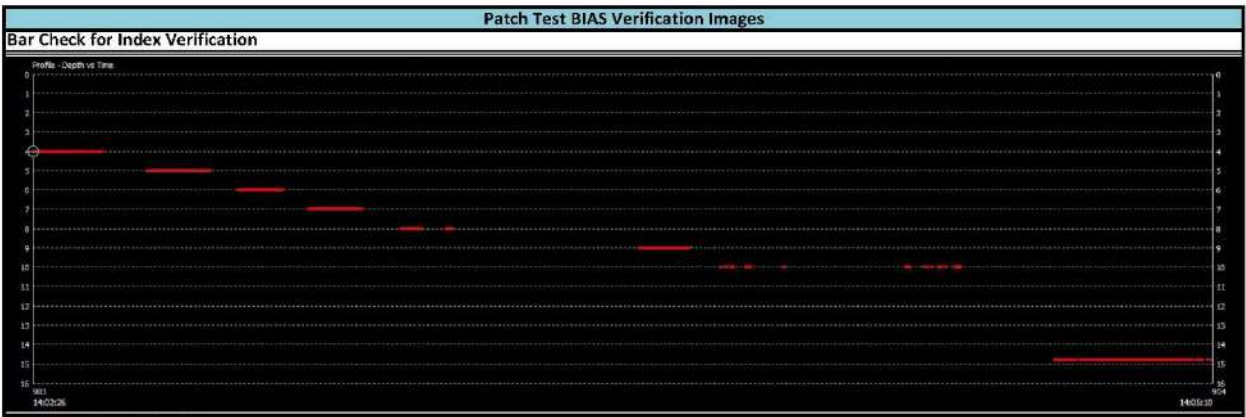
Survey Control			
Project Timeframe:	3/2/2021, 4/2/2021 - 4/7/2021		
Project:	Accomack - Northampton Channel Condition Surveys		
Survey Location:	Accomack County, Virginia		
Survey Crew:	James Willey	Anna Atencio	Zach Gray
Coordinate System/Units:	NAD83 VA State Plane	Units: SPF	Repeater Use: No
Vertical:	NAVD88	Geoid:	2012b
Base Station Equipment:	Receiver Leica GR30 (1706356)	GPS Antenna Leica AR10 (21009047)	Radio n/a
			Radio Broadcasting n/a
Notes: This project was conducted in March and April of 2021 during times of optimal weather and tidal conditions. VA LEICA SmartNet corrections were provided via the internet.			
Base Station Information			
Designation: LOYOLA LOYW CORS ARP PID: DL3889 H Order: N/A V order: N/A Geoid: 2012b State Plane Coordinates: Easting (X): 12251869.085 Northing (Y): 3726623.396 Ellipsoid HT: -22.441m			
Notes: LEICA SmartNet owned and operated RTN station used to provide network corrections and collect static GNSS data.			
The following tables display coordinate and site information on any benchmarks checked for this project			
Benchmark Station Reference			
Designation: TANKARD RM 2 PID: FW0200 H Order: N/A V order: N/A Geoid: 2012b State Plane Coordinates: Easting (X): 12240271.100 Northing (Y): 3680128.775 Z: 40.548			
Notes: NGS Benchmark located in Nassawadox, VA used to verify corrections from the Virginia LEICA SmartNet VRS network.			

Benchmark Station Reference		
Designation: WILLIS PID: B8DR53 H Order: N/A V order: N/A Geoid: 2012b <u>State Plane Coordinates:</u> Easting (X): 12263943.195 Northing (Y): 3720046.937 Z: 5.397		
Notes: NGS Benchmark located in Willis Wharf, VA used to verify corrections from the Virginia LEICA SmartNet VRS network. Images courtesy of OPUS Shared Solution Report.		
Benchmark Station Reference		
Designation: B63 1044 G 1981 PID: B8DL07 H Order: N/A V order: N/A Geoid: 2012b <u>State Plane Coordinates:</u> Easting (X): 12297701.169 Northing (Y): 3756959.576 Z: 4.229		
Notes: Tidal Benchmark located in Wachapreague, VA used to verify corrections from the Virginia LEICA SmartNet VRS network. Images courtesy of OPUS Shared Solution Report.		
Benchmark Station Reference		
Designation: B63 1044 J TIDAL PID: AJ4586 H Order: N/A V order: N/A Geoid: 2012b <u>State Plane Coordinates:</u> Easting (X): 12297540.982 Northing (Y): 3756514.013 Z: 3.957		
Notes: Tidal Benchmark located in Wachapreague, VA used to verify corrections from the Virginia LEICA SmartNet VRS network. Images courtesy of OPUS Shared Solution Report.		

Benchmark Station Reference									
Designation: 863 1044 K TIDAL PID: AJ4587 H Order: N/A V Order: N/A Geoid: 2012b <u>State Plane Coordinates:</u> Easting (X): 12297295.300 Northing (Y): 3755575.95 Z: 4.711									
Notes: Tidal Benchmark located in Wachapreague, VA used to verify corrections from the Virginia LEICA SmartNet VRS network.									
The following tables display GPS consistency throughout the survey									
Benchmark Report									
Date	Network Check	Weather	Benchmark	N	E	Z	ΔN	ΔE	ΔZ
3/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Overcast	TANKARD RM 2	3680128.68	12240271.0	40.454	0.091	0.087	0.094
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
3/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Overcast	TANKARD RM 2	3680128.65	12240271.0	40.501	0.125	0.077	0.047
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	WILLIS	3720046.99	12263943.2	5.170	-0.050	0.015	0.227
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	863 1044 G 1981	3756959.56	12297701.2	3.998	0.015	-0.041	0.231
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	863 1044 K TIDAL	3755575.92	12297295.3	4.468	0.034	-0.010	0.243
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	863 1044 J TIDAL	3756513.98	12297541	3.783	0.032	0.012	0.174
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/2/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	TANKARD RM 2	3680128.81	12240271.1	40.169	-0.036	-0.040	0.379
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/3/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	863 1044 K TIDAL	3755575.94	12297295.3	4.594	0.006	-0.020	0.117
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/4/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	WILLIS	3720046.92	12263943.2	5.115	0.015	0.015	0.282
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/5/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	TANKARD RM 2	3680128.78	12240271.1	40.576	-0.006	-0.030	-0.028
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/6/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	TANKARD RM 2	3680128.81	12240271.1	40.539	-0.032	-0.030	0.009
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
4/7/2021	LEICA SmartNet	Clear	TANKARD RM 2	3680128.78	12240271.1	40.558	-0.003	-0.030	-0.010
Base Station Used: VRS GNSS RTK									
GPS Consistency (SPF)									
Average Easting (X) error			0.043						
Average Northing (Y) error			0.026						
Average Elevation error			0.168						

APPENDIX C: SINGLEBEAM VESSEL CALIBRATION REPORT

R/V ECHO July 2019				
		ODOM CV100 CALIBRATION		Contact: Geodynamics 910 A Greenfield Drive Newport, NC 28570 252-247-5755 www.GeodynamicsGroup.com
SYSTEM INFORMATION				
Vessel:	R/V Echo	Sonar Type:	ODOM CV100	
Date:	7/26/2019	Sonar Head Serial #(s):	n/a	
Personnel:	Willey, J., Rao, R., Gray, Z.	PU Serial #:	26068	
Positioning System	POSIMV WM V5	Sonar Software:	eChart	
POSIMV Serial #	6577	Sonar Frequency:	200 kHz	
GPS Antennas	AT1675-540TS (2 antennas)	Swath Width:	4°	
IMU Type	37	Sound Speed Sensor at Sonar:	n/a	
		Sound Speed Profiler:	Sontek Castaway CTD Pressure sensor 304496	
CALIBRATION DETAILS				
Location:	Morehead City Harbor		Approximate Position:	Deg Min Sec
Weather:	Clear skies, 80-90°		Lat:	34° 43' 06"
Wind:	5-10 kts NNE		Long:	76° 42' 18"
Seas:	0' swell, 0-0.25' chop			
Sound Speed (avg)	1540 m/s			
GNSS Corrections				
GPS Correction:	RTK-GNSS			
Correction Type:	CMR+			
Station Name	BEAUFORT CORS ARP			
Coordinates:	Deg	Min	Sec	
Lat:	34°	43'	08.50895" N	
Long:	76°	40'	18.99140" W	
Ellips. Height (m) :	-27.858			
Sonar Offsets / Biases				
	X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)	
Position	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Draft	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Index	0.000	0.000	0.090	
POSIMV Configuration				
Lever Arms	X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)	
Ref. to IMU Lever Arm	0.000	0.000	0.070	
Ref. to Primary GPS	0.016	-0.01	-2.063	
Ref. to Vessel Lever Arm	-0.292	0.745	0.648	
Ref. to Sensor 1	-0.292	0.745	0.648	
Ref. to COG	0.000	0.000	0.290	
	X (deg)	Y (deg)	Z (deg)	
IMU w.r.t. Ref. Frame	0.000	0.000	-0.001	
Note: The Sensor 1 offset is referenced to the sonar head.				
GAMS Parameters				
Two Antenna Sep (m)	1.997	Baseline Vector		
Heading Cal.Threshold	0.500	X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
Heading Correction (deg)	0.000	1.997	0.015	0.003
Index Check				
Bar Value (ft)	Sonar Value (ft)	(Sonar value derived from the mean depth of bar below transducer)		
3.0	3.0			
6.0	6.0			
9.0	9.0			
15.0	15.0			
				
Notes: The Image above consists of three different singlebeam datasets from 2017-present conducted by Geodynamics on the R/V Echo. All datasets were collected using an Odom CV100. All singlebeam surveys were collected using RTK-GPS with corrections from a local temporary basestation. A hard bottom feature that does not vary from year to year is found along this profile which is why it was chosen to represent accurate and precise configuration parameters for the vessel's equipment. The three different colors show three consecutive years of surveying this same profile. The dataset comparison produced exceptional results with corrections from the basestation set up on 865 8559 Tidal 1.				



R/V War Eagle Spring 2021									
			ODOM CV100 CALIBRATION				Contact: Geodynamics 350 A Grandfield Drive Newport, NC 28570 252-247-5785 www.geodynamicsgroup.com		
SYSTEM INFORMATION									
Vessel:	R/V Echo			Sonar Type:	ODOM CV100				
Date:	7/26/2019			Sonar Head Serial #[s]:	n/a				
Personnel:	Willey, J., Gray, Z.			PU Serial #:	26010				
Positioning System	POS-MV WM V5-1			Sonar Software:	eChart				
POS-MV Serial #	10182			Sonar Frequency:	200 kHz				
GPS Antennas	AT1675-540TS (2 antennas)			Swath Width:	4"				
IMU Type	65			Sound Speed Sensor at Sonar:	n/a				
				Sound Speed Profiler:	Sontek Castaway CTC				
CALIBRATION DETAILS									
Verification Survey Details					Sonar Offsets / Biases				
Weather	Clear skies, 60-70"					X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)	
Wind	5-10 kts SW				Position	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Seas	0' swell, 0-0.25' chop				Draft	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Sound Speed (avg)	1510 m/s				Index	0.000	0.000	0.090	
Approximate Position:	Deg	Min	Sec		POS-MV Configuration				
Lat:	34°	43'	19"		Lever Arms	X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)	
Long:	76°	40'	10"		Ref. to IMU Lever Arm	0.004	0.001	0.066	
					Ref. to Primary GPS	0.045	0.128	-0.895	
					Ref. to Sensor 1	-0.346	0.000	0.79	
GNSS Corrections					Note: The Sensor 1 offset is referenced to the sonar head.				
GPS Correction:	RTK-GNSS					X (deg)	Y (deg)	Z (deg)	
Correction Type:	CMR+				IMU w.r.t. Ref. Frame	0.000	2.500	0.000	
Station Name	BEAUFORT CORS ARP				GAMS Parameters				
Coordinates:	Deg	Min	Sec		Two Antenna Sep (m)	1.392			
Lat:	34°	43'		08.50895" N	Heading Cal.Threshold	0.500			
Long:	76°	40'		18.99140" W	Heading Correction (deg)	0.000			
Ellips. Height (m):	-27.858					X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)	
					Baseline Vector	-0.026	1.392	-0.016	
CALIBRATION NOTES									
The results of this calibration are the culmination of a series of iterative adjustments to the equipment installed on the R/V War Eagle in order to collect the highest possible quality data. GAMS Parameters were ascertained through a series of GAMS calibrations that yielded increasingly tight results and were therefore accepted and utilized in the POS-MV software. All sensor lever arms were established by experienced Geodynamics surveyors and were applied in the POS-MV software and used to accurately position all data points collected by the ODOM CV100. Initial comparison of crossing and reciprocal data recorded during this calibration showed excellent agreement among soundings and confirmed the accuracy of the installation parameters contained in the above table. These soundings were then rigorously compared to a variety of verified datasets also collected by Geodynamics and yielded excellent agreement with data collected with both singlebeam bathymetric techniques and multibeam bathymetric techniques, further confirming the accuracy of these parameters. For further information regarding the results of this calibration, contact Geodynamics at (252) 247-5785.									

APPENDIX D: SOUND VELOCITY SENSOR CALIBRATION REPORT



9940 Summers Ridge Road
 San Diego, CA 92121
 Tel: (858) 546-8327
 support@sontek.com

CALIBRATION CERTIFICATE

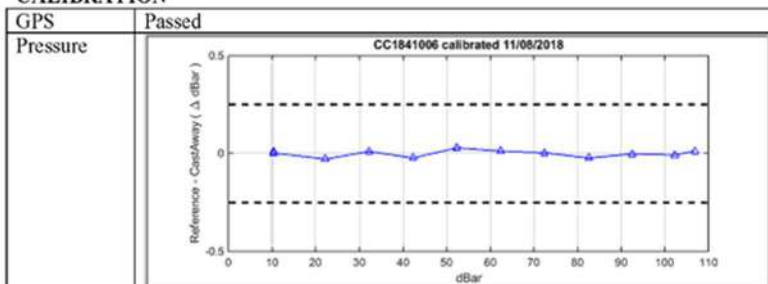
SYSTEM INFO

System Type	CastAway-CTD
Serial Number	CC1841006
Firmware Version	1.63
Date	11/12/2018

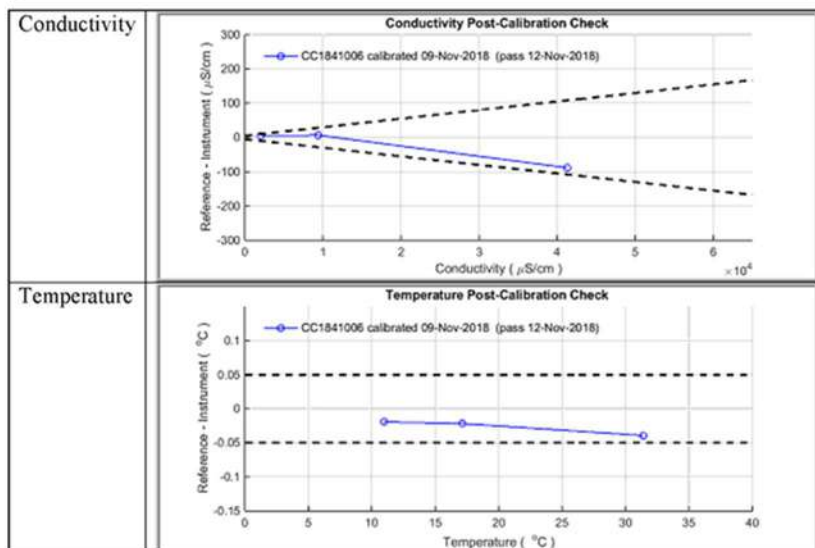
POWER CONSUMPTION

Standby Mode (A)	0.2134 / PASS
Supply Voltage	2.9V

CALIBRATION



9949 Summers Ridge Road • San Diego, CA 92121 • Telephone (858) 546-8327 • Fax (858) 546-8150 • Internet: www.sontek.com



Verified by: ale
 This report was generated on: 11/12/2018

APPENDIX E: VERTICAL DATUM CONVERSION

Moffatt & Nichol

Accomack and Northampton Channel Condition Surveys

Vertical Datum Conversion for Folly's Creek, Nassawadox Creek, Hungar's Creek, and Red Bank Creek

Elevation data collected by Geodynamics was processed to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) using Geoid 12B as the ellipsoid separation model. The values were further processed to the tidal datums of Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and Mean Low Water (MLW) using the NOAA VDatum Online software.

For Nassawadox Creek and Hungars Creek, the tidal datum model fully enclosed the survey data, and the average of all separation values were used to determine a single conversion value.

For Follys Creek, only the offshore portion had a NOAA tidal datum conversion applicable. This portion was averaged to find the single conversion value.

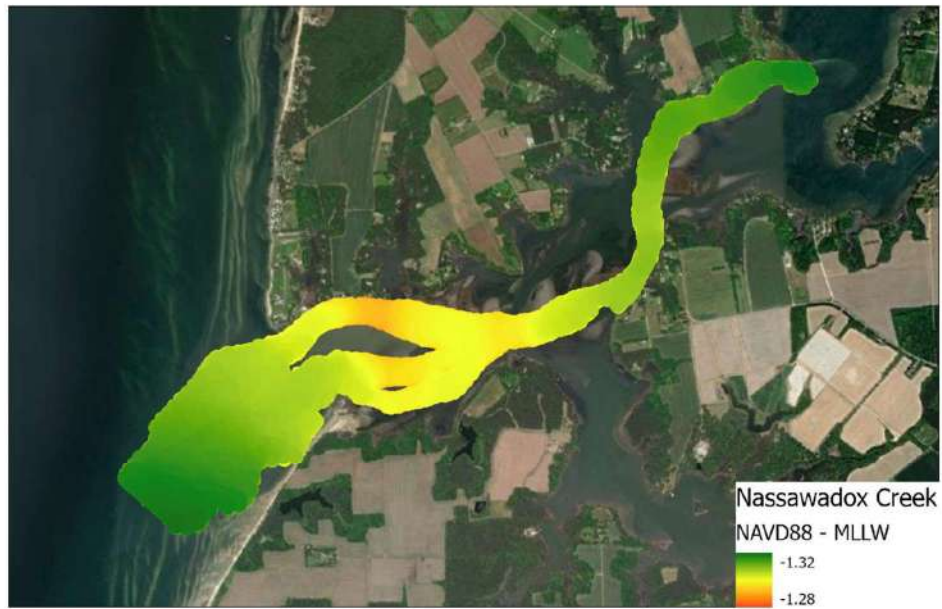
For Red Bank Creek, none of the survey area is within a NOAA tidal datum model. Therefore, the nearest applicable region as shown in the maps below was determined to provide the conversion value. The region chosen is in the creek adjacent to Red Bank Creek.

Table 1: NAVD88 to MLLW and MLW conversion values for the channels surveyed.

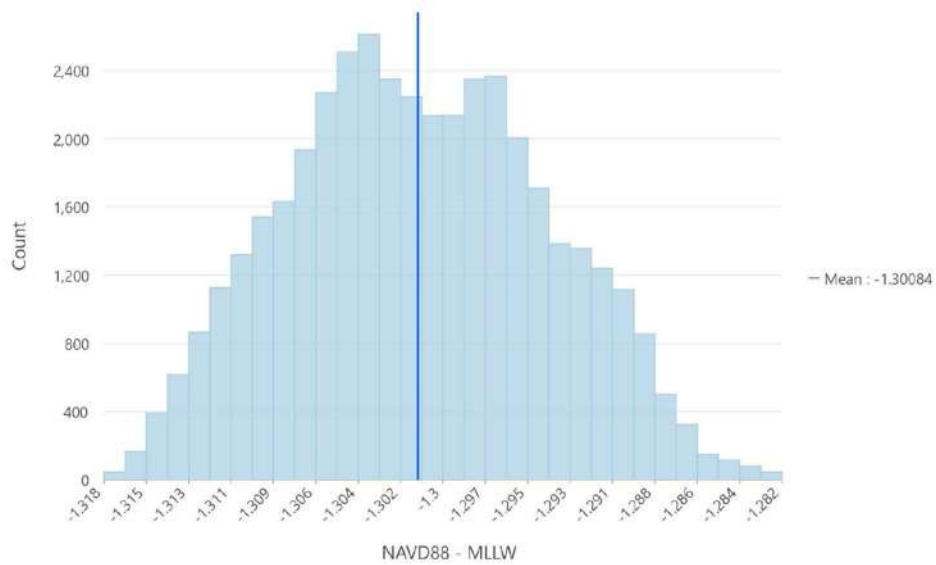
Channel	MLLW Conversion	MLW Conversion
Nassawadox Creek	1.30	1.20
Hungars Creek	1.43	1.32
Follys Creek	2.37	2.22
Red Bank Creek	2.59	2.44

In the table above, the conversion values are equivalent to the "0" elevation in NAVD88, meaning that in these regions the MLLW and MLW values are "shoaler" than NAVD88. The rest of this document contains images justifying the conversion values found in the table.

1.0 NASSAWADOX CREEK

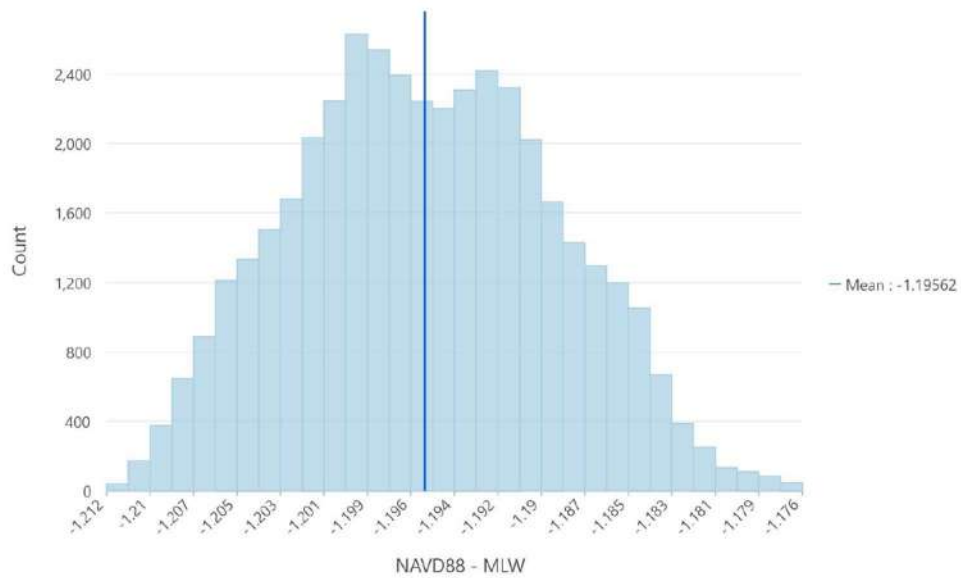


NAVD88 to MLLW Separation - Nassawadox Creek





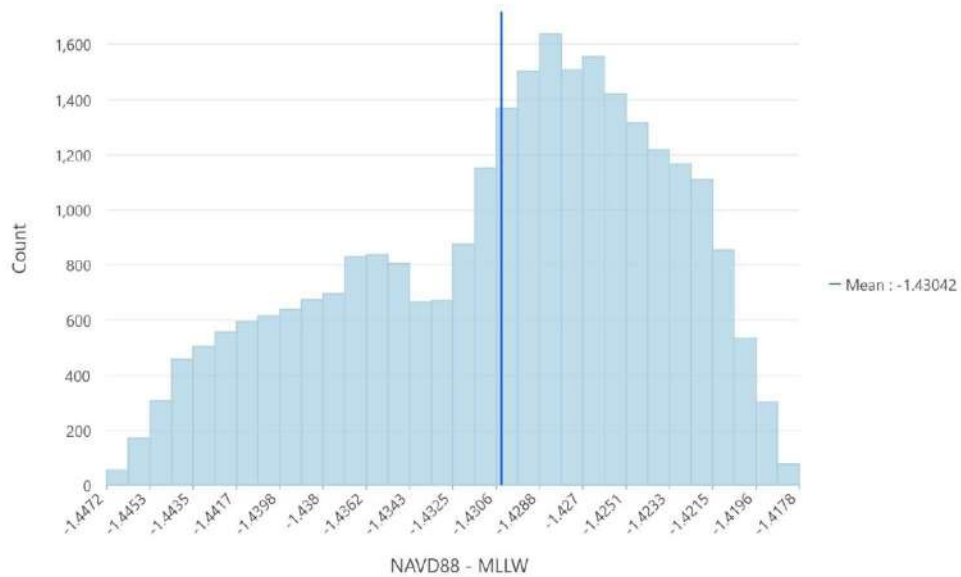
NAVD88 to MLW Separation - Nassawadox Creek



2.0 HUNGARS CREEK

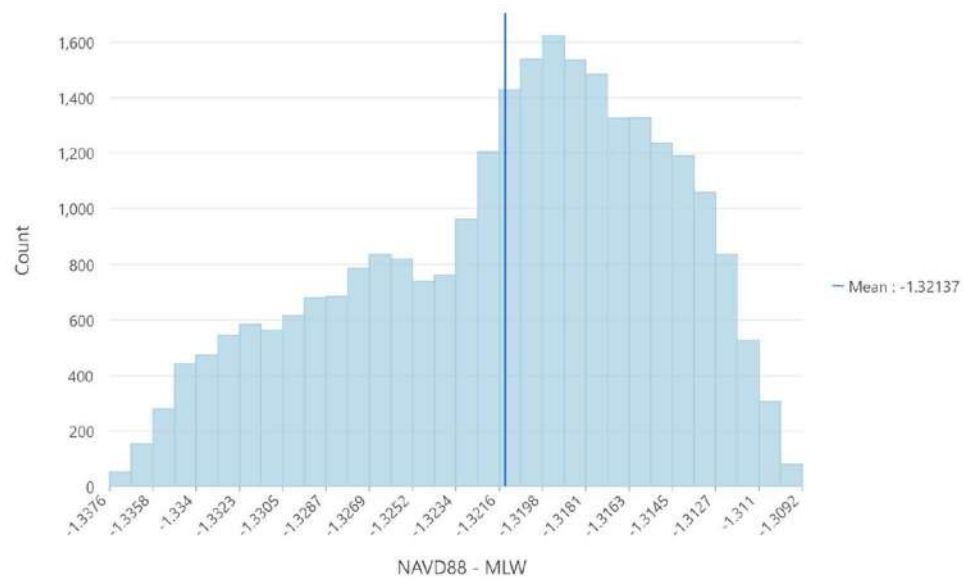


NAVD88 to MLLW Separation - Hungars Creek

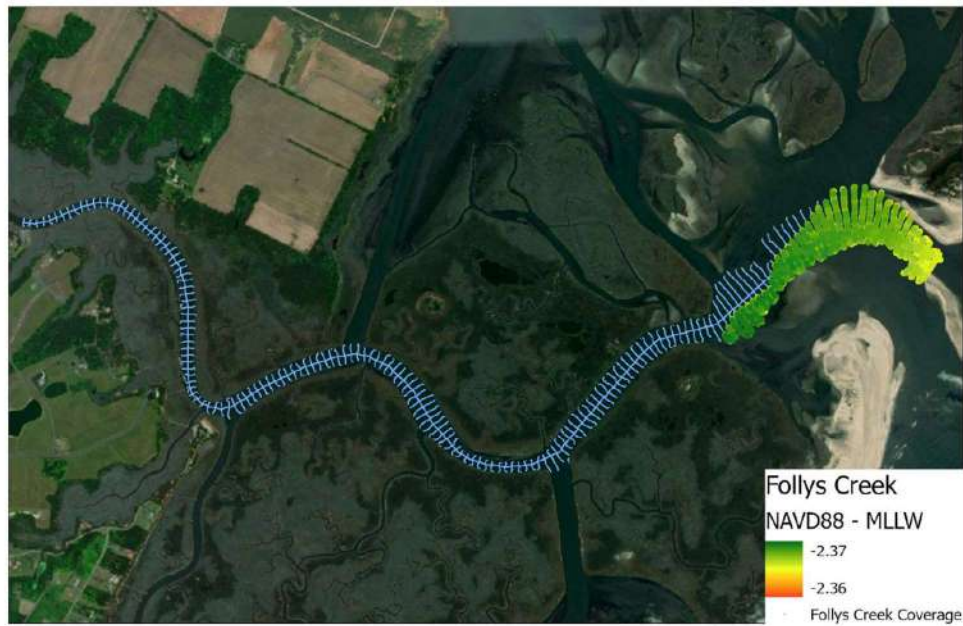




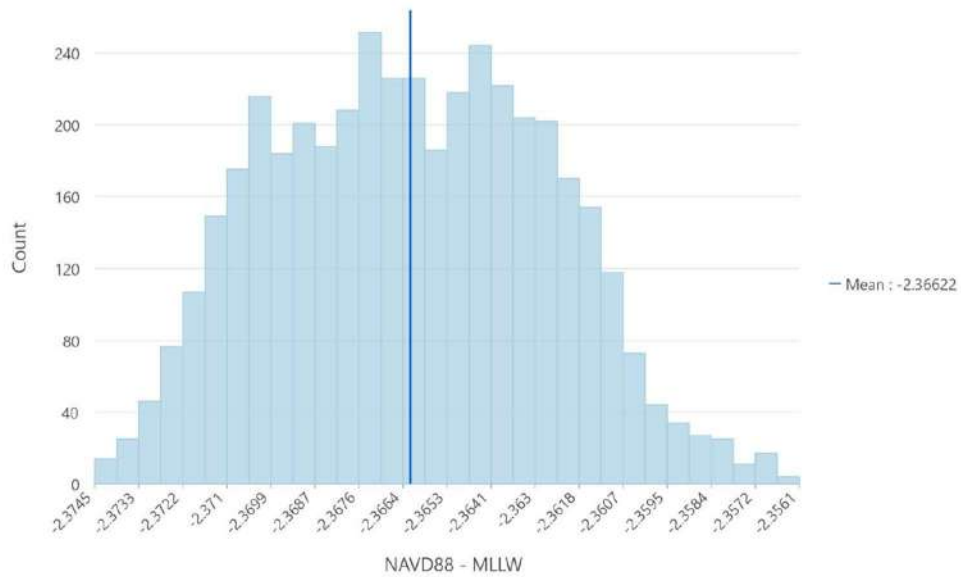
NAVD88 to MLW Separation - Hungars Creek



3.0 FOLLYS CREEK

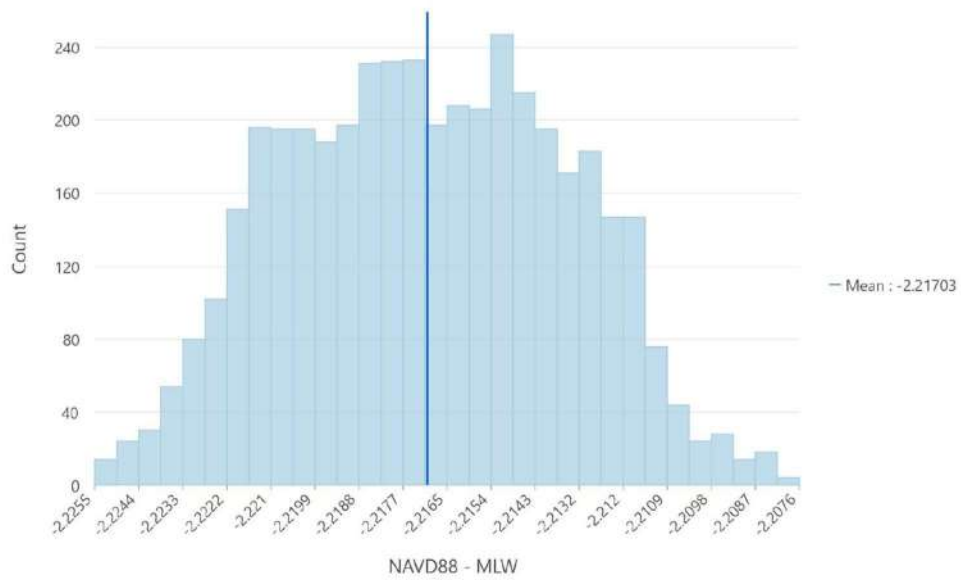


NAVD88 to MLLW Separation - Follys Creek





NAVD88 to MLW Separation - Follys Creek



4.0 RED BANK CREEK

NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
ONLINE VERTICAL DATUM TRANSFORMATION
INTEGRATING AMERICA'S ELEVATION DATA

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Regional Information
* Region : Contiguous United States

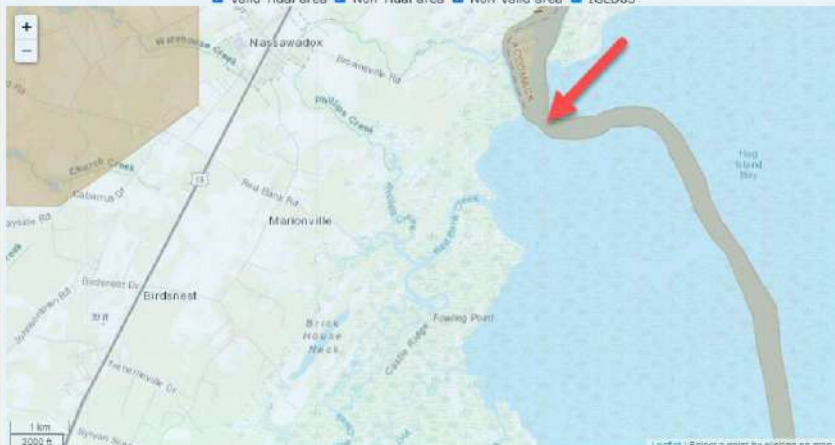
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Source Target
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Coord. System: Geographic (Longitude, Latitude) Projected State Plane Coordinates (Easting, Northing)
Unit: meter (m) foot (U.S. Survey) (US_ft)
Zone: AL E - 8101 VA S - 4502

Vertical Information
Source Target
Reference Frame: NAVD 88 MLLW
Unit: foot (U.S. Survey) (US_ft) foot (U.S. Survey) (US_ft)
☒ Height ☐ Sounding ☒ Height ☐ Sounding
☒ GEOD model: GEOD12B ☐ GEOD model: GEOD18

Point Conversion ASCII File Conversion

Input Output
Latitude: 37.463204 Northing: 3703387.24548
Longitude: -75.805712 Easting: 12264789.87982
Height: 0 Height: 2.595

☐ to DMS Vertical Uncertainty (+/-): 0.2221538 US_ft
Zone: 4502 Convergence: 1.6352305556 Scale_Factor: 0.99994679 Combined_Factor: 0.99994667 Vertical_Area: DEVAemb12_8301:2:1
☒ Valid Tidal area ☒ Non-Tidal area ☒ Non-Valid area ☒ IGLD85



Leaflet | Select a point by clicking on map.

Alternating Mean Datum Ellipsoidal Datum Orthometric Datum Tidal Datum

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NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Regional Information

* Region : Contiguous United States

Horizontal Information

Source	Target
Reference Frame: NAD83(2011)	Reference Frame: NAD83(2011)
Coord. System: Geographic (Longitude, Latitude)	Coord. System: Projected State Plane Coordinates (Easting, Northing)
Unit: meter (m)	Unit: foot (U.S. Survey) (US_ft)
Zone: AL E - 0101	Zone: VA S - 4502

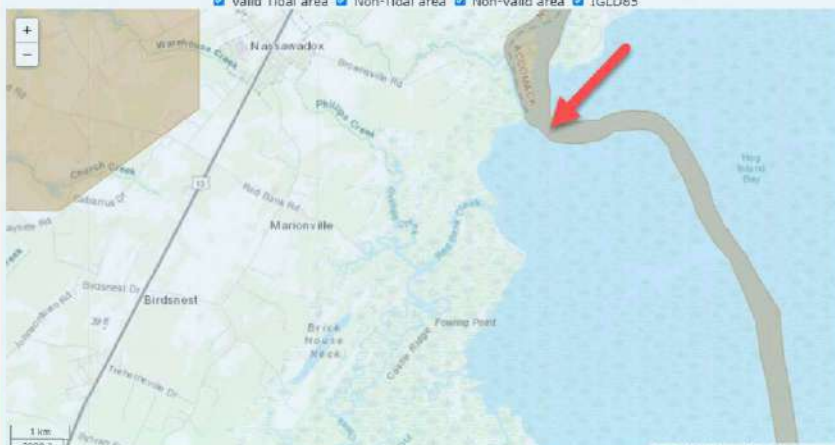
Vertical Information

Source	Target
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Unit: foot (U.S. Survey) (US_ft)	Unit: foot (U.S. Survey) (US_ft)
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☒ GEOD model: GEOD12B	☐ GEOD model: GEOD18

Point Conversion ASCII File Conversion

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☐ Drive to on map Reset Map		

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☒ valid Tidal area ☒ Non-Tidal area ☒ Non-Valid area ☒ IGLD85



Lastfile | Select a point by clicking on map.

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APPENDIX F: SCOPE OF WORK

Accomack – Northampton Channel Condition Surveys

Moffatt & Nichol

March 2020

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 Name

Accomack – Northampton Channel Condition Surveys

1.2 Client

Geodynamics is the survey subcontractor for Moffatt and Nichol. The client is the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC).

1.3 Description of Work

Geodynamics been contracted to perform channel condition surveys as part of the Planning and Surveying Services project for Nassawadox Creek, Hungars Creek, and Red Bank Creek along the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

2.0 SURVEY CONTROL

2.1 Horizontal Coordinate System (HCS)

Virginia South State Plane, 4502, NAD83 (2011), EPSG: 6595

2.1.1 HCS Units

Feet

2.2 Vertical Coordinate System (VCS)

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) using Geoid 2012B

2.2.1 VCS Units

Feet, Elevation (Positive up)

2.3 Methodology

All survey work shall be performed utilizing RTK-GNSS corrections from either a locally installed and verified base station or using the Leica SmartNet network. Post processing techniques such as Applanix POSPac shall be available and may be applied as necessary.

2.4 Standards and Requirements

Survey control will be established prior to the collection of topographic points on a known and verified benchmark within the NGS or NCGS network through use of a Trimble R10 or similar survey grade receiver and antenna fixed to a 2 meter pole. Survey control will be verified at least once daily throughout the duration of the project.

3.0 SURVEY COMPONENTS

3.1 Hydrographic Survey

3.1.1 Purpose

Singlebeam hydrographic data is required to be collected within each survey area for the purpose of verifying channel location and condition, as well as identification of alternate channels that may exist.

3.1.2 Equipment and Accuracy Requirements

Singlebeam data shall be conducted using an Odom CV100, and shall be set to achieve the maximum ping rate given the survey conditions. The sonar data will be attitude and positionally adjusted using the Inertially Aided Real Time Kinematic Applanix POS Surfmaster One receiving real time GNSS corrections as defined in Survey Control. Singlebeam data shall be verified by at least one crossline collected along the length of the survey area. Digital echograms shall be recorded for post-processing and survey validation.

Geodynamics shall utilize hydrographic surveying techniques that meet or exceed the criteria for Navigation and Dredging Support Surveys of Hard Bottoms as outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hydrographic Surveying Manual, EM 1110-2-1003 and in the CETN II-38 Beach and Nearshore Survey Technology Technical Note.

3.1.3 Coverage Requirements – All Sites

Survey extents have been provided by the A-NPDC and are not definitive. The survey will consist of a single channel centerline through the “marked” navigation channel with crosslines every 100' throughout each project extent. The “marked” navigation channel is defined by having either state or federally maintained navigation markers consisting of numbered, colored, daybeacons, flashing lights, or buoys.

3.1.3.1 Nassawadox Creek

Hungars Creek is located along the western coast of the Eastern Shore and connects to the Chesapeake Bay. Offshore survey will cease at ATON Navigation Warning Beacon “A” and inshore data collection will extend to the Salt works (along the north shore of Nassawadox Creek as it splits from Warehouse Creek. In addition to the primary “marked” channel, a known alternative channel exists at Nassawadox Creek marked with PVC pilings exists to the south of the primary channel as the creek enters into the Chesapeake Bay. Survey of this channel should be attempted if practical and followed out to the offshore survey extent. A potential dredge spoil area (shoal) is located between the primary and alternative channel and attempt to extend the crosslines over this region shall be made. See attached map for more information.

The following text is provided from the A-NPDC as per the project instructions:

"Nassawadox Creek- Primary attention to maintenance needs to be at the mouth of the creek, thus the short length of maintenance, 0.1 miles, or approximately 500 feet but surveying will need to extend from Aid to Navigation Warning Beacon "A" out in the Bay to the general area of Bayford or an alternate survey path to the Salt works. The survey length to the general area of Bayford is approximately 3.75 miles and the survey length to the Saltworks is approximately 4.8 miles. The awarded offeror will collaborate with the A-NPDC and local stakeholders to determine the appropriate survey area. The northern channel section entering the Bay has about a 100 foot section of 3.5 feet depth at low tide (as of August 28, 2016). Inside the 100-foot length of 3.5 feet depth, there is between 5 and 10 feet channel depth to Warehouse Creek. There is also a southern channel which is partially marked by PVC pipes along shellfish lease areas and has a minimum depth of 4 to 6 feet. Smaller-scale dredging was accomplished in 2008 with a permit from VMRC (#2005-4-92) for the organization. Friends of Nassawadox Creek."

3.1.3.2 Hungars Creek

Hungars Creek is located along the western coast of the Eastern Shore and connects to the Chesapeake Bay. Offshore survey will cease at ATON "1MC" and will continue inland along the "marked" channel to ATON "WR9" near the Salt works. The region of Hungars Creek as it approaches the Chesapeake Bay has a complex and dynamic series of shoals and the actual channel location may not be coincident with the "marked" channel location. The hydrodynamic survey data collection shall take place in effort to accurately locate the most feasible deep water entrance to Hungars Creek, whether within or outside of the "marked" channel. Due to the complexity of the nearshore environment at this location, full ensonification along strict 100' line spacing may not be feasible and Geodynamics shall not be held liable for data gaps in areas deemed too shoal or dangerous for data collection. See attached map for more information.

The following text is provided from the A-NPDC as per the project instructions:

"Hungars Creek- Primary attention to maintenance needs to be from Aid to Navigation 1MC out in the Bay up the creek to Aid to Navigation WR9 at the mouth of the creek but surveying will extend an approximate 3.5 miles in a northeasterly direction to the general area of the Saltworks. Hungars Creek has a common outlet to the Bay 8 miles northward of Cape Charles Harbor. Hungars Creek is marked by lights, day beacons, and bush stakes. According to a local assessment completed in 2016, there is a good water level in the channel just north of Masden Gut. There may need to be increased public awareness on this project as the area has numerous aquaculture beds for both clams and oysters. The aquaculture industry could become concerned about silting due to dredging and the recreational boaters equally concerned about the channel maintenance. There has been an increase in new waterfront property in the area which seem to all have piers and recreational boats moored alongside."

3.1.3.3 Red Bank Creek

Red Bank Creek is located along the eastern side of the Eastern Shore and connects the mainland of the Eastern Shore to Hog Island Bay as it approaches the Atlantic Ocean. The

survey shall extend from the boat ramp at Red Bank Creek and proceed along the channel for approximately 2.3 miles to Hog Island Bay.

Red Bank- This state waterway is approximately 2.3 miles in length from the boat ramp to Hog Island Bay. There is shoaling as the creek enters Hog Island Bay and the guts that lead through Fowling Point and Castle Ridge to Ramshorn Bay are extremely narrow and do not provide adequate water depth for many vessels. There are at least two small fishery businesses working along the waterfront of Red Bank Creek near the public boat ramp. These operations source their water from the Creek and use the Creek to access beds in the seaside bays beyond, and thus their input in conditions, channel alignments, maintenance scheduling, and potential beneficial use sites for dredge sediment are paramount in developing Part A of Phase I for this project. Adjacent property owners and aquaculture operators support this slower approach to managing sensitive areas and communication will be vital amongst these stakeholders to coordinate an effective beneficial use plan.

4.0 DELIVERABLES

4.1 Data Deliverables

All data deliverables shall be provided in the format and description provided in the table below.

Item	Format	Description
<u>Singlebeam Bathymetry Data</u>		
XYZ	ASCII, point shapefile	Bathymetry data shall be tidally and positionally corrected to elevation values and delivered in ASCII plain text format (tab or comma delimited) with the minimum attributes of Easting (X), Northing (Y), and Elevation (Z_NAVD88).
<u>Ancillary Items</u>		
Summary Report	PDF	Written report with detailed information regarding systems and integration, survey dates, weather and personnel, and quality control procedures and analysis.
Survey Control Report	PDF	Written report providing information regarding survey control measures taken, including local or internet based correction sources, quality control measures taken and documented.

Survey Notes	PDF	Written survey notes generated by the data acquisition crew regarding survey activities, encounters, and overall project progress.
Equipment Calibration Reports	PDF	Verification of survey systems and equipment calibrations.
Site Maps	PDF / JPEG	Print quality maps containing channel condition survey results.

4.2 Points of Contact

4.2.1 Moffatt and Nichol

Ira Brotman, PE

101 West Main Street, Suite 3000

Norfolk, VA 23510

Office: (757) 271-1070

Direct: (757) 285-6600

ibrotman@moffattnichol.com

4.2.2 A-NPDC

Grayson Williams

Project Manager

Accomack-Norhampton

Planning District Commission

23372 Front Street

Accomac, VA 23301

(757) 787-2396 x 129

4.3 Period of Performance

4.3.1 Survey Notice to Proceed

March 1, 2021

4.3.2 Survey Complete By

March 20, 2021

4.3.3 Deliverable Due

March 31, 2021

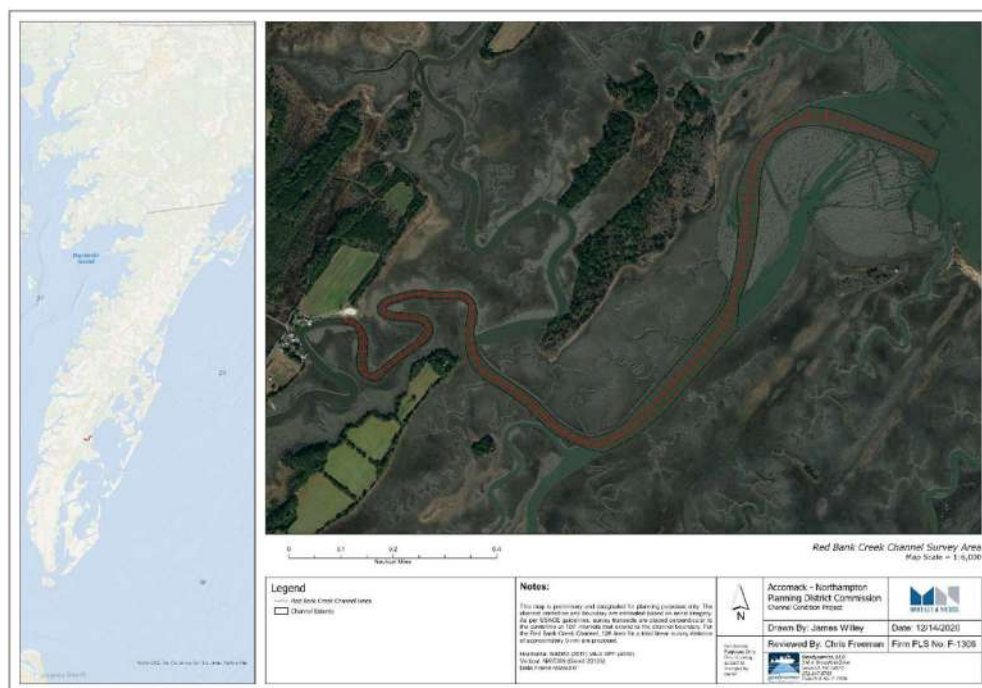


Figure 1: Red Bank Creek estimate of survey coverage and extents.

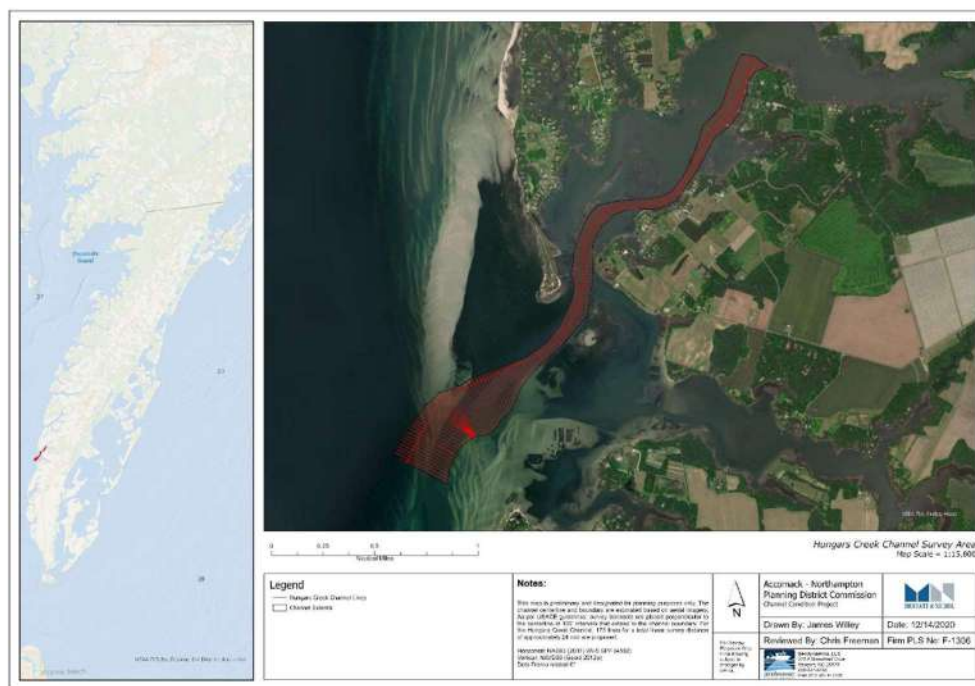


Figure 2: Hungars Creek estimate of coverage and extent.



Figure 3: Nassawadox Creek estimate of coverage and extent.

A photograph of a Saltmarsh Sparrow perched on a tall, green grass stem. The bird is facing right, showing its brown and white streaked plumage and a dark eye. The background is a soft-focus green field of similar grasses.

Saltmarsh Restoration Priorities for the Saltmarsh Sparrow

Virginia

Last Updated August 2023
Saltmarsh Sparrow. Ray Hennessy



Saltmarsh Sparrow. Ray Hennessy

Goal Statement

The Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacuta*) is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Virginia. This document is intended to provide those interested in the conservation of salt marsh and Saltmarsh Sparrows with information that will help with conservation implementation. It identifies areas containing salt marshes that are suitable for restoration, enhancement, and/or conservation actions designed to provide persistent, high-quality Saltmarsh Sparrow nesting habitat over the next 10 years and to enhance long-term salt marsh resilience. In most cases, ground-truthing will be required to assess or confirm site characteristics (e.g., hydrological dynamics) prior to the development of restoration approaches and eventual implementation.

Saltmarsh Sparrow Objectives from the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV)

The ACJV's Saltmarsh Sparrow Conservation Plan (Hartley and Weldon, 2020) identifies state-by-state population and habitat goals for the Saltmarsh Sparrow based on a global population goal of 25,000 individuals. This goal is lower than published 2011/2012 population estimates (Wiest et al. 2019) to account for projected impacts of sea-level rise on the species' nesting success (Field et al. 2017). Virginia's breeding Saltmarsh Sparrow population is estimated to be 7.0% (n = 1,753 individuals) of the global population (n = 25,000 individuals). Habitat goals listed in the table below are the minimum acres of habitat (defined below) needed to support the state's population goal.

	2011/12 Population Estimate*	Percent of Global Population	Population Goal (Individuals)	2030 high marsh goals (ac)**	Total tidal marsh needed to meet 2030 high marsh goals (ac)	2069 high marsh goals (ac)	Total tidal marsh needed to meet 2069 high marsh goals (ac)
Virginia	4,200 (+/- 2,600)	7.0%	1,753	2,954	8,206	11,115	30,875
Regional	60,000		25,000			79,605	220,000

*Updated population estimates exist for each marsh patch within the range of the Saltmarsh Sparrow, however they are currently under peer review. When they are published, these figures will be updated to reflect the detections in the maps contained within this document.

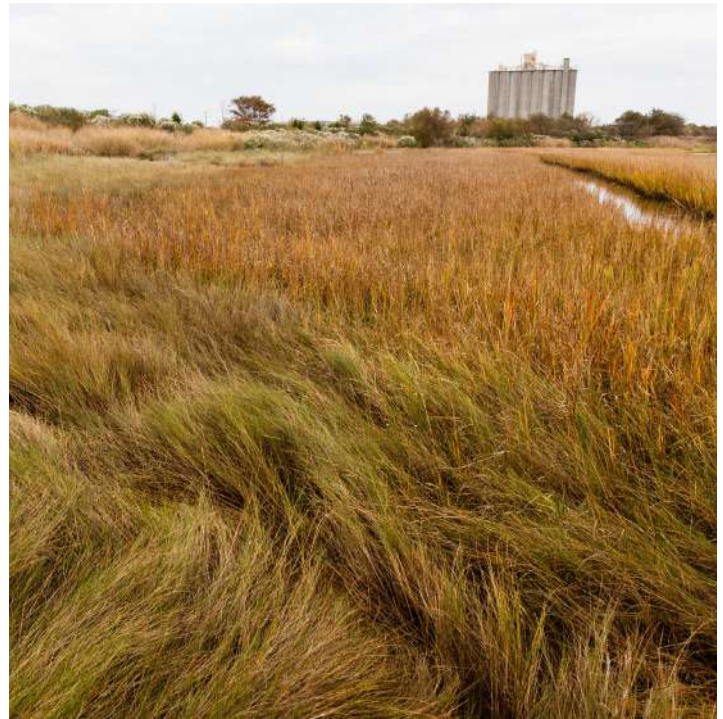
**High marsh goals represent acres of "high quality habitat," defined as having conditions that support a stable or growing population of breeding Saltmarsh Sparrows.

This document focuses on known breeding Saltmarsh Sparrow habitat which is limited to the seaside and eastern Chesapeake Bay marshes located primarily in Accomack County. These marshes are currently considered the southern extent of the Saltmarsh Sparrow breeding range. A future complementary document will outline opportunities for marsh restoration to support nonbreeding populations of this species beyond the marshes described herein.

High-quality Habitat for Saltmarsh Sparrows

High-quality habitat is defined as conditions that allow sufficient reproductive success to support a stable or growing Saltmarsh Sparrow population. Conservation should focus on preserving, restoring, or enhancing high-quality breeding habitat with the following characteristics:

- High marsh patches with low flooding frequency and provides a window of at least 23 days with very limited flooding.
- Extensive and dense *S. patens* vegetation with a deep, well-developed thatch layer at times complemented by short to intermediate *S. alterniflora*.
- The highest quality high marsh habitat is most often found in the least modified marshes, such as those without ditching, or are free of tidal restrictions like road crossings.



High marsh habitat in Virginia. Chesapeake Bay Program

Marsh Identification and Prioritization Process

Marsh parcels were identified using the ACJV Saltmarsh Sparrow Habitat Prioritization Tool (top 10%; ACJV 2020). These parcels were then reviewed and refined by a group of non-governmental, academic, state, and federal partners in 2021, and again in 2023. Summaries of selected marshes were drafted, informed, and finalized by this working group (see Acknowledgements for full partner list). Lastly, the working group sorted the selected marshes into the following subcategories to further refine the state's prioritization process.

Priority Marshes: Marshes prioritized for ongoing restoration planning and implementation to support the Saltmarsh Sparrow in Virginia.

Honorable Mention: Marshes identified by the partner group as important to keep in mind for future work.

Please see the overview map for all marshes identified in the state. This document will be updated over time to reflect additional expert input, changes in species conservation status, and implementation efforts that represent collective progress towards habitat goals.

Restoration Technique Definitions

The following defined restoration/enhancement techniques are mentioned repeatedly throughout this document, including the Attributes section for each marsh summary, to provide users of this plan with a menu of appropriate management options at selected marshes. ***This information is meant to identify opportunity and potential for these restoration techniques at each site but is not meant to be prescriptive.*** A formal site assessment and design is always necessary to identify specific next steps and restoration strategies within each marsh parcel.

Sediment placement

Placement of material (including sediments from dredging efforts) on the marsh platform. Includes thin-layer placement, thick-layer placement, beneficial use of dredged sediments, formation of hummocks, microtopography, etc.

Repair hydrology - runnelling / channel creation

Small-scale modification of the marsh platform using shallow channel creation to remove standing water.

Repair hydrology - tidal restriction mitigation

Removal or modification of large-scale tidal restrictions such as road crossings, culverts, bridges, etc. to restore tidal flow.

Repair hydrology - address ditch plugs

Adjustment of ditch plugging on marsh platform to improve hydrology.

Repair hydrology - ditch remediation

Adjustment of human-made ditches on the marsh platform to improve hydrology.

Repair hydrology - berm, embankment, or levee modification

Removal of berms or embankments affecting hydrology of marsh platform.

Land acquisition / protection

Purchase or easement of land to protect, including for eventual marsh migration.

Facilitated marsh migration

Active assistance of marsh migration through modification of the environment.

Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.)

Removal or mitigation of invasive plants.

Living shoreline development

Development of nature-based features to promote shoreline stabilization.

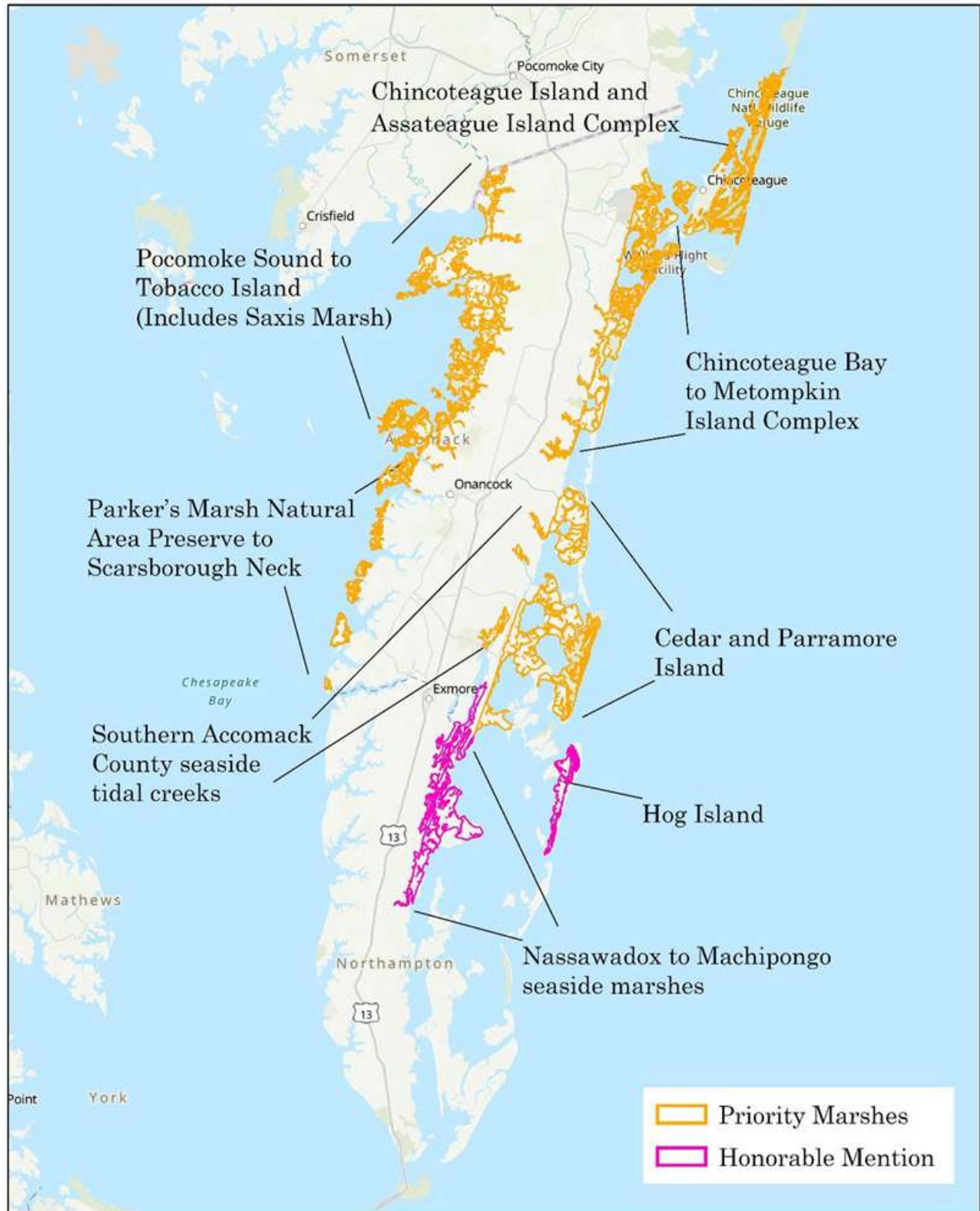
Wildlife herbivory mitigation

Removal or management of wildlife due to overgrazing including deer, horses, crabs, geese, etc.

Additional ecological assessment needed

Additional monitoring and site assessment is necessary to determine specific next steps or assess existing restoration efforts at this site.

Overview Map Of Priority And Honorable Mention Marshes In Virginia



Virginia Priority
Saltmarsh Sparrow Marshes



10
Miles
10
Kilometers

Priority Marshes

The following marshes have been prioritized for ongoing restoration planning and action to support the Saltmarsh Sparrow in Virginia.

Chincoteague Island and Assateague Island Complex – 4,755 acres (1,924 ha)

Existing Conditions

Much of the salt marsh restoration efforts in the state of Virginia are centered at this site. It can be broken down into several geographic units, most of which are federally owned but also includes town and private land. All of the refuge impoundments, with one exception, were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s with the primary purpose of providing waterfowl migration and wintering habitat. Chincoteague NWR has resident horses known as Chincoteague ponies on Assateague Island that are owned and managed by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company and that graze in two large, designated areas on the refuge under a special use permit. An exclusion fence was recently added on Assateague Island to protect sections of the salt marsh from grazing ponies.

- Impounded area: These impoundments currently provide many benefits to wildlife including wintering/migratory habitat for waterfowl, food sources for water birds of conservation concern, and shorebird migratory stopover habitat for many species. Ditching occurs within impoundment units and at the outflow of water control structures. There is some trampling of marsh by Chincoteague ponies which is restricted to Black Duck Drain and areas north of the E-pool management unit. These areas also have high nutrient input, but more monitoring is necessary to determine the extent of nutrient input here.
- Bay areas: most marshes are frequently flooded, consisting of short-form *S. alterniflora* and *Distichlis spicata*.
- This entire site is important to migratory birds; it supports a diverse suite of breeding and nonbreeding waterbirds in addition to the Saltmarsh Sparrow
- A Saltmarsh Integrity Study Report is available for Chincoteague NWRC
- Sika deer are present at this site; the impacts of sika deer herbivory on marshes has not been formally assessed.

Existing Projects

USFWS: This project aims to enhance elevation through sediment placement in Swan Cove. Implementation will involve a 125 ft bridge and build up the back barrier marsh platform. The project is designed but support is still needed for implementation and monitoring. Best contact: Bart Wilson (bartholomew_wilson@fws.gov)

Saltmarsh Sparrow Data

Saltmarsh Sparrows detected (2021/2022; SHARP 2023); breeding has been confirmed at this site.

Recommended Management / Next Steps To Management Action

- Lighthouse Meadow, Sow Pond, and Assateague Bay refuge management units are incorporated in a new Salt Marsh Restoration Plan. See this plan for specific next steps in these areas.
- Support implementation of Swan Cove project (see above).
- Review Chincoteague and Wallops Island NWRs Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for overall ecological goals for the area.

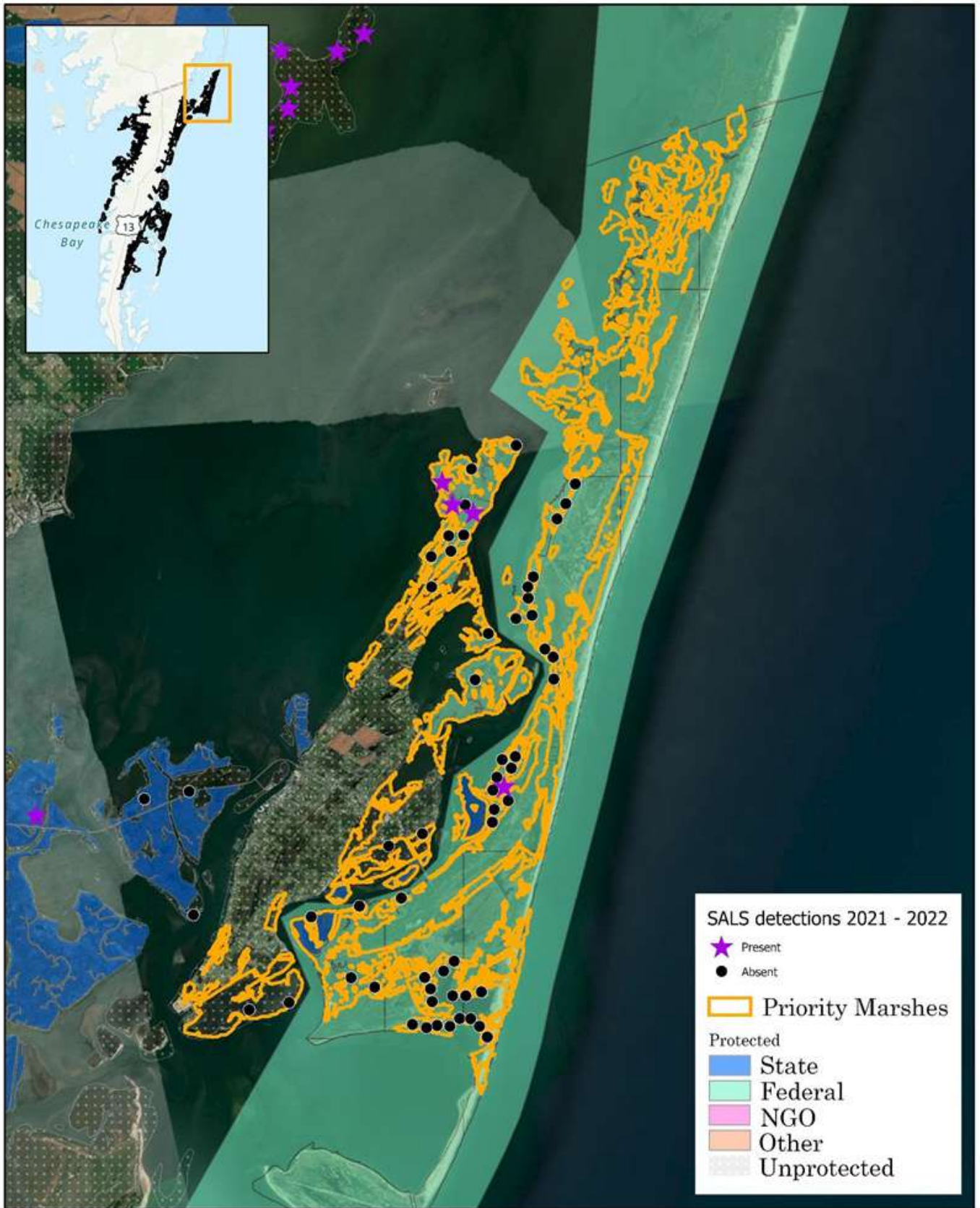
- Review [USGS document](#) on optimization of salt marsh management at Chincoteague.
- Assess implications of increasing tidal flow in impounded areas.

Attributes

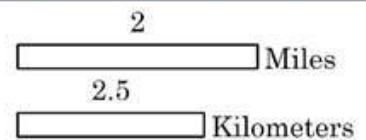
- Sediment placement - Y
- Repair hydrology - runnelling / channel creation - Y
- Repair hydrology - tidal restriction mitigation - Y
- Repair hydrology – address ditch plugs - N
- Repair hydrology - ditch remediation - N
- Repair hydrology - berm, embankment, or levee modification – Y
- Land acquisition / protection - N
- Facilitated marsh migration – N
- Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.) – Y
- Living shoreline development - Y
- Wildlife herbivory mitigation – Y
- Additional ecological assessment needed - Y



Sika deer at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Judy Gallagher Creative Commons



Chincoteague Island and
Assateague Island Complex



Chincoteague Bay to Metompkin Island Complex – 13,375 acres (5,413 ha)

This marsh complex includes Wallops Island NWR, Assawoman Island Unit and Metompkin Island Unit within the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWRC) and portions of Metompkin Island within The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve. This marsh complex is a matrix of federal, state, NGOP, and privately owned land.

Existing Conditions

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Wallops Flight Facility located on Wallops Island is the biggest source of disturbance for this parcel. Future channel dredging may occur regularly following the construction of a new dock on the north end of the island to accommodate the delivery of rocket parts via the waterway. Additional (but temporary) disturbance may result from the replacement of the existing causeway bridge.

- Areas of unditched marsh shortgrass and *Phragmites australis* (hereafter *Phragmites*) hummocks exist near the Wallops Flight Facility.
- The complex is important to migratory birds; it supports a diverse suite of breeding and nonbreeding waterbirds in addition to the Saltmarsh Sparrows including waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds, and includes the largest Laughing Gull colony in Virginia.
- Saltmarsh Integrity Study Report is available for Chincoteague NWR.

Existing Projects

There are no existing restoration projects at this site.

Saltmarsh Sparrow Data

Saltmarsh Sparrows detected (2021/2022; SHARP 2023), breeding has been confirmed at this site.

Recommended Management / Next Steps To Management Action

- Establish working relationship with the Wallops Flight facility for restoring marshes and preserving marsh migration areas (*Phragmites* is currently encroaching inner marsh area along causeway and on the backside of the island).
- Explore the potential for beneficial use of dredged sediments.
- Limit hardening of shorelines.
- Protect adjacent buffers to facilitate marsh migration.
- Causeway could be causing some tidal restrictions to marsh.
- Living shoreline – northern part of the parcel is relatively undeveloped but there is potential for living shoreline work.
- The western side of this marsh complex presents migration opportunities where low-lying agricultural fields may convert quickly. Some of these areas already are experiencing salt water intrusion and *S. patens* is already growing on former ag fields. Facilitation could also occur on forested lands if trees were girdled.

Attributes

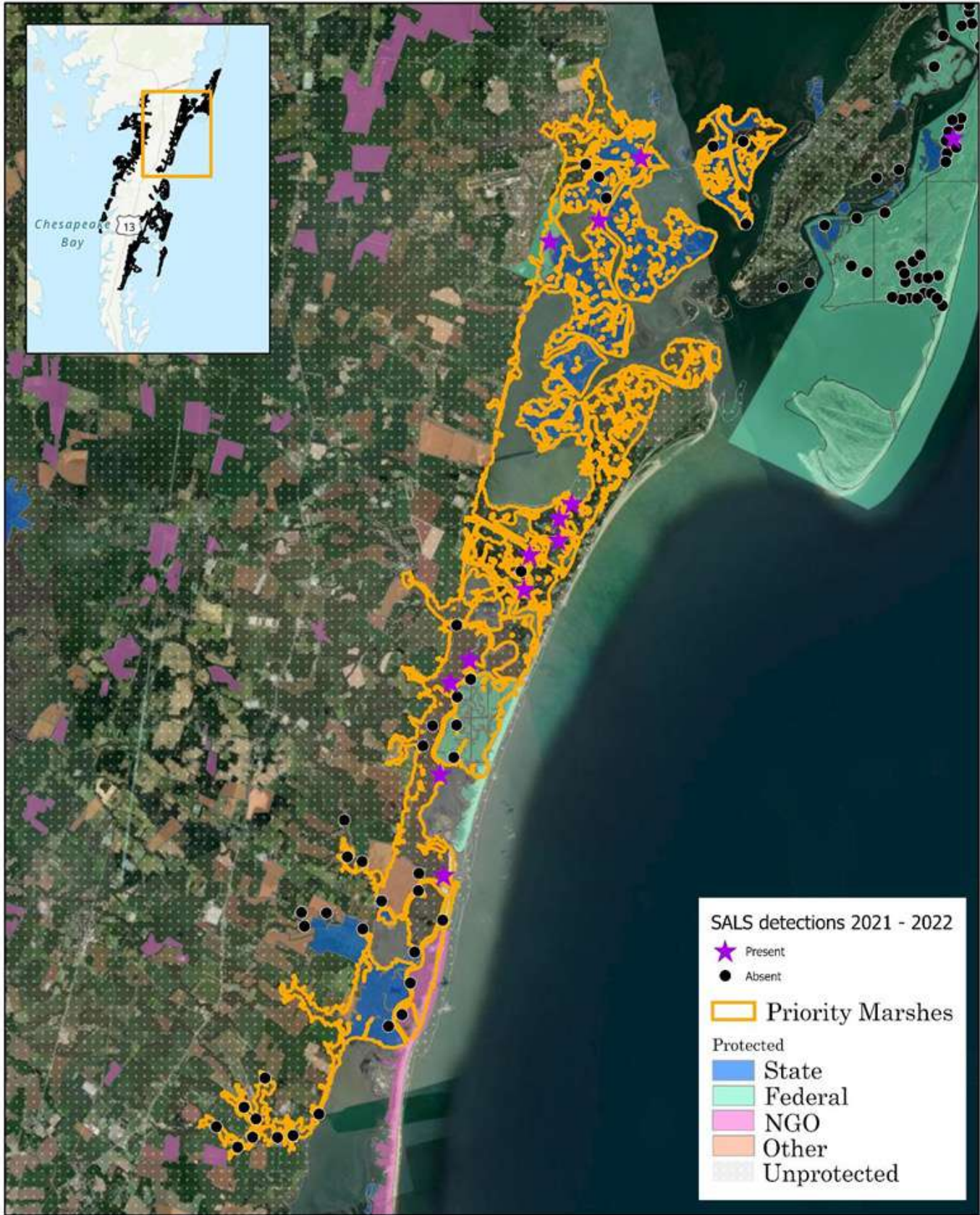
- Sediment placement - Y
- Restore hydrology - runnelling / channel creation - N
- Restore hydrology - tidal restriction mitigation - Y
- Restore hydrology - ditch plug remediation - N
- Restore hydrology - ditch remediation - N
- Restore hydrology - berm, embankment, or levee modification – N

- Land acquisition / protection - Y
- Facilitated marsh migration – Y
- Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.) - Y
- Living shoreline development - Y
- Wildlife herbivory mitigation - N
- Additional ecological assessment needed - Y

Note: extensive patch-level information is available for this site. Please contact maureen_correll@fws.gov for additional information.



Example of a living shoreline project on private property in Virginia. Virginia Sea Grant, Creative Commons



Chincoteague Bay to
Metompkin Island Complex

Cedar Island and Parramore Island – 17,488 acres (7,077 ha)

Existing Conditions

Marsh subsidence is occurring across many patches in this marsh parcel. There is dredging of inshore channels by local towns, and *Phragmites* exists on dredge material deposition sites, along narrow bands in the upland ecotone, and on both barrier islands (including Revels Island) primarily along the backside flats/saltmarsh interface. However, there are no significant ditching or tidal restrictions present at this site.

- This site is important to migratory birds; it supports a diverse suite of breeding and nonbreeding waterbirds in addition to the Saltmarsh Sparrow.
- Both islands are under extensive conservation ownership. Most of Cedar Island is owned and managed by Chincoteague NWR, The Nature Conservancy Virginia Coast Reserve (TNC) and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. A small portion of Cedar Island is in private ownership. Parramore Island is owned and managed by TNC and is also designated as a VA Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Area Preserve.

Existing Projects

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS): Partnering with VA Department of Wildlife Resources (VA DWR) to place sediment on the backside of south Cedar Island to restore areas of high marsh and to keep the south end of the island from breaching again. The project has encountered an unexpected hurdle; the planned material deposit site is partially on Public Baylor Grounds, which are reserved for public shellfish harvesting and cannot be leased or used for other purposes. Currently, partners are in the permitting phase of this project and are working with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, which manages the Baylor Grounds, and other regulatory agencies to gain approval for this project. Project is funded by NFWF and a competitive SWG grant. Design is 70% complete, and funding is still needed for implementation and monitoring. Best contact: Christopher Hein (hein@vims.edu) and Ruth Boettcher (ruth.boettcher@dwr.virginia.gov).
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Project aims to build and monitor oyster reefs with two types of oyster substrate adjacent to an eroding, state-owned marsh to enhance and protect the seaside town of Wachapreague, VA. Newly established reefs will dampen wave energy and protect the marsh edge from further erosion and may facilitate sediment trapping in order to build marsh acreage. Project is funded by NFWF and scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. No additional support is necessary. Contacts: Bo Lusk (blusk@tnc.org), Alex Wilke (awilke@tnc.org).
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS): This project is an eelgrass restoration in Burton's Bay and will plant 60 acres of eelgrass west of the southern end of Cedar Island. Newly established eelgrass habitat may reduce the impact of wave energy on marsh erosion in the vicinity of the project. The project grant was awarded by NOAA with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. No additional support is necessary. Best contact: Chris Patrick (cpatrick@vims.edu), Bo Lusk (blusk@tnc.org).
- Dredge opportunity: Accomack county has dredging planned for Folly Creek after 2024. County has interest in using the dredge beneficially, but they have not yet found a site to deposit. Best contact: Alex Wilke (awilke@tnc.org)

Saltmarsh Sparrow Data

Saltmarsh Sparrows detected (2021/2022; SHARP 2023); breeding has not been confirmed at this site.

Recommended Management / Next Steps To Management Action

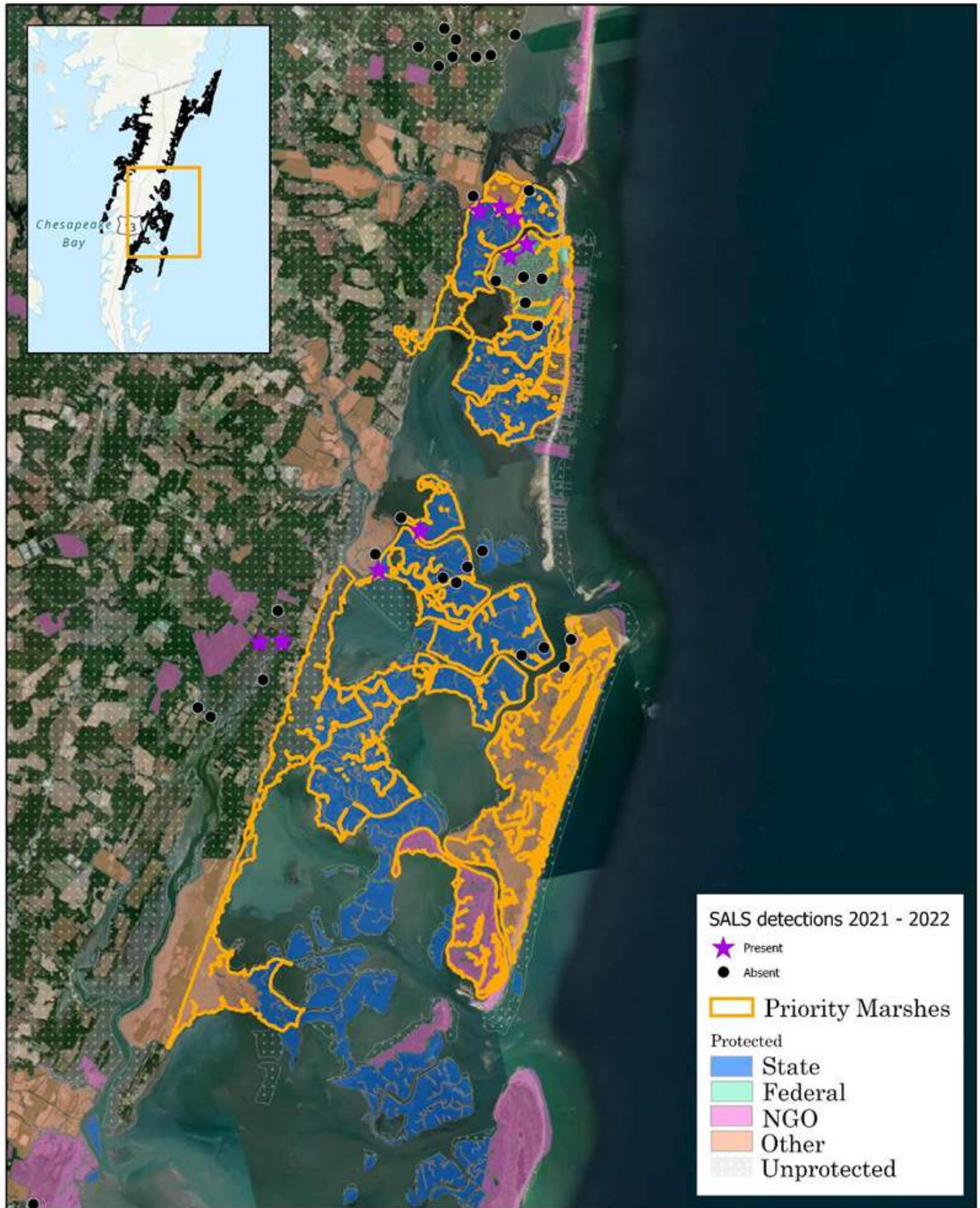
- Develop relationships with local partners and communities for future opportunities related to beneficial use of dredge material. Key partners include the Eastern Shore Navigable Waterways Committee and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.
- Protect adjacent buffers to facilitate marsh migration. Partnership called the Virginia Eastern Shore Conservation Alliance has prioritized the protection of marsh migration space across the state.

Attributes

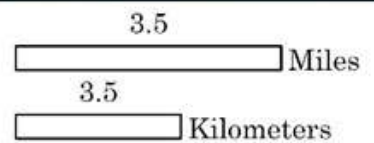
- Sediment placement - Y
- Restore hydrology - runnelling / channel creation – N
- Restore hydrology - Tidal restriction mitigation - N
- Restore hydrology – Address ditch plugs - N
- Restore hydrology - ditch remediation - N
- Restore hydrology - Berm, embankment, or levee modification - N
- Land acquisition / protection - Y
- Facilitated marsh migration – N
- Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.) - Y
- Wildlife herbivory mitigation – N
- Living shoreline development - Y
- Additional ecological assessment needed - Y



Cedar Island is 1 of 12 barrier islands that protect the Virginia Coast. Its annual rate of retreat—already rapid at 6.6 meters per year—is predicted to speed up by as much as 50% by 2100 as the Virginia barrier island system re-equilibrates to the rapid acceleration in sea-level rise observed during the last 50-100 years. VA Institute of Marine Science, Creative Commons



Cedar and Parramore Island



Southern Accomack County Seaside Tidal Creeks – 1,043 acres (422 ha)

Existing Conditions

This marsh parcel is a relatively unditched marsh. A large amount of the surrounding area is already within conservation easement or otherwise protected.

- This site supports a diverse suite of waterbirds year-round, including Laughing Gull colonies that are declining due to frequent flooding events.

Existing Projects

No existing restoration projects are underway at this site.

Saltmarsh Sparrow Data

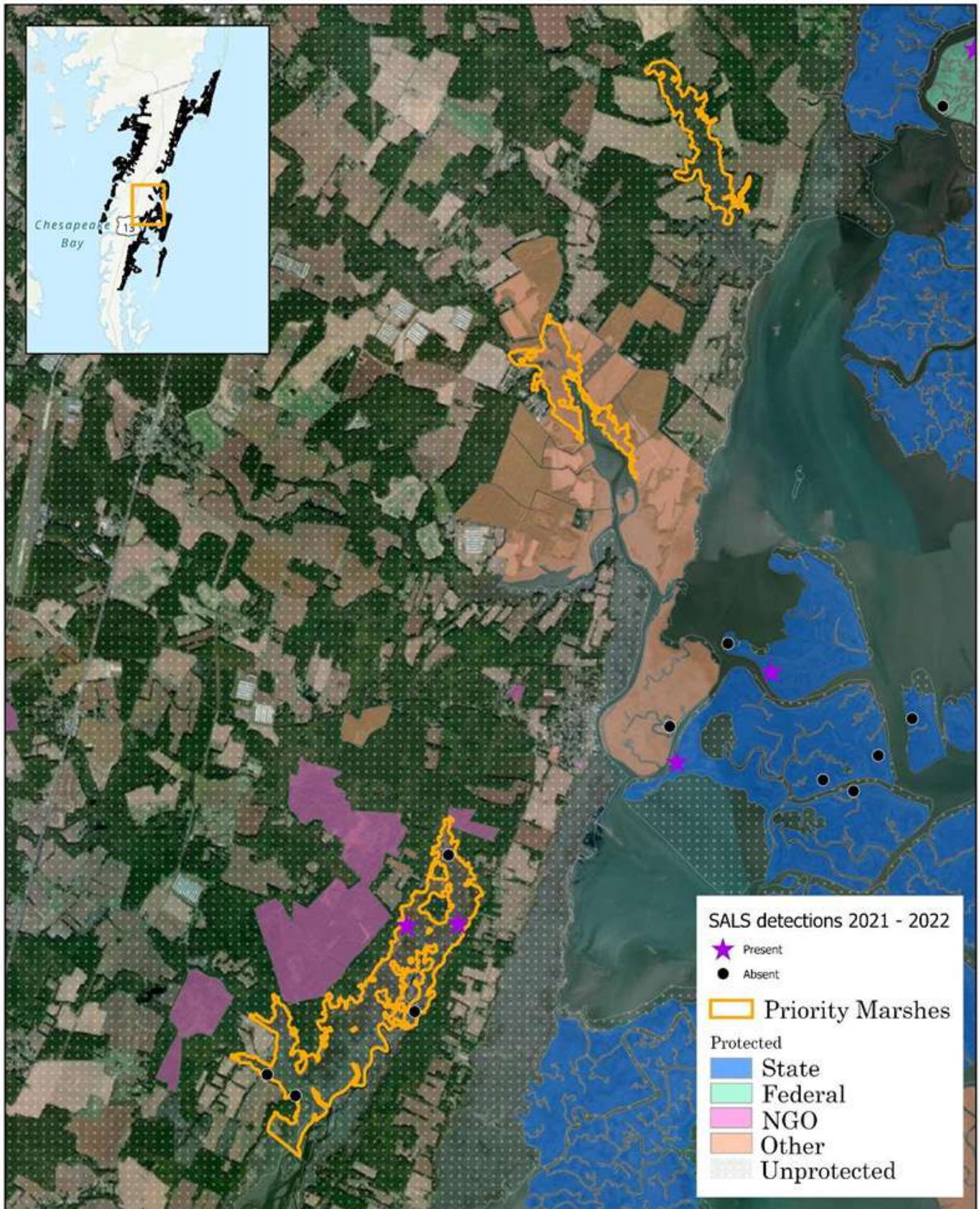
Saltmarsh Sparrows detected (2021/2022; SHARP 2023); breeding has not been confirmed at this site.

Recommended Management / Next Steps To Management Action

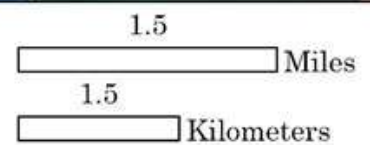
- Additional site visits and assessment are needed to assess marsh conditions and suitability.
- There is significant potential for land protection to facilitate marsh migration into areas adjacent to this parcel as several agricultural properties directly border the marsh.

Attributes

- Sediment placement - Y
- Restore hydrology - runnelling / channel creation – N
- Restore hydrology - Tidal restriction mitigation - N
- Restore hydrology – address ditch plug remediation - N
- Restore hydrology - ditch remediation - Y
- Restore hydrology - berm, embankment, or levee modification - N
- Land acquisition / protection - N
- Facilitated marsh migration – N
- Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.) - Y
- Living shoreline development - N
- Wildlife herbivory mitigation - N
- Additional ecological assessment needed - Y



Southern Accomack County Seaside Tidal Creeks



Pocomoke Sound to Tobacco Island (Including Saxis Marsh) – 17,991 acres (7,281 ha)

Existing Conditions

Saxis Causeway extends into marsh which prevents tidal flow; significant *Phragmites* stands are present along the upland edge.

- This site is important to other migratory birds and supports a diverse suite of breeding marsh birds, seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl.
- Saxis marsh is the only marsh in Virginia where breeding Black Rail are reliably detected (2007, 2014, 2022; C. Hines pers. comm)

Existing Projects

VA DWR: Black Rail habitat restoration project at Saxis WMA (i.e., Pig Point) funded through a cSWG grant entails reducing the density and extent of *Phragmites* stands through experimental prescribed burning and the application of herbicide. Both treatments

will be applied in early 2024. Additional support is needed for long-term monitoring. Best contact: Ruth Boettcher (ruth.boettcher@dwr.virginia.gov)



This site has been partially restored to provide habitat for species like the Eastern Black Rail. Ed Corey

Saltmarsh Sparrow Data

Saltmarsh Sparrows detected (2021/2022; SHARP 2023); breeding has been confirmed at this site (2023)

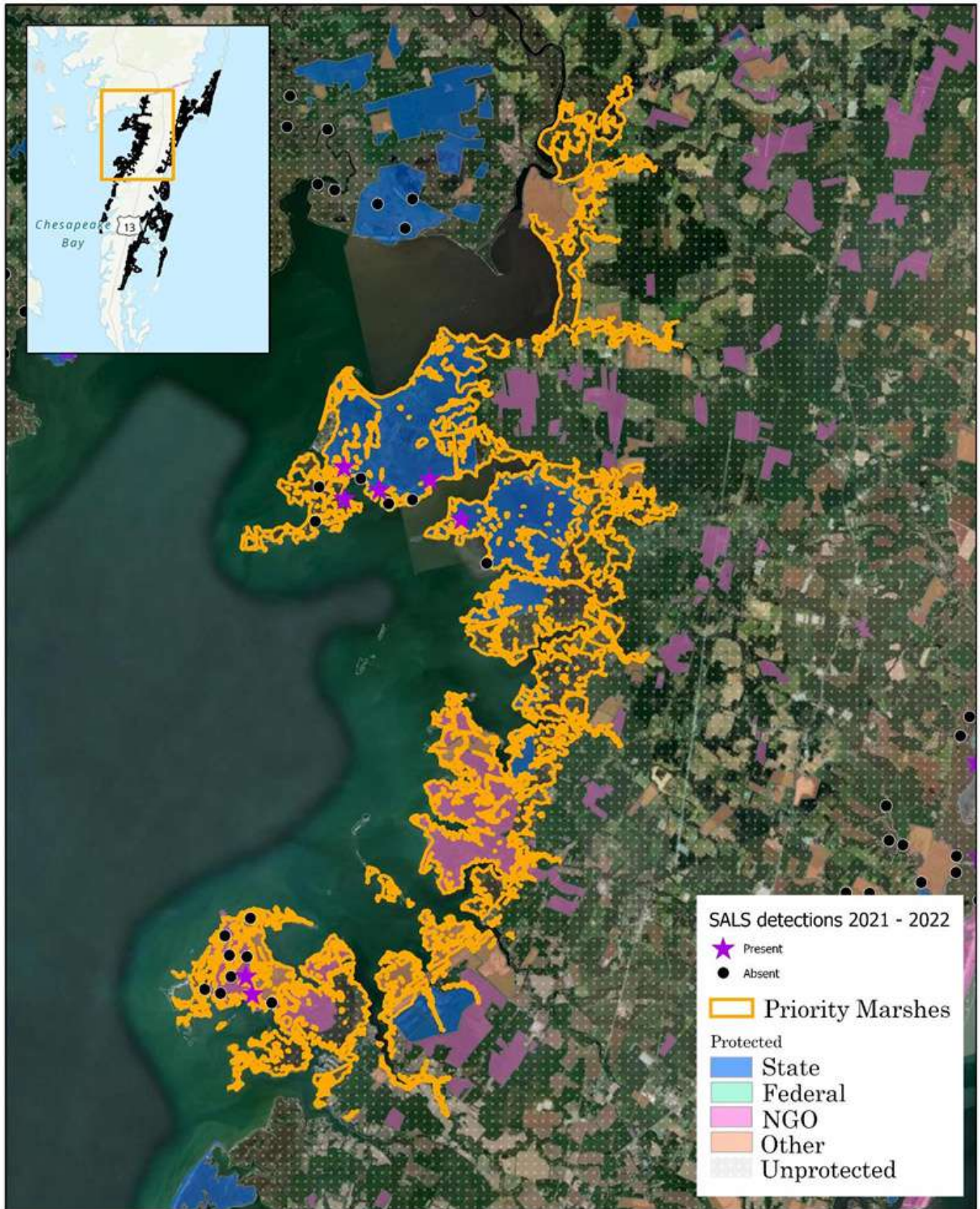
Recommended Management / Next Steps To Management Action

Perhaps one of best opportunities to manage marsh migration in Virginia.

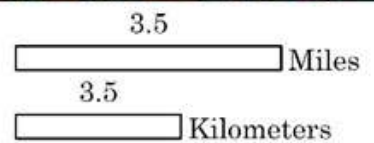
- Protect surrounding land for marsh migration.
- Explore utility of facilitated marsh migration through tree girdling
- Assess potential for sediment placement.
- *Phragmites* control along the upland edge.

Attributes

- Sediment placement - Y
- Restore hydrology - runnelling / channel creation – Y\
- Restore hydrology - tidal restriction mitigation - N
- Restore hydrology – address ditch plugs - N
- Restore hydrology - ditch remediation - Y
- Restore hydrology - Berm, embankment, or levee modification - Y
- Land acquisition / protection – Y
- Facilitated marsh migration – Y
- Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.) - Y
- Living shoreline development - Y
- Wildlife herbivory mitigation - N
- Additional ecological assessment needed - Y



Pocomoke Sound to Tobacco Island (Includes Saxis Marsh)



Parker's Marsh Natural Area Preserve to Scarsborough Neck – 3,592 acres (1,454 ha)

Existing Conditions

This marsh is unditched and characterized by large areas of *S. patens* with a well-developed thatch layer. The surrounding land is largely protected through conservation easements or public ownership. This site is important to other migratory birds and supports a diverse suite of waterbirds; historical breeding Black Rail detections occurred here.

Existing Projects

No marsh restoration projects are currently underway at this site.

Saltmarsh Sparrow Data

Saltmarsh Sparrows detected (2021/2022; SHARP 2023); breeding has not been confirmed at this site.



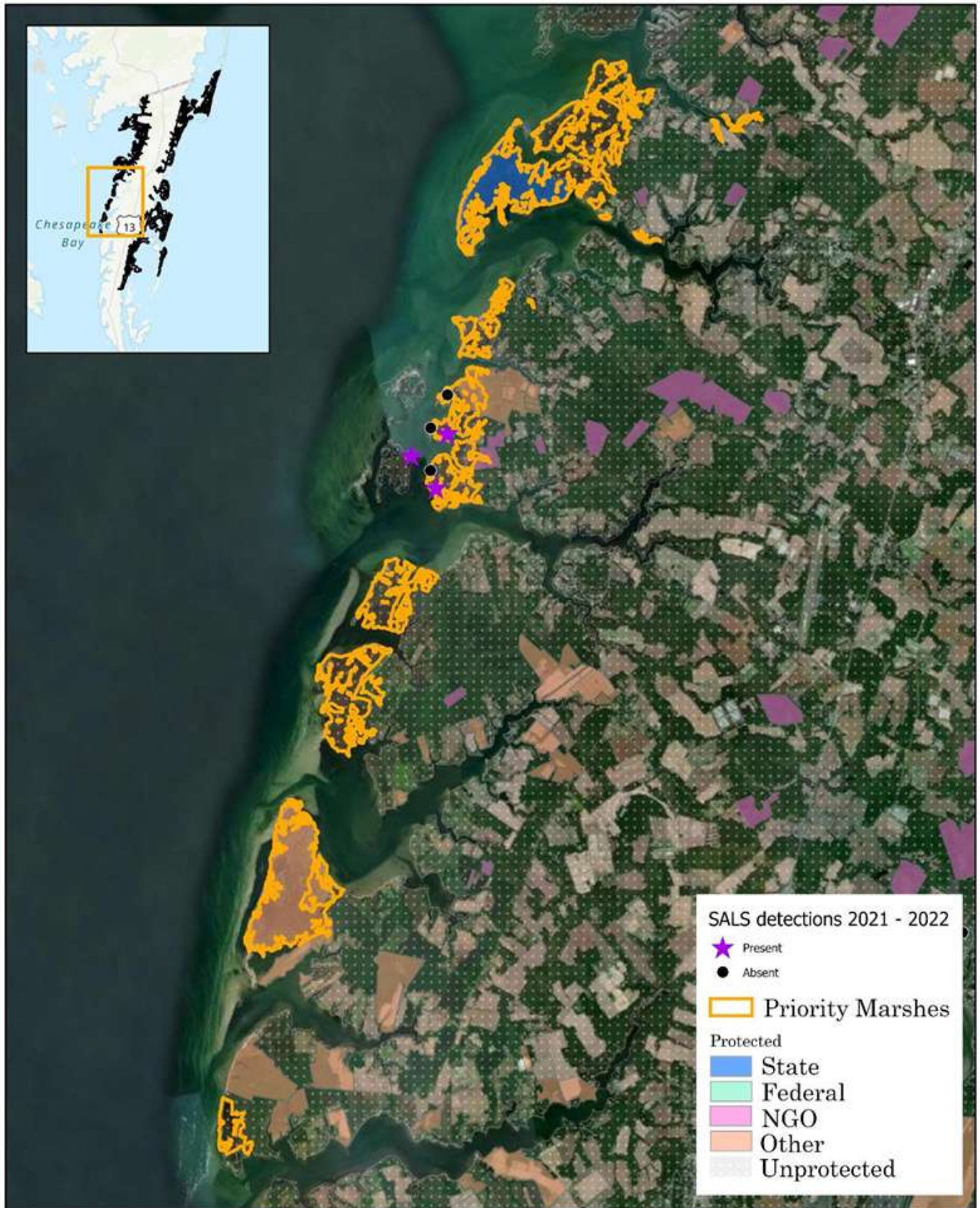
This site has been historically important for breeding Eastern Black Rail. Michael Gray

Recommended Management / Next Steps To Management Action

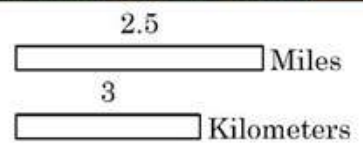
- Protect surrounding land for eventual marsh migration.
- Assess potential for sediment placement.
- Assess hydrology for marsh platform restoration.
- Given the shallow elevational gradient on the bayside, marsh migration will be easier than on the seaside. Land acquisition abutting marshes will allow for migration.

Attributes

- Sediment placement - Y
- Restore hydrology - runnelling / channel creation – Y
- Restore hydrology - tidal restriction mitigation - N
- Restore hydrology - Ditch plug remediation - N
- Restore hydrology - Ditch remediation - Y
- Restore hydrology - berm, embankment, or levee modification - Y
- Land acquisition / protection - Y
- Facilitated marsh migration – Y
- Living shoreline development – Y
- Invasive plant species mitigation (*Phragmites australis*, etc.) - Y
- Wildlife herbivory mitigation – N
- Additional ecological assessment needed - Y



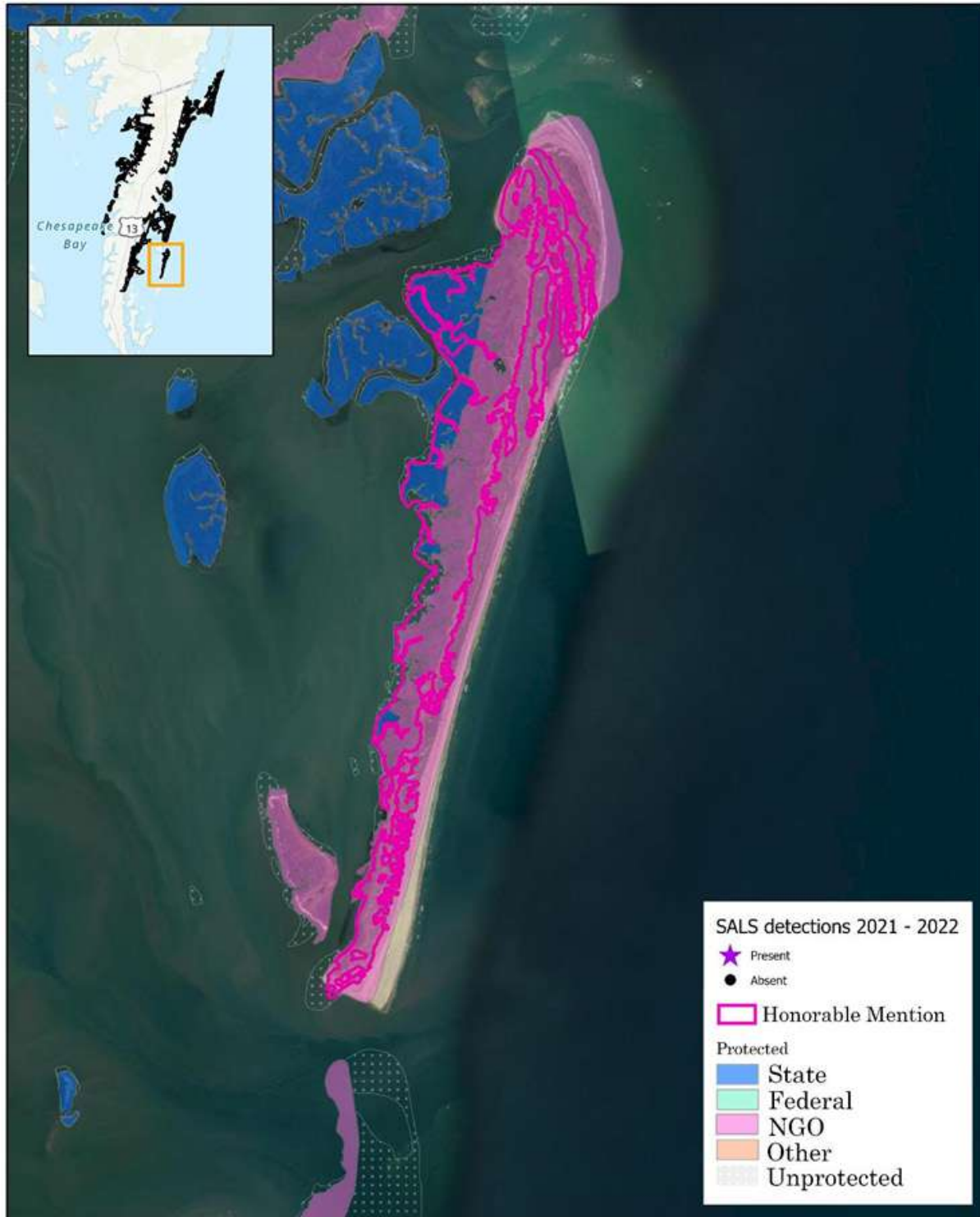
Parkers Marsh Natural Area
Preserve to Scarsborough Neck



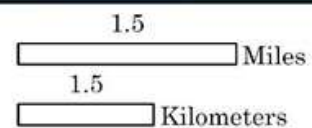
Honorable Mentions

Hog Island/Rogue Island – 1,938 acres (784 ha)

This area has potential for sediment deposition but is a lower priority for breeding Saltmarsh Sparrows.

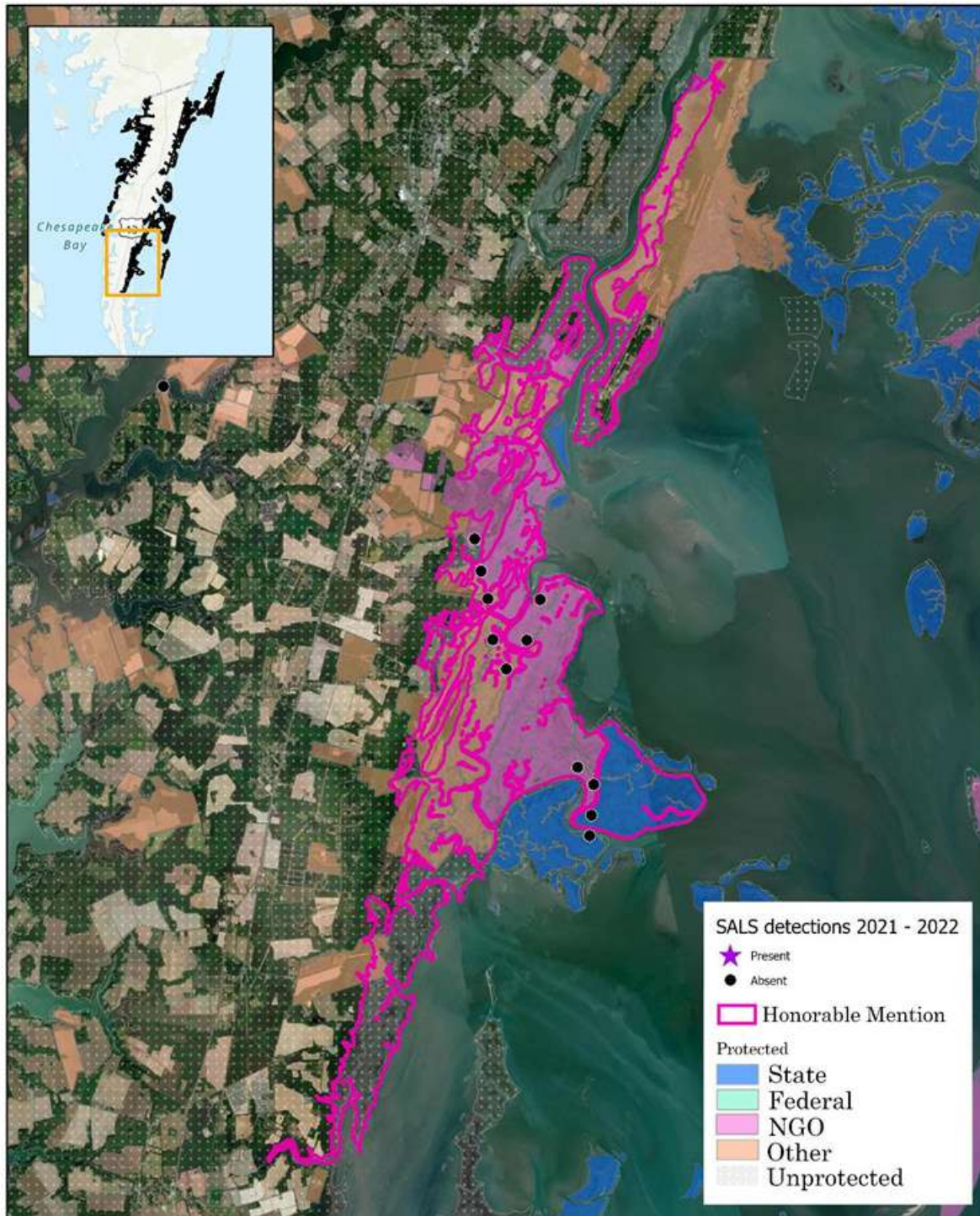


Hog Island



Nassawadox to Machipongo Seaside Marshes – 8,409 acres (3,403 ha)

This marsh parcel is a relatively unditched marsh and much of the surrounding area is already within conservation easement or otherwise protected. Saltmarsh Sparrows have not been detected here recently and the area is a lower priority for breeding Saltmarsh Sparrows. Recent surveys in 2021 and 2022 did not detect Saltmarsh Sparrows in this location, however they were detected in 2014 (SHARP), albeit during the early portion of season when birds could have been migrating.



Nassawadox-Machipongo
Seaside Marshes



2.5
Miles

2.5
Kilometers

Best Practices in Marsh Management

Engaging and consulting with landowners, local land managers, and restoration experts should be the first step in the development of a salt marsh conservation project. Before any monitoring or management action is planned, consideration should be given to how management for Saltmarsh Sparrow will be integrated with other priority species or habitats. Any management actions should follow best practices to avoid impacting existing suitable Saltmarsh Sparrow habitat. Necessary precautions include:

- If a management approach is not well understood or hasn't been widely implemented in similar ecological settings, management should be phased and initially limited to a small portion (e.g. <10%) of marshes known to provide valuable Saltmarsh Sparrow habitat.
- Conduct intensive marsh modification work outside the window of the active Saltmarsh Sparrow breeding season and the breeding seasons of other marsh dependent species (April – August).
- The importance of Virginia marshes during migration and winter for Saltmarsh Sparrows is well known, so avoiding impacts during that time of year should be considered as well.

Policy

Challenges

- There is a limited amount of dredge material available for sediment placement projects, especially since the intra-coastal waterway is no longer being dredged.
- Lack of funds for marsh restoration projects and for acquiring lands in suitable marsh migration zones limits the amount of work possible to complete on the ground.
- Lack of capacity to conduct long-term post-restoration monitoring.

Permitting Considerations

For any wetland modification work, regulatory permitting agencies include the VA Marine Resources Commission, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Any proposed work on protected lands would require a special use permit from the land-owning agency.

Potential Solutions

Establishment of a collaborative working group is underway that will develop a plan identifying and prioritizing habitat restoration opportunities in Virginia's seaside coastal lagoon system for marsh-nesting American Oystercatchers. It is possible for the working group to use the Saltmarsh Sparrow plan as a starting point for its work on the seaside of Virginia. If successful, the working group may decide to expand its scope to include the bayside marshes of the Eastern Shore and incorporate other species such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, eastern Black Rails and other high-priority, marsh-dependent species in its prioritization exercise. The working group will also identify potential funding sources for each project. Many partners have already engaged in cooperative conservation planning for avian communities in coastal Virginia (i.e., Virginia Coast Avian Partnership, Virginia Barrier Island Landowner Working Group) and will likely join this working group. A well-established group of partners committed to working collaboratively on restoring marshes in Virginia will go a long way towards justifying these efforts and finding sufficient funding to implement and evaluate the work.

Monitoring

Any habitat restoration efforts should be monitored both pre-implementation and post-implementation to measure change and determine whether vegetation and elevation goals have been met. This monitoring will ideally include an array of ecological metrics specific to tidal marshes and will build upon the existing knowledge base for salt marsh restoration in this area.

The VA DWR along with partners received SWG funds in 2023 to reassess the breeding distribution of Saltmarsh Sparrows on the lower Delmarva Peninsula and examine reproductive success in occupied seaside and bayside marshes. Results from this work will help guide future breeding Saltmarsh Sparrow monitoring efforts in Virginia.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to working group members Ruth Boettcher (VA DWR), Kevin Holcomb (USFWS), Chance Hines (William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology; CCB), Elizabeth Hunter (USGS / Virginia Tech), Becky Gwynn (VA DWR / ACJV), Bryan Watts (CCB), and Alex Wilke (TNC) who all contributed to the contents of this document. Thank you to the Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program (SHARP) for providing detection data for Saltmarsh Sparrows which helped inform our saltmarsh sparrow data sections for each marsh.



Monarch butterfly in high marsh habitat at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Judy Gallagher Creative Commons

Contact & Citation Information

For more information or to update information contained in this document please contact:

Mo Correll, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture:
maureen_correll@fws.gov

Suggested citation: Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. 2023. Report. Saltmarsh Restoration Priorities for the Saltmarsh Sparrow: Virginia. Version 2.0. Available at: https://acjv.org/documents/VA_SALS_comp_guidance_doc.pdf

References

Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. 2020. The Saltmarsh Sparrow Habitat Prioritization Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. 2020. The Saltmarsh Sparrow Habitat Prioritization Tool. Available at: <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=1bc5b29be4ac43d8949b2941d2ce5174>

The Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program. 2023. Point count database. Information to access database is available at: www.tidalmarshbirds.org.

Hartley, MJ and AJ Weldon, eds. 2020. Saltmarsh Sparrow Conservation Plan. Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. Available at: acjv.org/documents/SALS_plan_final.pdf

Wiest, WA, Correll, MD, Marcot, BJ Olsen, BJ, Elphick, CS, Hodgman, TP, Gunterspergen, GR, and WG Shriver. 2019. Estimates of tidal marsh bird densities using Bayesian networks. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 3:109-120.

BRUNSWICK	Southern Virginia	\$10.7	\$11.0	\$11.2	\$11.3	\$8.8	\$10.1	\$10.7	\$11.3	6.0%	-0.4%	0.03%
CHARLOTTE	Southern Virginia	\$7.2	\$7.5	\$8.0	\$8.3	\$5.9	\$7.1	\$7.4	\$8.0	8.5%	-2.7%	0.02%
DANVILLE CITY	Southern Virginia	\$91.1	\$91.6	\$98.7	\$103.8	\$77.8	\$100.0	\$112.7	\$179.8	59.5%	73.1%	0.54%
EMPORIA CITY	Southern Virginia	\$28.8	\$29.7	\$29.5	\$25.6	\$18.7	\$25.8	\$26.6	\$28.0	5.3%	9.7%	0.08%
GREENSVILLE	Southern Virginia	\$21.7	\$23.0	\$24.4	\$27.0	\$20.6	\$26.4	\$26.6	\$27.1	1.6%	0.1%	0.08%
HALIFAX	Southern Virginia	\$40.9	\$43.3	\$46.5	\$46.5	\$36.8	\$49.7	\$53.2	\$56.6	6.4%	21.7%	0.17%
HENRY	Southern Virginia	\$31.9	\$33.9	\$37.3	\$34.8	\$29.8	\$42.3	\$45.4	\$46.9	3.2%	34.6%	0.14%
LUNENBURG	Southern Virginia	\$4.2	\$4.3	\$4.5	\$4.7	\$4.0	\$5.3	\$5.3	\$5.6	5.2%	18.2%	0.02%
MARTINSVILLE CITY	Southern Virginia	\$24.3	\$24.4	\$25.4	\$26.0	\$20.2	\$24.6	\$25.0	\$25.9	3.7%	-0.3%	0.08%
MECKLENBURG	Southern Virginia	\$68.7	\$71.2	\$73.2	\$78.4	\$72.6	\$100.7	\$106.2	\$115.0	8.3%	46.8%	0.35%
PITTSYLVANIA	Southern Virginia	\$21.5	\$23.3	\$23.3	\$25.0	\$21.4	\$28.8	\$31.5	\$35.6	13.0%	42.3%	0.11%
Regional Total	Southern Virginia	\$351.0	\$363.3	\$382.1	\$391.4	\$316.6	\$420.7	\$450.7	\$539.8	19.8%	37.9%	1.6%
BLAND	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$4.0	\$4.3	\$4.6	\$4.8	\$4.2	\$5.0	\$5.1	\$5.2	1.8%	7.1%	0.02%
BRISTOL CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$63.5	\$64.8	\$67.8	\$70.0	\$54.2	\$80.8	\$94.5	\$157.4	66.6%	124.7%	0.47%
CARROLL	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$37.9	\$41.4	\$43.5	\$42.0	\$33.6	\$46.8	\$49.9	\$52.9	5.9%	25.8%	0.16%
FLOYD	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$15.0	\$16.1	\$16.4	\$16.1	\$11.2	\$16.3	\$17.8	\$18.3	2.5%	13.2%	0.05%
GALAX CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$14.5	\$14.7	\$15.5	\$15.7	\$11.6	\$15.6	\$16.2	\$16.8	3.8%	7.0%	0.05%
GILES	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$25.5	\$26.8	\$28.4	\$29.6	\$21.4	\$31.8	\$33.3	\$35.9	7.7%	21.2%	0.11%
GRAYSON	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$9.0	\$9.5	\$9.6	\$10.3	\$9.8	\$12.9	\$13.1	\$14.5	11.0%	40.9%	0.04%
MONTGOMERY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$186.3	\$193.2	\$209.7	\$222.1	\$145.9	\$237.6	\$275.9	\$279.6	1.3%	25.9%	0.84%
PATRICK	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$19.7	\$20.6	\$22.2	\$21.5	\$17.3	\$22.2	\$23.0	\$25.6	11.3%	18.9%	0.08%
PULASKI	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$65.1	\$66.2	\$70.3	\$74.1	\$56.4	\$77.6	\$81.7	\$84.5	3.5%	14.0%	0.25%
RADFORD CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$19.9	\$20.3	\$20.9	\$21.4	\$13.3	\$19.1	\$20.2	\$23.0	14.1%	7.3%	0.07%
SMYTH	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$22.6	\$22.4	\$23.9	\$25.8	\$20.6	\$27.3	\$28.3	\$28.6	1.2%	10.8%	0.09%
WASHINGTON	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$94.6	\$98.2	\$102.5	\$103.2	\$76.4	\$115.2	\$125.9	\$127.5	1.3%	23.6%	0.38%
WYTHE	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$103.6	\$108.3	\$112.3	\$114.7	\$86.5	\$129.9	\$144.7	\$146.3	1.1%	27.6%	0.44%
Regional Total	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$681.2	\$706.7	\$747.5	\$771.6	\$562.1	\$838.2	\$929.7	\$1,016.2	9.3%	31.7%	3.0%
BUCHANAN	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$11.6	\$11.8	\$12.2	\$12.3	\$8.7	\$11.2	\$11.8	\$12.4	4.7%	0.7%	0.04%
DICKENSON	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$12.1	\$12.5	\$12.6	\$12.9	\$9.1	\$11.4	\$12.9	\$13.5	5.4%	4.7%	0.04%
LEE	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$21.3	\$21.7	\$21.8	\$21.7	\$16.8	\$21.9	\$21.8	\$22.2	2.0%	2.4%	0.07%
NORTON CITY	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$13.9	\$13.9	\$14.7	\$15.3	\$11.1	\$14.5	\$15.5	\$13.0	-16.1%	-15.1%	0.04%
RUSSELL	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$17.1	\$17.3	\$17.8	\$17.7	\$12.7	\$16.6	\$17.5	\$18.0	2.9%	1.8%	0.05%
SCOTT	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$26.1	\$26.7	\$27.4	\$27.8	\$19.1	\$22.5	\$23.0	\$23.3	1.1%	-16.2%	0.07%
TAZEWELL	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$42.0	\$42.0	\$43.3	\$44.1	\$34.8	\$44.9	\$47.9	\$55.2	15.3%	25.3%	0.17%
WISE	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$54.5	\$55.4	\$55.7	\$56.3	\$43.2	\$54.7	\$58.0	\$59.8	3.1%	6.2%	0.18%
Regional Total	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$198.6	\$201.3	\$205.5	\$208.0	\$155.5	\$197.9	\$208.2	\$217.4	4.4%	4.5%	0.7%
ALLEGHANY	Virginia Mountains	\$22.4	\$22.9	\$24.9	\$25.2	\$18.7	\$25.0	\$26.7	\$28.5	6.8%	13.1%	0.09%
BATH	Virginia Mountains	\$84.7	\$87.6	\$88.0	\$85.4	\$50.5	\$80.9	\$87.9	\$100.0	13.8%	17.1%	0.30%
BEDFORD	Virginia Mountains	\$53.4	\$56.3	\$61.6	\$65.7	\$51.6	\$66.7	\$71.4	\$81.4	13.9%	23.8%	0.24%
BOTETOURT	Virginia Mountains	\$50.2	\$50.2	\$52.5	\$53.4	\$39.5	\$54.2	\$60.4	\$60.4	0.1%	13.2%	0.18%
COVINGTON CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$17.2	\$17.7	\$17.6	\$17.5	\$11.8	\$15.6	\$16.3	\$17.2	6.0%	-1.5%	0.05%
CRAIG	Virginia Mountains	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$2.4	\$2.9	\$2.9	\$3.1	4.6%	0.8%	0.01%
FRANKLIN	Virginia Mountains	\$50.3	\$52.2	\$55.4	\$56.9	\$48.5	\$65.6	\$67.9	\$72.2	6.3%	26.8%	0.22%
HIGHLAND	Virginia Mountains	\$1.7	\$1.8	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$1.2	\$1.7	\$1.9	\$1.9	-0.2%	-2.0%	0.01%
ROANOKE	Virginia Mountains	\$94.3	\$95.7	\$103.3	\$107.0	\$79.1	\$103.6	\$115.1	\$123.3	7.1%	15.3%	0.37%
ROANOKE CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$381.4	\$393.8	\$427.8	\$439.0	\$267.8	\$363.4	\$471.6	\$508.3	7.8%	15.8%	1.53%
SALEM CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$74.5	\$74.3	\$80.8	\$83.0	\$58.2	\$90.9	\$112.2	\$118.0	5.2%	42.3%	0.35%
Regional Total	Virginia Mountains	\$832.9	\$855.6	\$916.9	\$938.0	\$629.3	\$870.4	\$1,034.3	\$1,114.3	7.7%	18.8%	3.3%
VIRGINIA	Statewide Totals	\$25,194.5	\$26,364.8	\$27,873.8	\$29,064.7	\$17,516.3	\$25,219.1	\$30,344.3	\$33,326.59	9.8%	14.7%	100.0%

Regional Total	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$161.1	\$165.5	\$170.9	\$183.2	\$159.4	\$236.8	\$232.4	\$247.9	6.7%	35.3%	0.7%
CHARLES CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$5.0	\$5.3	\$5.5	\$5.5	\$5.0	\$7.2	\$7.6	\$7.8	2.7%	43.2%	0.02%
CHESAPEAKE CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$375.1	\$392.3	\$414.2	\$438.1	\$359.7	\$466.7	\$511.5	\$514.7	0.6%	17.5%	1.54%
FRANKLIN CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$15.1	\$15.2	\$15.9	\$16.2	\$12.3	\$16.5	\$17.9	\$18.5	3.1%	13.6%	0.06%
HAMPTON CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$192.6	\$203.5	\$208.2	\$218.8	\$182.7	\$268.2	\$300.6	\$303.7	1.0%	38.8%	0.91%
ISLE OF WIGHT	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$37.9	\$40.5	\$41.3	\$41.3	\$34.2	\$46.7	\$49.6	\$52.1	5.1%	26.1%	0.16%
JAMES CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$459.8	\$484.7	\$509.7	\$518.9	\$335.3	\$521.9	\$562.0	\$601.6	7.0%	16.0%	1.81%
NEW KENT	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$20.3	\$21.2	\$23.5	\$25.0	\$19.9	\$27.9	\$29.9	\$29.4	-1.7%	17.6%	0.09%
NEWPORT NEWS CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$281.3	\$292.2	\$310.6	\$336.0	\$220.5	\$302.2	\$333.4	\$332.9	-0.1%	-0.9%	1.00%
NORFOLK CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$909.6	\$965.8	\$1,051.7	\$1,152.1	\$726.9	\$1,126.6	\$1,344.2	\$1,435.0	6.8%	24.6%	4.31%
POQUOSON CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$9.9	\$10.1	\$10.3	\$10.6	\$7.9	\$11.3	\$12.2	\$13.2	8.2%	24.6%	0.04%
PORTSMOUTH CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$57.1	\$58.5	\$58.9	\$61.4	\$37.0	\$58.3	\$63.3	\$138.3	118.6%	125.3%	0.41%
SOUTHAMPTON	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$7.8	\$7.8	\$8.3	\$9.0	\$6.3	\$8.4	\$8.8	\$8.8	1.0%	-1.3%	0.03%
SUFFOLK CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$98.3	\$102.1	\$111.5	\$112.5	\$88.2	\$120.0	\$133.8	\$139.9	4.6%	24.3%	0.42%
SURRY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$3.2	\$3.3	\$3.5	\$3.7	\$3.5	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$3.8	-1.7%	3.3%	0.01%
VIRGINIA BEACH CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$1,484.3	\$1,594.2	\$1,692.4	\$1,790.6	\$1,420.1	\$2,121.8	\$2,428.6	\$2,501.4	3.0%	39.7%	7.51%
WILLIAMSBURG CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$405.4	\$410.2	\$430.2	\$445.7	\$228.2	\$359.7	\$442.5	\$459.3	3.8%	3.0%	1.38%
YORK	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$253.4	\$263.3	\$276.9	\$280.8	\$166.4	\$264.9	\$292.3	\$297.5	1.8%	5.9%	0.89%
Regional Total	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$4,616.1	\$4,870.2	\$5,172.6	\$5,466.3	\$3,853.9	\$5,732.2	\$6,542.1	\$6,858.1	4.8%	25.5%	20.6%
ALEXANDRIA CITY	Northern Virginia	\$770.4	\$800.0	\$832.3	\$867.2	\$445.4	\$613.2	\$800.7	\$941.5	17.6%	8.6%	2.82%
ARLINGTON	Northern Virginia	\$3,836.7	\$4,013.5	\$4,184.2	\$4,404.3	\$1,905.8	\$2,834.8	\$3,859.8	\$4,494.1	16.4%	2.0%	13.48%
CAROLINE	Northern Virginia	\$37.2	\$40.1	\$42.2	\$44.2	\$35.1	\$47.4	\$52.0	\$54.9	5.6%	24.2%	0.16%
CULPEPER	Northern Virginia	\$51.0	\$53.4	\$56.6	\$58.9	\$48.8	\$64.8	\$73.5	\$76.6	4.3%	30.2%	0.23%
FAIRFAX	Northern Virginia	\$3,148.7	\$3,309.2	\$3,502.3	\$3,657.7	\$1,959.4	\$2,395.4	\$3,075.1	\$3,624.5	17.9%	-0.9%	10.88%
FAIRFAX CITY	Northern Virginia	\$114.9	\$115.5	\$119.0	\$120.1	\$65.5	\$80.2	\$104.3	\$118.7	13.7%	-1.2%	0.36%
FALLS CHURCH CITY	Northern Virginia	\$50.5	\$54.1	\$58.2	\$59.4	\$32.3	\$46.1	\$50.8	\$58.0	14.2%	-2.4%	0.17%
FAUQUIER	Northern Virginia	\$138.9	\$141.7	\$147.2	\$139.3	\$95.0	\$143.3	\$182.5	\$182.1	-0.2%	30.7%	0.55%
FREDERICKSBURG CITY	Northern Virginia	\$140.0	\$145.0	\$148.5	\$146.6	\$94.6	\$131.5	\$145.3	\$151.2	4.1%	3.1%	0.45%
LOUDOUN	Northern Virginia	\$3,326.1	\$3,571.2	\$3,777.7	\$3,945.8	\$1,888.6	\$3,040.8	\$4,013.8	\$4,516.9	12.5%	14.5%	13.55%
MANASSAS CITY	Northern Virginia	\$45.3	\$46.2	\$46.3	\$46.2	\$34.5	\$54.0	\$60.4	\$60.5	0.2%	31.0%	0.18%
MANASSAS PARK CITY	Northern Virginia	\$5.5	\$5.6	\$4.9	\$4.7	\$3.1	\$4.0	\$4.1	\$4.6	10.6%	-2.2%	0.01%
PRINCE WILLIAM	Northern Virginia	\$601.1	\$608.2	\$645.4	\$650.3	\$452.4	\$619.2	\$674.3	\$753.9	11.8%	15.9%	2.26%
RAPPAHANNOCK	Northern Virginia	\$38.7	\$39.8	\$44.1	\$48.1	\$41.9	\$62.6	\$69.7	\$72.9	4.7%	51.6%	0.22%
SPOTSYLVANIA	Northern Virginia	\$159.7	\$162.6	\$169.3	\$182.2	\$155.1	\$212.1	\$221.3	\$239.0	8.0%	31.2%	0.72%
STAFFORD	Northern Virginia	\$161.4	\$166.0	\$173.8	\$183.2	\$144.4	\$200.0	\$220.3	\$224.6	2.0%	22.6%	0.67%
Regional Total	Northern Virginia	\$12,626.0	\$13,271.9	\$13,952.0	\$14,558.2	\$7,401.9	\$10,549.5	\$13,607.9	\$15,574.0	14.4%	7.0%	46.7%
AUGUSTA	Shenandoah Valley	\$100.3	\$103.9	\$109.2	\$109.3	\$83.8	\$123.4	\$137.1	\$141.0	2.9%	29.0%	0.42%
BUENA VISTA CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$5.8	\$6.0	\$6.1	\$6.1	\$4.3	\$5.8	\$6.1	\$6.3	3.0%	2.9%	0.02%
CLARKE	Shenandoah Valley	\$14.4	\$15.1	\$15.8	\$16.3	\$11.4	\$15.0	\$15.8	\$13.8	-12.9%	-15.4%	0.04%
FREDERICK	Shenandoah Valley	\$126.3	\$130.6	\$142.1	\$143.9	\$110.1	\$164.2	\$179.8	\$184.6	2.6%	28.3%	0.55%
HARRISONBURG CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$170.1	\$179.7	\$192.7	\$207.6	\$140.7	\$214.7	\$239.0	\$242.2	1.4%	16.7%	0.73%
LEXINGTON CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$39.5	\$39.9	\$42.2	\$44.0	\$30.8	\$52.8	\$62.8	\$64.8	3.1%	47.4%	0.19%
PAGE	Shenandoah Valley	\$79.6	\$81.4	\$87.2	\$90.1	\$72.9	\$111.1	\$108.1	\$108.7	0.5%	20.7%	0.33%
ROCKBRIDGE	Shenandoah Valley	\$131.7	\$135.7	\$141.9	\$142.3	\$101.0	\$139.9	\$147.9	\$147.7	-0.1%	3.8%	0.44%
ROCKINGHAM	Shenandoah Valley	\$128.9	\$133.8	\$141.7	\$150.3	\$123.4	\$177.7	\$181.7	\$200.4	10.3%	33.3%	0.60%
SHENANDOAH	Shenandoah Valley	\$114.9	\$119.7	\$125.6	\$127.5	\$100.8	\$130.6	\$138.8	\$145.4	4.7%	14.1%	0.44%
STAUNTON CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$51.7	\$51.5	\$57.5	\$66.4	\$45.2	\$63.1	\$77.6	\$79.2	2.0%	19.2%	0.24%
WARREN	Shenandoah Valley	\$63.4	\$65.5	\$68.9	\$69.7	\$54.5	\$77.8	\$81.5	\$87.4	7.3%	25.4%	0.26%
WAYNESBORO CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$55.1	\$57.2	\$60.0	\$60.6	\$47.3	\$66.9	\$73.0	\$77.8	6.5%	28.2%	0.23%
WINCHESTER CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$92.6	\$95.8	\$103.5	\$106.6	\$71.7	\$96.1	\$107.7	\$103.5	-3.9%	-2.9%	0.31%
Regional Total	Shenandoah Valley	\$1,174.4	\$1,215.7	\$1,294.4	\$1,340.5	\$997.8	\$1,439.2	\$1,557.0	\$1,602.8	2.9%	19.6%	4.8%

Economic Impact of Tourism on Virginia Localities, 2016-2023 Direct Visitor Spending

Source: Tourism Economics

Locality	Region	Direct Visitor Spending (in millions)										
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change (2023/2022)	Percent Change (2023/2019)	Share of State (2023)
ALBEMARLE	Central Virginia	\$378.7	\$394.9	\$399.6	\$429.2	\$263.5	\$421.5	\$511.4	\$551.3	7.8%	28.5%	1.65%
AMELIA	Central Virginia	\$5.1	\$5.3	\$5.6	\$5.7	\$4.1	\$4.8	\$5.1	\$5.2	1.4%	-8.8%	0.02%
AMHERST	Central Virginia	\$33.0	\$34.0	\$36.0	\$36.6	\$31.0	\$43.3	\$44.7	\$43.0	-3.9%	17.5%	0.13%
APPOMATTOX	Central Virginia	\$15.2	\$16.1	\$17.0	\$17.1	\$13.7	\$17.2	\$18.6	\$19.2	2.9%	12.2%	0.06%
BUCKINGHAM	Central Virginia	\$6.6	\$7.0	\$7.4	\$7.7	\$6.0	\$7.3	\$7.6	\$7.5	-1.2%	-2.3%	0.02%
CAMPBELL	Central Virginia	\$86.4	\$89.1	\$92.9	\$95.8	\$71.8	\$112.0	\$119.0	\$119.9	0.7%	25.1%	0.36%
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY	Central Virginia	\$307.9	\$311.4	\$333.4	\$349.2	\$220.8	\$346.8	\$392.0	\$405.9	3.5%	16.2%	1.22%
CHESTERFIELD	Central Virginia	\$483.1	\$500.1	\$532.5	\$548.3	\$388.9	\$535.9	\$582.6	\$601.3	3.2%	9.7%	1.80%
COLONIAL HEIGHTS CITY	Central Virginia	\$79.1	\$81.7	\$86.8	\$83.6	\$65.5	\$96.5	\$102.8	\$105.1	2.3%	25.8%	0.32%
CUMBERLAND	Central Virginia	\$2.6	\$2.8	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$2.5	\$3.1	\$3.2	\$3.5	10.6%	15.9%	0.01%
DINWIDDIE	Central Virginia	\$20.7	\$20.7	\$21.6	\$21.0	\$15.9	\$19.5	\$20.6	\$21.0	2.0%	0.1%	0.06%
FLUVANNA	Central Virginia	\$8.4	\$9.1	\$8.8	\$9.0	\$6.8	\$9.6	\$10.4	\$10.5	0.5%	16.8%	0.03%
GOOCHLAND	Central Virginia	\$38.3	\$40.7	\$41.4	\$42.8	\$31.3	\$44.8	\$48.0	\$51.4	7.2%	20.1%	0.15%
GREENE	Central Virginia	\$24.8	\$25.8	\$27.5	\$27.4	\$21.4	\$30.6	\$31.0	\$31.7	2.2%	15.6%	0.10%
HANOVER	Central Virginia	\$174.1	\$181.5	\$192.8	\$198.4	\$132.1	\$204.2	\$223.0	\$229.2	2.8%	15.5%	0.69%
HENRICO	Central Virginia	\$1,321.9	\$1,367.5	\$1,487.6	\$1,558.3	\$926.5	\$1,350.4	\$1,718.2	\$1,876.0	9.2%	20.4%	5.63%
HOPEWELL CITY	Central Virginia	\$35.0	\$34.5	\$38.6	\$37.1	\$29.7	\$41.1	\$45.1	\$47.5	5.4%	28.0%	0.14%
LOUISA	Central Virginia	\$47.4	\$49.8	\$52.6	\$52.6	\$48.7	\$60.6	\$69.9	\$72.6	3.9%	37.9%	0.22%
LYNCHBURG CITY	Central Virginia	\$200.2	\$199.6	\$214.4	\$206.2	\$159.8	\$217.7	\$240.0	\$255.1	6.3%	23.7%	0.77%
MADISON	Central Virginia	\$16.6	\$16.4	\$16.3	\$16.7	\$15.0	\$20.7	\$21.8	\$22.9	4.8%	37.2%	0.07%
NELSON	Central Virginia	\$70.6	\$73.6	\$75.3	\$79.5	\$65.0	\$83.0	\$86.4	\$90.9	5.2%	14.3%	0.27%
NOTTOWAY	Central Virginia	\$15.4	\$15.7	\$16.1	\$16.6	\$11.8	\$17.2	\$18.3	\$20.7	13.2%	24.3%	0.06%
ORANGE	Central Virginia	\$42.2	\$42.6	\$46.3	\$45.6	\$37.6	\$50.5	\$52.8	\$54.4	3.1%	19.3%	0.16%
PETERSBURG CITY	Central Virginia	\$35.3	\$36.2	\$35.5	\$37.8	\$30.6	\$39.3	\$41.2	\$41.1	-0.3%	8.6%	0.12%
POWHATAN	Central Virginia	\$16.4	\$17.6	\$19.3	\$20.1	\$13.8	\$17.9	\$19.4	\$20.3	4.7%	1.1%	0.06%
PRINCE EDWARD	Central Virginia	\$34.5	\$36.1	\$40.3	\$43.2	\$33.9	\$52.9	\$56.4	\$57.0	1.2%	32.1%	0.17%
PRINCE GEORGE	Central Virginia	\$63.4	\$65.7	\$71.4	\$71.3	\$64.2	\$97.6	\$104.2	\$105.2	1.0%	47.5%	0.32%
RICHMOND CITY	Central Virginia	\$712.2	\$749.8	\$809.3	\$835.4	\$464.8	\$643.5	\$833.3	\$908.0	9.0%	8.7%	2.72%
SUSSEX	Central Virginia	\$18.9	\$19.1	\$18.9	\$18.2	\$12.4	\$17.4	\$18.0	\$20.6	14.1%	13.0%	0.06%
Regional Total	Central Virginia	\$4,294.0	\$4,444.3	\$4,748.1	\$4,913.6	\$3,189.3	\$4,606.7	\$5,444.9	\$5,798.1	6.5%	18.0%	17.4%
ESSEX	Chesapeake Bay	\$27.3	\$27.7	\$29.9	\$29.7	\$26.6	\$34.1	\$35.7	\$41.9	17.3%	41.1%	0.13%
GLOUCESTER	Chesapeake Bay	\$33.2	\$35.1	\$37.3	\$39.3	\$33.1	\$43.0	\$43.2	\$47.3	9.4%	20.4%	0.14%
KING AND QUEEN	Chesapeake Bay	\$3.6	\$3.7	\$3.9	\$4.1	\$3.4	\$4.1	\$4.2	\$4.3	2.2%	5.6%	0.01%
KING GEORGE	Chesapeake Bay	\$25.7	\$27.3	\$30.7	\$33.7	\$26.0	\$36.3	\$36.7	\$38.7	5.3%	14.6%	0.12%
KING WILLIAM	Chesapeake Bay	\$18.2	\$19.1	\$20.8	\$21.7	\$14.9	\$19.4	\$20.4	\$21.6	5.7%	-0.3%	0.06%
LANCASTER	Chesapeake Bay	\$51.5	\$55.7	\$56.2	\$57.8	\$49.8	\$75.3	\$77.1	\$81.3	5.4%	40.6%	0.24%
MATHEWS	Chesapeake Bay	\$13.3	\$13.8	\$13.9	\$14.4	\$13.6	\$16.7	\$17.6	\$18.2	3.2%	26.3%	0.05%
MIDDLESEX	Chesapeake Bay	\$23.6	\$24.7	\$25.9	\$26.5	\$24.8	\$29.2	\$30.0	\$30.0	0.2%	13.4%	0.09%
NORTHUMBERLAND	Chesapeake Bay	\$17.3	\$17.7	\$17.7	\$19.0	\$17.5	\$20.9	\$22.5	\$24.4	8.5%	28.6%	0.07%
RICHMOND	Chesapeake Bay	\$10.6	\$10.7	\$11.4	\$11.8	\$8.7	\$11.0	\$12.0	\$12.6	5.5%	7.4%	0.04%
WESTMORELAND	Chesapeake Bay	\$34.9	\$35.1	\$36.1	\$35.9	\$32.5	\$37.6	\$37.6	\$37.8	0.5%	5.3%	0.11%
Regional Total	Chesapeake Bay	\$259.2	\$270.4	\$283.8	\$293.8	\$250.6	\$327.6	\$337.1	\$358.1	6.2%	21.9%	1.1%
ACCOMACK	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$117.8	\$123.0	\$126.3	\$134.7	\$118.2	\$168.5	\$166.4	\$179.6	8.0%	33.3%	0.54%
NORTHAMPTON	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$43.2	\$42.4	\$44.6	\$48.5	\$41.2	\$68.3	\$66.0	\$68.3	3.5%	40.9%	0.20%

Direct Economic Impact and Spending Shares by Industries, 2024

Source: Tourism Economics

Locality	Region	2024 Direct Impacts										Employment	Labor Income (in millions)	State Taxes (in millions)	Local Taxes (in millions)
		Lodging*	F&B	Retail	Recreation	Transport**	Total Spending	Total Spending % Change (2024/2023)	Spending Share of State						
ALBEMARLE	Central Virginia	\$126.1	\$179.9	\$58.4	\$97.1	\$125.7	\$587.2	6.5%	1.7%	3,835	\$250.8	\$18.0	\$27.7		
AMELIA	Central Virginia	\$1.5	\$1.3	\$0.3	\$0.5	\$1.8	\$5.5	7.1%	0.0%	54	\$1.5	\$0.1	\$0.3		
AMHERST	Central Virginia	\$6.9	\$10.2	\$17.9	\$3.3	\$8.8	\$47.0	9.3%	0.1%	423	\$12.7	\$1.3	\$1.7		
APPOMATTOX	Central Virginia	\$3.9	\$4.4	\$6.0	\$2.1	\$3.1	\$19.5	1.7%	0.1%	202	\$5.4	\$0.6	\$0.7		
BUCKINGHAM	Central Virginia	\$2.9	\$1.4	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$1.6	\$6.6	-12.7%	0.0%	65	\$1.7	\$0.1	\$0.2		
CAMPBELL	Central Virginia	\$14.1	\$22.7	\$30.8	\$8.0	\$52.0	\$127.6	6.4%	0.4%	886	\$77.4	\$4.2	\$6.6		
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY	Central Virginia	\$88.7	\$168.9	\$49.0	\$61.5	\$34.5	\$402.6	-0.8%	1.1%	3,337	\$124.9	\$12.5	\$20.8		
CHESTERFIELD	Central Virginia	\$117.5	\$217.8	\$83.2	\$88.5	\$133.0	\$640.0	6.4%	1.8%	6,474	\$187.7	\$19.7	\$31.5		
COLONIAL HEIGHTS CITY	Central Virginia	\$23.0	\$40.0	\$22.9	\$9.9	\$12.3	\$108.1	2.8%	0.3%	1,085	\$28.5	\$3.4	\$5.3		
CUMBERLAND	Central Virginia	\$1.6	\$1.0	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$3.5	-1.3%	0.0%	37	\$0.7	\$0.1	\$0.2		
DINWIDDIE	Central Virginia	\$4.6	\$7.2	\$1.5	\$2.6	\$5.7	\$21.6	3.0%	0.1%	197	\$5.6	\$0.5	\$1.0		
FLUVANNA	Central Virginia	\$4.0	\$2.8	\$0.5	\$1.1	\$1.9	\$10.3	-1.8%	0.0%	77	\$2.7	\$0.2	\$0.5		
GOOCHLAND	Central Virginia	\$7.1	\$8.9	\$11.7	\$17.0	\$14.5	\$59.2	15.1%	0.2%	450	\$18.1	\$1.7	\$2.4		
GREENE	Central Virginia	\$8.8	\$7.8	\$9.2	\$2.3	\$3.4	\$31.4	-0.9%	0.1%	290	\$7.7	\$0.9	\$1.6		
HANOVER	Central Virginia	\$34.3	\$62.3	\$15.6	\$70.1	\$58.1	\$240.4	4.9%	0.7%	2,407	\$78.7	\$7.4	\$11.4		
HENRICO	Central Virginia	\$239.9	\$464.3	\$172.8	\$174.7	\$872.5	\$1,924.2	2.6%	5.5%	10,577	\$628.0	\$46.7	\$83.1		
HOPEWELL CITY	Central Virginia	\$12.1	\$20.4	\$3.8	\$4.9	\$9.4	\$50.7	6.6%	0.1%	511	\$15.3	\$1.6	\$2.7		
LOUISA	Central Virginia	\$25.2	\$12.1	\$20.6	\$4.7	\$10.3	\$73.0	0.5%	0.2%	358	\$15.7	\$1.6	\$2.6		
LYNCHBURG CITY	Central Virginia	\$54.2	\$108.7	\$31.3	\$31.1	\$36.1	\$261.5	2.5%	0.7%	3,062	\$79.6	\$8.3	\$12.8		
MADISON	Central Virginia	\$8.4	\$7.5	\$1.5	\$2.5	\$5.2	\$25.0	9.3%	0.1%	243	\$7.5	\$0.7	\$1.2		
NELSON	Central Virginia	\$35.2	\$20.7	\$9.8	\$12.7	\$11.1	\$89.5	-1.5%	0.3%	636	\$19.2	\$2.0	\$3.7		
NOTTOWAY	Central Virginia	\$3.5	\$6.1	\$7.0	\$1.2	\$5.0	\$22.7	9.9%	0.1%	181	\$5.0	\$0.6	\$0.8		
ORANGE	Central Virginia	\$13.8	\$17.0	\$3.3	\$9.1	\$14.4	\$57.7	6.0%	0.2%	520	\$17.1	\$1.6	\$2.5		
PETERSBURG CITY	Central Virginia	\$7.4	\$13.6	\$2.3	\$2.7	\$12.7	\$38.6	-6.1%	0.1%	360	\$11.4	\$1.1	\$2.1		
POWHATAN	Central Virginia	\$2.7	\$4.9	\$0.7	\$4.7	\$8.3	\$21.2	4.3%	0.1%	235	\$6.7	\$0.6	\$1.0		
PRINCE EDWARD	Central Virginia	\$17.8	\$23.0	\$4.7	\$4.8	\$8.9	\$59.2	3.8%	0.2%	566	\$15.4	\$1.7	\$2.4		
PRINCE GEORGE	Central Virginia	\$18.9	\$35.0	\$23.0	\$12.7	\$16.5	\$106.1	0.8%	0.3%	857	\$26.6	\$3.1	\$4.8		
RICHMOND CITY	Central Virginia	\$217.5	\$389.3	\$110.2	\$152.3	\$112.8	\$982.1	8.2%	2.8%	8,868	\$380.3	\$32.1	\$51.2		
SUSSEX	Central Virginia	\$4.7	\$3.1	\$5.6	\$2.3	\$5.4	\$21.1	2.6%	0.1%	153	\$4.7	\$0.6	\$0.8		
Regional Total	Central Virginia	\$1,106.5	\$1,862.1	\$703.9	\$784.9	\$1,585.6	\$6,042.9	4.2%	17.2%	46,945	\$2,036.8	\$173.0	\$283.6		
ESSEX	Chesapeake Bay	\$10.5	\$8.5	\$14.0	\$2.4	\$5.5	\$40.8	-2.5%	0.1%	278	\$8.2	\$0.9	\$1.2		
GLOUCESTER	Chesapeake Bay	\$14.2	\$16.8	\$3.8	\$3.9	\$10.2	\$48.8	3.4%	0.1%	427	\$12.8	\$1.2	\$2.1		
KING AND QUEEN	Chesapeake Bay	\$2.5	\$0.6	\$0.5	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$4.4	3.2%	0.0%	30	\$0.8	\$0.1	\$0.1		
KING GEORGE	Chesapeake Bay	\$8.4	\$13.1	\$2.5	\$3.5	\$10.9	\$38.4	-0.7%	0.1%	447	\$10.7	\$1.1	\$1.8		
KING WILLIAM	Chesapeake Bay	\$3.9	\$4.9	\$7.4	\$1.6	\$5.5	\$23.3	7.9%	0.1%	202	\$5.4	\$0.6	\$0.9		
LANCASTER	Chesapeake Bay	\$30.9	\$22.3	\$7.9	\$12.3	\$10.0	\$83.4	2.5%	0.2%	656	\$24.4	\$2.2	\$3.0		
MATHEWS	Chesapeake Bay	\$13.9	\$2.1	\$0.3	\$1.2	\$1.8	\$19.2	5.9%	0.1%	70	\$1.9	\$0.2	\$1.1		
MIDDLESEX	Chesapeake Bay	\$16.8	\$3.3	\$4.5	\$3.2	\$2.9	\$30.8	2.4%	0.1%	132	\$4.5	\$0.4	\$1.0		
NORTHUMBERLAND	Chesapeake Bay	\$20.2	\$2.0	\$0.2	\$0.7	\$2.0	\$25.0	2.5%	0.1%	67	\$1.9	\$0.2	\$1.5		
RICHMOND	Chesapeake Bay	\$4.2	\$2.4	\$3.2	\$1.3	\$2.0	\$13.1	3.5%	0.0%	90	\$2.8	\$0.3	\$0.4		
WESTMORELAND	Chesapeake Bay	\$21.7	\$5.7	\$5.7	\$2.9	\$2.7	\$38.7	2.3%	0.1%	158	\$4.9	\$0.6	\$2.3		
Regional Total	Chesapeake Bay	\$147.2	\$81.7	\$49.9	\$33.1	\$54.1	\$366.0	2.2%	1.0%	2,558	\$78.3	\$7.7	\$15.4		
ACCOMACK	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$72.4	\$55.0	\$17.3	\$19.9	\$27.6	\$192.2	7.0%	0.5%	1,468	\$44.5	\$4.5	\$7.4		
NORTHAMPTON	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$25.4	\$21.1	\$4.9	\$9.3	\$8.7	\$69.5	1.7%	0.2%	402	\$12.0	\$1.7	\$3.1		
Regional Total	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$97.9	\$76.2	\$22.2	\$29.1	\$36.3	\$261.6	5.5%	0.7%	1,869	\$56.5	\$6.2	\$10.5		
CHARLES CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$2.8	\$3.0	\$0.5	\$1.1	\$1.4	\$8.9	13.2%	0.0%	55	\$1.8	\$0.2	\$0.3		
CHESAPEAKE CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$98.9	\$195.1	\$60.3	\$76.7	\$86.9	\$517.9	0.6%	1.5%	5,077	\$152.8	\$16.0	\$26.8		
FRANKLIN CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$2.9	\$5.5	\$1.7	\$2.0	\$4.8	\$17.0	-8.0%	0.0%	215	\$5.5	\$0.5	\$0.9		
HAMPTON CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$78.5	\$122.7	\$35.4	\$39.5	\$45.1	\$321.2	5.8%	0.9%	2,965	\$86.1	\$10.1	\$17.4		
ISLE OF WIGHT	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$10.3	\$16.9	\$11.4	\$5.3	\$6.5	\$50.4	-3.3%	0.1%	527	\$14.7	\$1.6	\$2.3		
JAMES CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$174.4	\$104.1	\$113.2	\$151.5	\$52.7	\$595.8	-1.0%	1.7%	5,219	\$203.9	\$18.1	\$27.7		
NEW KENT	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$2.6	\$5.9	\$10.3	\$3.4	\$8.9	\$31.1	5.7%	0.1%	220	\$9.8	\$0.9	\$1.3		
NEWPORT NEWS CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$56.0	\$113.8	\$49.1	\$41.7	\$69.6	\$330.2	-0.8%	0.9%	3,263	\$141.6	\$10.8	\$20.4		
NORFOLK CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$216.8	\$383.3	\$128.7	\$126.0	\$650.1	\$1,504.9	4.9%	4.3%	8,651	\$432.1	\$36.7	\$65.5		
POQUOSON CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$3.1	\$5.6	\$1.0	\$1.4	\$2.2	\$13.4	0.8%	0.0%	133	\$4.3	\$0.4	\$0.6		
PORTSMOUTH CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$9.1	\$26.2	\$7.4	\$91.8	\$16.9	\$151.4	9.5%	0.4%	1,133	\$38.8	\$19.2	\$6.0		
SOUTHAMPTON	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$2.0	\$2.4	\$0.6	\$0.9	\$2.7	\$8.6	-2.4%	0.0%	117	\$3.0	\$0.3	\$0.4		
SUFFOLK CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$29.9	\$56.9	\$13.8	\$17.2	\$25.2	\$142.9	2.1%	0.4%	1,456	\$42.9	\$4.5	\$8.1		
SURRY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$2.9	\$0.7	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$4.0	5.1%	0.0%	23	\$0.7	\$0.0	\$0.3		
VIRGINIA BEACH CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$688.9	\$981.7	\$269.4	\$329.0	\$282.1	\$2,551.1	2.0%	7.3%	20,129	\$674.4	\$74.0	\$135.4		
WILLIAMSBURG CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$106.9	\$123.6	\$54.7	\$137.2	\$38.3	\$460.7	0.3%	1.3%	3,208	\$155.4	\$14.1	\$22.3		
YORK	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$86.5	\$111.5	\$28.4	\$44.3	\$26.1	\$296.8	-0.2%	0.8%	1,870	\$62.3	\$8.2	\$14.7		
Regional Total	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$1,572.5	\$2,258.8	\$785.9	\$1,069.4	\$1,319.7	\$7,006.3	2.2%	19.9%	54,260	\$2,030.0	\$215.7	\$350.0		
ALEXANDRIA CITY	Northern Virginia	\$241.4	\$385.6	\$108.4	\$149.2	\$130.9	\$1,015.6	7.9%	2.9%	5,773	\$289.1	\$28.3	\$53.8		
ARLINGTON	Northern Virginia	\$597.3	\$882.6	\$245.0	\$346.8	\$2,692.4	\$4,764.1	6.0%	13.6%	17,141	\$1,063.8	\$86.3	\$177.3		
CAROLINE	Northern Virginia	\$8.7	\$10.3	\$15.5	\$4.0	\$13.2	\$51.7	-5.8%	0.1%	291	\$9.1	\$1.3	\$1.8		
CULPEPER	Northern Virginia	\$18.6	\$29.7	\$7.0	\$9.1	\$13.4	\$77.9	1.6%	0.2%	764	\$24.0	\$2.2	\$3.6		
FAIRFAX	Northern Virginia	\$838.2	\$1,484.7	\$555.0	\$600.1	\$440.2	\$3,918.1	8.1%	11.2%	24,024	\$1,190.4	\$116.1	\$189.1		
FAIRFAX CITY	Northern Virginia	\$28.0	\$49.7	\$10.3	\$16.4	\$16.3	\$120.7	1.7%	0.3%	1,155	\$43.8	\$3.8	\$5.8		
FALLS CHURCH CITY	Northern Virginia	\$12.8	\$29.4	\$10.5	\$9.3	\$4.1	\$66.1	14.0%	0.2%	472	\$22.2	\$2.1	\$3.7		
FAUQUIER	Northern Virginia	\$48.3	\$63.0	\$14.6	\$25.9	\$36.4	\$188.1	3.3%	0.5%	1,298	\$51.2	\$5.1	\$7.3		
FREDERICKSBURG CITY	Northern Virginia	\$34.9	\$71.7	\$23.8	\$21.8	\$18.6	\$170.8	12.9%	0.5%	1,622	\$54.4	\$5.5	\$8.8		
LOUDOUN	Northern Virginia	\$441.5	\$741.5	\$230.6	\$572.0	\$2,939.9	\$4,925.5	9.0%	14.0%	18,856	\$1,205.2	\$87.3	\$157.3		
MANASSAS CITY	Northern Virginia	\$10.4	\$34.7	\$3.4	\$6.9	\$8.5	\$63.8	5.5%	0.2%	535	\$17.6	\$2.0	\$3.1		
MANASSAS PARK CITY	Northern Virginia	\$0.2	\$0.4	\$2.3	\$0.1	\$1.7	\$4.6	-0.2%	0.0%	18	\$0.8	\$0.1	\$0.2		
PRINCE WILLIAM	Northern Virginia	\$127.5	\$264.1	\$137.9	\$108.2	\$142.2	\$779.9	3.5%	2.2%	5,713	\$484.5	\$31.6	\$49.7		
RAPPAHANNOCK	Northern Virginia	\$31.5	\$8.1	\$6.6	\$14.2	\$9.9	\$70.4	-3.4%	0.2%	403	\$17.7	\$1.8	\$2.3		
SPOTSVLVANIA	Northern Virginia	\$51.9	\$75.2	\$34.6	\$30.7	\$53.4	\$245.9	2.9%	0.7%	2,143	\$58.9	\$6.9	\$11.4		
STAFFORD	Northern Virginia	\$48.1	\$84.9	\$18.4	\$32.6	\$52.8	\$236.8	5.4%	0.7%	2,194	\$64.3	\$7.0	\$11.4		
Regional Total	Northern Virginia	\$2,539.3	\$4,215.6	\$1,423.9	\$1,947.2	\$6,574.0	\$16,700.0	7.2%	47.5%	82,402	\$4,597.2	\$387.5	\$686.4		
AUGUSTA	Shenandoah Valley	\$38.1	\$46.8	\$15.7	\$16.5	\$27.3	\$144.4	2.4%	0.4%	1,212	\$37.3	\$4.1	\$5.5		
BUENA VISTA CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$1.5	\$2.5	\$0.5	\$1.1	\$1.3	\$6.9	9.5%	0.0%	76	\$2.0	\$0.2	\$0.3		
CLARKE	Shenandoah Valley	\$2.7	\$2.5	\$3.5	\$1.1	\$3.6	\$13.4	-2.7%	0.0%	103	\$3.8	\$0.4	\$0.6		
FREDERICK	Shenandoah Valley	\$41.6	\$66.3	\$16.8	\$22.1	\$43.5	\$190.4	3.1%	0.5%	1,487	\$54.2	\$5.6	\$7.8		
HARRISONBURG CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$56.4	\$108.6	\$26.7	\$28.1	\$23.4	\$243.1	0.4%	0.7%	2,677	\$80.6	\$8.3	\$13.1		
LEXINGTON CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$20.0	\$27.6	\$6.1	\$10.2	\$4.8	\$68.8	6.1%	0.2%	558	\$22.4	\$2.2	\$3.2		
PAGE	Shenandoah Valley	\$40.2	\$15.0	\$18.2	\$21.0	\$10.5	\$104.9	-3.5%	0.3%	1,051	\$31.1	\$3.0	\$5.5		
ROCKBRIDGE	Shenandoah Valley	\$37.5	\$21.4	\$29.7	\$18.8	\$41.1	\$148.5	0.5%	0.4%	1,273	\$44.3	\$4.1	\$7.9		
ROCKINGHAM	Shenandoah Valley	\$68.1	\$68.6	\$15.9	\$25.1	\$32.4	\$210.1	4.9%	0.6%	1,550	\$47.0	\$5.5	\$8.6		
SHENANDOAH	Shenandoah Valley	\$38.7	\$35.9	\$35.8	\$15.7	\$26.4	\$152.5	4.9%	0.4%	1,287	\$38.8	\$4.0	\$6.0		
STAUNTON CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$19.2	\$33.4	\$6.2	\$9.3	\$9.3	\$77.5	-2.2%	0.2%	864	\$25.9	\$2.4	\$4.2		
WARREN	Shenandoah Valley	\$23.8	\$35.2	\$8.5	\$14.2	\$14.2	\$95.8	9.6%	0.3%	837	\$25.4	\$2.7	\$4.2		
WAYNESBORO CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$20.4	\$38.3	\$9.2	\$8.0	\$10.0	\$85.9	10.4%	0.2%	895	\$25.1	\$2.8	\$4.1		
WINCHESTER CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$19.7	\$44.8	\$21.8	\$13.1	\$14.0	\$113.5	9.7%	0.3%	1,112	\$34.2	\$3.5	\$5.7		
Regional Total	Shenandoah Valley	\$428.0	\$546.9	\$214.5	\$204.5	\$261.9	\$1,655.7	3.3%							

DANVILLE CITY	Southern Virginia	\$32.0	\$52.5	\$19.3	\$107.7	\$22.0	\$233.6	29.9%	0.7%	1,903	\$60.2	\$22.1	\$9.7
EMPORIA CITY	Southern Virginia	\$5.3	\$9.9	\$3.9	\$4.1	\$4.5	\$27.6	-1.5%	0.1%	342	\$9.6	\$0.9	\$1.5
GREENSVILLE	Southern Virginia	\$9.1	\$3.0	\$4.7	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$27.6	2.0%	0.1%	249	\$6.3	\$0.8	\$1.0
HALIFAX	Southern Virginia	\$15.1	\$18.1	\$4.3	\$8.1	\$9.5	\$55.1	-2.7%	0.2%	637	\$17.3	\$1.6	\$2.4
HENRY	Southern Virginia	\$9.6	\$14.6	\$4.1	\$7.5	\$14.7	\$50.5	7.8%	0.1%	526	\$15.5	\$1.5	\$2.0
LUNENBURG	Southern Virginia	\$2.2	\$1.0	\$0.2	\$0.4	\$1.5	\$5.2	-6.4%	0.0%	48	\$1.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
MARTINSVILLE CITY	Southern Virginia	\$5.6	\$10.8	\$4.5	\$3.3	\$3.4	\$27.7	6.9%	0.1%	308	\$8.3	\$0.9	\$1.1
MECKLENBURG	Southern Virginia	\$48.3	\$36.0	\$8.1	\$10.0	\$27.5	\$129.9	12.9%	0.4%	879	\$22.7	\$2.7	\$4.6
PITTSYLVANIA	Southern Virginia	\$10.0	\$12.1	\$2.4	\$3.1	\$14.0	\$41.6	17.1%	0.1%	318	\$9.2	\$1.0	\$1.4
Regional Total	Southern Virginia	\$145.8	\$161.4	\$54.6	\$148.8	\$108.7	\$619.3	14.7%	1.8%	5,382	\$154.9	\$32.0	\$24.5
MONTGOMERY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$73.7	\$113.2	\$33.5	\$40.3	\$33.0	\$293.7	5.1%	0.8%	3,044	\$148.9	\$11.1	\$18.0
BRISTOL CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$32.3	\$50.7	\$11.1	\$69.8	\$15.9	\$179.7	14.2%	0.5%	1,272	\$38.3	\$14.3	\$6.8
WYTHE	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$30.5	\$47.3	\$12.9	\$22.4	\$40.0	\$153.1	4.7%	0.4%	1,482	\$43.7	\$4.5	\$7.2
WASHINGTON	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$30.2	\$41.8	\$13.2	\$18.3	\$25.5	\$129.0	1.2%	0.4%	1,320	\$43.0	\$4.2	\$8.7
PULASKI	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$17.1	\$26.0	\$24.4	\$9.6	\$13.3	\$90.5	7.1%	0.3%	789	\$20.4	\$2.7	\$3.4
CARROLL	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$17.8	\$15.4	\$4.6	\$5.7	\$11.4	\$54.8	3.8%	0.2%	472	\$12.0	\$1.3	\$2.2
GILES	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$7.3	\$9.7	\$11.7	\$2.9	\$5.9	\$37.5	4.5%	0.1%	268	\$8.4	\$1.0	\$1.4
SMYTH	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$6.4	\$10.9	\$2.8	\$3.5	\$7.7	\$31.3	9.3%	0.1%	329	\$9.6	\$0.9	\$1.4
PATRICK	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$6.2	\$4.2	\$11.0	\$2.9	\$5.6	\$30.0	17.1%	0.1%	138	\$4.4	\$0.6	\$1.7
RADFORD CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$4.4	\$9.3	\$6.4	\$2.2	\$3.4	\$25.6	11.3%	0.1%	296	\$9.5	\$0.9	\$1.4
FLOYD	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$4.5	\$4.4	\$4.3	\$1.6	\$3.4	\$18.3	0.3%	0.1%	128	\$3.9	\$0.4	\$0.7
GALAX CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$2.6	\$6.7	\$2.5	\$1.2	\$5.1	\$18.0	6.9%	0.1%	209	\$5.5	\$0.6	\$0.9
GRAYSON	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$6.6	\$2.0	\$2.8	\$0.6	\$2.0	\$13.9	-4.6%	0.0%	74	\$1.9	\$0.2	\$0.4
BLAND	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$3.1	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$1.3	\$5.2	0.7%	0.0%	24	\$0.7	\$0.1	\$0.1
Regional Total	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$242.7	\$342.2	\$141.3	\$181.1	\$173.4	\$1,080.7	6.3%	3.1%	9,845	\$350.2	\$42.9	\$54.5
BUCHANAN	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$2.9	\$4.1	\$1.2	\$1.3	\$2.8	\$12.4	-0.1%	0.0%	148	\$3.8	\$0.3	\$0.5
DICKENSON	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$2.3	\$2.5	\$4.3	\$1.1	\$2.8	\$12.9	-5.0%	0.0%	137	\$3.2	\$0.4	\$0.5
LEE	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$6.1	\$3.8	\$7.8	\$1.7	\$3.8	\$23.2	4.6%	0.1%	196	\$4.8	\$0.5	\$0.8
NORTON CITY	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$2.8	\$5.1	\$1.9	\$1.8	\$2.5	\$14.2	9.5%	0.0%	191	\$4.8	\$0.5	\$0.7
RUSSELL	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$2.8	\$4.5	\$4.4	\$1.7	\$4.1	\$17.5	-2.7%	0.0%	161	\$4.6	\$0.5	\$0.7
SCOTT	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$6.5	\$4.3	\$6.4	\$1.9	\$4.1	\$23.1	-0.8%	0.1%	208	\$5.0	\$0.6	\$0.8
TAZEWELL	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$8.3	\$19.6	\$14.2	\$3.5	\$15.3	\$60.9	10.3%	0.2%	516	\$20.4	\$1.6	\$2.7
WISE	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$10.8	\$14.8	\$21.1	\$3.4	\$11.4	\$61.5	2.8%	0.2%	429	\$9.8	\$1.6	\$2.1
Regional Total	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$42.5	\$58.7	\$61.3	\$16.4	\$46.8	\$225.7	3.8%	0.6%	1,986	\$56.4	\$6.0	\$8.8
ALLEGHANY	Virginia Mountains	\$6.7	\$7.4	\$6.1	\$3.3	\$2.9	\$26.4	-7.4%	0.1%	248	\$7.3	\$0.8	\$1.2
BATH	Virginia Mountains	\$71.4	\$25.3	\$2.4	\$13.8	\$3.6	\$116.6	16.7%	0.3%	452	\$23.3	\$3.0	\$6.0
BEDFORD	Virginia Mountains	\$29.3	\$23.5	\$6.6	\$9.6	\$13.2	\$82.2	1.1%	0.2%	583	\$18.6	\$1.7	\$3.0
BOTETOURT	Virginia Mountains	\$12.1	\$16.7	\$11.9	\$4.5	\$14.7	\$59.8	-0.9%	0.2%	607	\$20.9	\$1.8	\$3.0
COVINGTON CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$2.3	\$4.1	\$6.8	\$1.8	\$2.4	\$17.4	0.7%	0.0%	182	\$5.3	\$0.5	\$0.7
CRAIG	Virginia Mountains	\$1.9	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$3.2	3.3%	0.0%	31	\$1.0	\$0.1	\$0.2
FRANKLIN	Virginia Mountains	\$29.4	\$16.5	\$3.9	\$8.1	\$16.7	\$74.7	3.4%	0.2%	547	\$15.9	\$1.5	\$2.9
HIGHLAND	Virginia Mountains	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.2	\$0.7	\$2.2	16.5%	0.0%	25	\$0.7	\$0.1	\$0.1
ROANOKE	Virginia Mountains	\$27.1	\$52.0	\$14.1	\$19.3	\$19.8	\$132.3	7.3%	0.4%	1,326	\$38.4	\$3.9	\$7.3
ROANOKE CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$85.9	\$147.2	\$53.3	\$62.4	\$186.0	\$534.8	5.2%	1.5%	3,804	\$190.7	\$14.6	\$25.5
SALEM CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$30.0	\$44.5	\$10.7	\$21.2	\$15.1	\$121.5	2.9%	0.3%	1,134	\$33.6	\$3.6	\$5.9
Regional Total	Virginia Mountains	\$296.4	\$338.2	\$116.3	\$144.5	\$275.6	\$1,171.1	5.1%	3.3%	8,940	\$355.7	\$31.4	\$55.8
VIRGINIA	Statewide Totals	\$6,618.6	\$9,941.8	\$3,573.8	\$4,559.1	\$10,435.9	\$35,129.3	5.4%	100.0%	229,170	\$10,188.2	\$951.1	\$1,566.2

*Lodging includes short-term rentals and second home spending

**Transportation includes both ground and air transportation

Economic Impact of Tourism on Virginia Localities, 2016-2024 Direct Visitor Spending

Source: Tourism Economics

Locality	Region	Direct Visitor Spending (in millions)											
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change (2024/2023)	Percent Change (2024/2019)	Share of State (2024)
ALBEMARLE	Central Virginia	\$378.7	\$394.9	\$399.6	\$429.2	\$263.5	\$421.5	\$511.4	\$551.3	\$587.2	6.5%	36.8%	1.7%
AMELIA	Central Virginia	\$5.1	\$5.3	\$5.6	\$5.7	\$4.1	\$4.8	\$5.1	\$5.2	\$5.5	7.1%	-2.3%	0.0%
AMHERST	Central Virginia	\$33.0	\$34.0	\$36.0	\$36.6	\$31.0	\$43.3	\$44.7	\$43.0	\$47.0	9.3%	28.4%	0.1%
APPOMATTOX	Central Virginia	\$15.2	\$16.1	\$17.0	\$17.1	\$13.7	\$17.2	\$18.6	\$19.2	\$19.5	1.7%	14.1%	0.1%
BUCKINGHAM	Central Virginia	\$6.6	\$7.0	\$7.4	\$7.7	\$6.0	\$7.3	\$7.6	\$7.5	\$6.6	-12.7%	-14.7%	0.0%
CAMPBELL	Central Virginia	\$86.4	\$89.1	\$92.9	\$95.8	\$71.8	\$112.0	\$119.0	\$119.9	\$127.6	6.4%	33.2%	0.4%
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY	Central Virginia	\$307.9	\$311.4	\$333.4	\$349.2	\$220.8	\$346.8	\$392.0	\$405.9	\$402.6	-0.8%	15.3%	1.1%
CHESTERFIELD	Central Virginia	\$483.1	\$500.1	\$532.5	\$548.3	\$388.9	\$535.9	\$582.6	\$601.3	\$640.0	6.4%	16.7%	1.8%
COLONIAL HEIGHTS CITY	Central Virginia	\$79.1	\$81.7	\$86.8	\$83.6	\$65.5	\$96.5	\$102.8	\$105.1	\$108.1	2.8%	29.3%	0.3%
CUMBERLAND	Central Virginia	\$2.6	\$2.8	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$2.5	\$3.1	\$3.2	\$3.5	\$3.5	-1.3%	14.3%	0.0%
DINWIDDIE	Central Virginia	\$20.7	\$20.7	\$21.6	\$21.0	\$15.9	\$19.5	\$20.6	\$21.0	\$21.6	3.0%	3.0%	0.1%
FLUVANNA	Central Virginia	\$8.4	\$9.1	\$8.8	\$9.0	\$6.8	\$9.6	\$10.4	\$10.5	\$10.3	-1.8%	14.7%	0.0%
GOOCHLAND	Central Virginia	\$38.3	\$40.7	\$41.4	\$42.8	\$31.3	\$44.8	\$48.0	\$51.4	\$59.2	15.1%	38.3%	0.2%
GREENE	Central Virginia	\$24.8	\$25.8	\$27.5	\$27.4	\$21.4	\$30.6	\$31.0	\$31.7	\$31.4	-0.9%	14.6%	0.1%
HANOVER	Central Virginia	\$174.1	\$181.5	\$192.8	\$198.4	\$132.1	\$204.2	\$223.0	\$229.2	\$240.4	4.9%	21.2%	0.7%
HENRICO	Central Virginia	\$1,321.9	\$1,367.5	\$1,487.6	\$1,558.3	\$926.5	\$1,350.4	\$1,718.2	\$1,876.0	\$1,924.2	2.6%	23.5%	5.5%
HOPEWELL CITY	Central Virginia	\$35.0	\$34.5	\$38.6	\$37.1	\$29.7	\$41.1	\$45.1	\$47.5	\$50.7	6.6%	36.5%	0.1%
LOUISA	Central Virginia	\$47.4	\$49.8	\$52.6	\$52.6	\$48.7	\$60.6	\$69.9	\$72.6	\$73.0	0.5%	38.6%	0.2%
LYNCHBURG CITY	Central Virginia	\$200.2	\$199.6	\$214.4	\$206.2	\$159.8	\$217.7	\$240.0	\$255.1	\$261.5	2.5%	26.8%	0.7%
MADISON	Central Virginia	\$16.6	\$16.4	\$16.3	\$16.7	\$15.0	\$20.7	\$21.8	\$22.9	\$25.0	9.3%	50.0%	0.1%
NELSON	Central Virginia	\$70.6	\$73.6	\$75.3	\$79.5	\$65.0	\$83.0	\$86.4	\$90.9	\$89.5	-1.5%	12.6%	0.3%
NOTTOWAY	Central Virginia	\$15.4	\$15.7	\$16.1	\$16.6	\$11.8	\$17.2	\$18.3	\$20.7	\$22.7	9.9%	36.6%	0.1%
ORANGE	Central Virginia	\$42.2	\$42.6	\$46.3	\$45.6	\$37.6	\$50.5	\$52.8	\$54.4	\$57.7	6.0%	26.5%	0.2%
PETERSBURG CITY	Central Virginia	\$35.3	\$36.2	\$35.5	\$37.8	\$30.6	\$39.3	\$41.2	\$41.1	\$38.6	-6.1%	2.0%	0.1%
POWHATAN	Central Virginia	\$16.4	\$17.6	\$19.3	\$20.1	\$13.8	\$17.9	\$19.4	\$20.3	\$21.2	4.3%	5.4%	0.1%
PRINCE EDWARD	Central Virginia	\$34.5	\$36.1	\$40.3	\$43.2	\$33.9	\$52.9	\$56.4	\$57.0	\$59.2	3.8%	37.2%	0.2%
PRINCE GEORGE	Central Virginia	\$63.4	\$65.7	\$71.4	\$71.3	\$64.2	\$97.6	\$104.2	\$105.2	\$106.1	0.8%	48.7%	0.3%
RICHMOND CITY	Central Virginia	\$712.2	\$749.8	\$809.3	\$835.4	\$464.8	\$643.5	\$833.3	\$908.0	\$982.1	8.2%	17.6%	2.8%
SUSSEX	Central Virginia	\$18.9	\$19.1	\$18.9	\$18.2	\$12.4	\$17.4	\$18.0	\$20.6	\$21.1	2.6%	15.9%	0.1%
Regional Total	Central Virginia	\$4,294.0	\$4,444.3	\$4,748.1	\$4,913.6	\$3,189.3	\$4,606.7	\$5,444.9	\$5,798.1	\$6,042.9	4.2%	23.0%	17.2%
ESSEX	Chesapeake Bay	\$27.3	\$27.7	\$29.9	\$29.7	\$26.6	\$34.1	\$35.7	\$41.9	\$40.8	-2.5%	37.5%	0.1%
GLOUCESTER	Chesapeake Bay	\$33.2	\$35.1	\$37.3	\$39.3	\$33.1	\$43.0	\$43.2	\$47.3	\$48.8	3.4%	24.4%	0.1%
KING AND QUEEN	Chesapeake Bay	\$3.6	\$3.7	\$3.9	\$4.1	\$3.4	\$4.1	\$4.2	\$4.3	\$4.4	3.2%	9.0%	0.0%
KING GEORGE	Chesapeake Bay	\$25.7	\$27.3	\$30.7	\$33.7	\$26.0	\$36.3	\$36.7	\$38.7	\$38.4	-0.7%	13.8%	0.1%
KING WILLIAM	Chesapeake Bay	\$18.2	\$19.1	\$20.8	\$21.7	\$14.9	\$19.4	\$20.4	\$21.6	\$23.3	7.9%	7.5%	0.1%
LANCASTER	Chesapeake Bay	\$51.5	\$55.7	\$56.2	\$57.8	\$49.8	\$75.3	\$77.1	\$81.3	\$83.4	2.5%	44.2%	0.2%
MATHEWS	Chesapeake Bay	\$13.3	\$13.8	\$13.9	\$14.4	\$13.6	\$16.7	\$17.6	\$18.2	\$19.2	5.9%	33.8%	0.1%
MIDDLESEX	Chesapeake Bay	\$23.6	\$24.7	\$25.9	\$26.5	\$24.8	\$29.2	\$30.0	\$30.0	\$30.8	2.4%	16.1%	0.1%
NORTHUMBERLAND	Chesapeake Bay	\$17.3	\$17.7	\$17.7	\$19.0	\$17.5	\$20.9	\$22.5	\$24.4	\$25.0	2.5%	31.8%	0.1%
RICHMOND	Chesapeake Bay	\$10.6	\$10.7	\$11.4	\$11.8	\$8.7	\$11.0	\$12.0	\$12.6	\$13.1	3.5%	11.1%	0.0%
WESTMORELAND	Chesapeake Bay	\$34.9	\$35.1	\$36.1	\$35.9	\$32.5	\$37.6	\$37.6	\$37.8	\$38.7	2.3%	7.7%	0.1%
Regional Total	Chesapeake Bay	\$259.2	\$270.4	\$283.8	\$293.8	\$250.6	\$327.6	\$337.1	\$358.1	\$366.0	2.2%	24.6%	1.0%
ACCOMACK	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$117.8	\$123.0	\$126.3	\$134.7	\$118.2	\$168.5	\$166.4	\$179.6	\$192.2	7.0%	42.6%	0.5%
NORTHAMPTON	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$43.2	\$42.4	\$44.6	\$48.5	\$41.2	\$68.3	\$66.0	\$68.3	\$69.5	1.7%	43.3%	0.2%
Regional Total	Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore	\$161.1	\$165.5	\$170.9	\$183.2	\$159.4	\$236.8	\$232.4	\$247.9	\$261.6	5.5%	42.8%	0.7%
CHARLES CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$5.0	\$5.3	\$5.5	\$5.5	\$5.0	\$7.2	\$7.6	\$7.8	\$8.9	13.2%	62.2%	0.0%

CHESAPEAKE CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$375.1	\$392.3	\$414.2	\$438.1	\$359.7	\$466.7	\$511.5	\$514.7	\$517.9	0.6%	18.2%	1.5%
FRANKLIN CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$15.1	\$15.2	\$15.9	\$16.2	\$12.3	\$16.5	\$17.9	\$18.5	\$17.0	-8.0%	4.6%	0.0%
HAMPTON CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$192.6	\$203.5	\$208.2	\$218.8	\$182.7	\$268.2	\$300.6	\$303.7	\$321.2	5.8%	46.8%	0.9%
ISLE OF WIGHT	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$37.9	\$40.5	\$41.3	\$41.3	\$34.2	\$46.7	\$49.6	\$52.1	\$50.4	-3.3%	21.9%	0.1%
JAMES CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$459.8	\$484.7	\$509.7	\$518.9	\$335.3	\$521.9	\$562.0	\$601.6	\$595.8	-1.0%	14.8%	1.7%
NEW KENT	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$20.3	\$21.2	\$23.5	\$25.0	\$19.9	\$27.9	\$29.9	\$29.4	\$31.1	5.7%	24.3%	0.1%
NEWPORT NEWS CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$281.3	\$292.2	\$310.6	\$336.0	\$220.5	\$302.2	\$333.4	\$332.9	\$330.2	-0.8%	-1.7%	0.9%
NORFOLK CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$909.6	\$965.8	\$1,051.7	\$1,152.1	\$726.9	\$1,126.6	\$1,344.2	\$1,435.0	\$1,504.9	4.9%	30.6%	4.3%
POQUOSON CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$9.9	\$10.1	\$10.3	\$10.6	\$7.9	\$11.3	\$12.2	\$13.2	\$13.4	0.8%	25.5%	0.0%
PORTSMOUTH CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$57.1	\$58.5	\$58.9	\$61.4	\$37.0	\$58.3	\$63.3	\$138.3	\$151.4	9.5%	146.7%	0.4%
SOUTHAMPTON	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$7.8	\$7.8	\$8.3	\$9.0	\$6.3	\$8.4	\$8.8	\$8.8	\$8.6	-2.4%	-3.7%	0.0%
SUFFOLK CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$98.3	\$102.1	\$111.5	\$112.5	\$88.2	\$120.0	\$133.8	\$139.9	\$142.9	2.1%	27.0%	0.4%
SURRY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$3.2	\$3.3	\$3.5	\$3.7	\$3.5	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$3.8	\$4.0	5.1%	8.5%	0.0%
VIRGINIA BEACH CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$1,484.3	\$1,594.2	\$1,692.4	\$1,790.6	\$1,420.1	\$2,121.8	\$2,428.6	\$2,501.4	\$2,551.1	2.0%	42.5%	7.3%
WILLIAMSBURG CITY	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$405.4	\$410.2	\$430.2	\$445.7	\$228.2	\$359.7	\$442.5	\$459.3	\$460.7	0.3%	3.4%	1.3%
YORK	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$253.4	\$263.3	\$276.9	\$280.8	\$166.4	\$264.9	\$292.3	\$297.5	\$296.8	-0.2%	5.7%	0.8%
Regional Total	Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads	\$4,616.1	\$4,870.2	\$5,172.6	\$5,466.3	\$3,853.9	\$5,732.2	\$6,542.1	\$6,858.1	\$7,006.3	2.2%	28.2%	19.9%
ALEXANDRIA CITY	Northern Virginia	\$770.4	\$800.0	\$832.3	\$867.2	\$445.4	\$613.2	\$800.7	\$941.5	\$1,015.6	7.9%	17.1%	2.9%
ARLINGTON	Northern Virginia	\$3,836.7	\$4,013.5	\$4,184.2	\$4,404.3	\$1,905.8	\$2,834.8	\$3,859.8	\$4,494.1	\$4,764.1	6.0%	8.2%	13.6%
CAROLINE	Northern Virginia	\$37.2	\$40.1	\$42.2	\$44.2	\$35.1	\$47.4	\$52.0	\$54.9	\$51.7	-5.8%	17.0%	0.1%
CULPEPER	Northern Virginia	\$51.0	\$53.4	\$56.6	\$58.9	\$48.8	\$64.8	\$73.5	\$76.6	\$77.9	1.6%	32.3%	0.2%
FAIRFAX	Northern Virginia	\$3,148.7	\$3,309.2	\$3,502.3	\$3,657.7	\$1,959.4	\$2,395.4	\$3,075.1	\$3,624.5	\$3,918.1	8.1%	7.1%	11.2%
FAIRFAX CITY	Northern Virginia	\$114.9	\$115.5	\$119.0	\$120.1	\$65.5	\$80.2	\$104.3	\$118.7	\$120.7	1.7%	0.5%	0.3%
FALLS CHURCH CITY	Northern Virginia	\$50.5	\$54.1	\$58.2	\$59.4	\$32.3	\$46.1	\$50.8	\$58.0	\$66.1	14.0%	11.3%	0.2%
FAUQUIER	Northern Virginia	\$138.9	\$141.7	\$147.2	\$139.3	\$95.0	\$143.3	\$182.5	\$182.1	\$188.1	3.3%	35.1%	0.5%
FREDERICKSBURG CITY	Northern Virginia	\$140.0	\$145.0	\$148.5	\$146.6	\$94.6	\$131.5	\$145.3	\$151.2	\$170.8	12.9%	16.5%	0.5%
LOUDOUN	Northern Virginia	\$3,326.1	\$3,571.2	\$3,777.7	\$3,945.8	\$1,888.6	\$3,040.8	\$4,013.8	\$4,516.9	\$4,925.5	9.0%	24.8%	14.0%
MANASSAS CITY	Northern Virginia	\$45.3	\$46.2	\$46.3	\$46.2	\$34.5	\$54.0	\$60.4	\$60.5	\$63.8	5.5%	38.2%	0.2%
MANASSAS PARK CITY	Northern Virginia	\$5.5	\$5.6	\$4.9	\$4.7	\$3.1	\$4.0	\$4.1	\$4.6	\$4.6	-0.2%	-2.4%	0.0%
PRINCE WILLIAM	Northern Virginia	\$601.1	\$608.2	\$645.4	\$650.3	\$452.4	\$619.2	\$674.3	\$753.9	\$779.9	3.5%	19.9%	2.2%
RAPPAHANNOCK	Northern Virginia	\$38.7	\$39.8	\$44.1	\$48.1	\$41.9	\$62.6	\$69.7	\$72.9	\$70.4	-3.4%	46.5%	0.2%
SPOTSYLVANIA	Northern Virginia	\$159.7	\$162.6	\$169.3	\$182.2	\$155.1	\$212.1	\$221.3	\$239.0	\$245.9	2.9%	34.9%	0.7%
STAFFORD	Northern Virginia	\$161.4	\$166.0	\$173.8	\$183.2	\$144.4	\$200.0	\$220.3	\$224.6	\$236.8	5.4%	29.3%	0.7%
Regional Total	Northern Virginia	\$12,626.0	\$13,271.9	\$13,952.0	\$14,558.2	\$7,401.9	\$10,549.5	\$13,607.9	\$15,574.0	\$16,700.0	7.2%	14.7%	47.5%
AUGUSTA	Shenandoah Valley	\$100.3	\$103.9	\$109.2	\$109.3	\$83.8	\$123.4	\$137.1	\$141.0	\$144.4	2.4%	32.1%	0.4%
BUENA VISTA CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$5.8	\$6.0	\$6.1	\$6.1	\$4.3	\$5.8	\$6.1	\$6.3	\$6.9	9.5%	12.7%	0.0%
CLARKE	Shenandoah Valley	\$14.4	\$15.1	\$15.8	\$16.3	\$11.4	\$15.0	\$15.8	\$13.8	\$13.4	-2.7%	-17.7%	0.0%
FREDERICK	Shenandoah Valley	\$126.3	\$130.6	\$142.1	\$143.9	\$110.1	\$164.2	\$179.8	\$184.6	\$190.4	3.1%	32.3%	0.5%
HARRISONBURG CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$170.1	\$179.7	\$192.7	\$207.6	\$140.7	\$214.7	\$239.0	\$242.2	\$243.1	0.4%	17.1%	0.7%
LEXINGTON CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$39.5	\$39.9	\$42.2	\$44.0	\$30.8	\$52.8	\$62.8	\$64.8	\$68.8	6.1%	56.4%	0.2%
PAGE	Shenandoah Valley	\$79.6	\$81.4	\$87.2	\$90.1	\$72.9	\$111.1	\$108.1	\$108.7	\$104.9	-3.5%	16.5%	0.3%
ROCKBRIDGE	Shenandoah Valley	\$131.7	\$135.7	\$141.9	\$142.3	\$101.0	\$139.9	\$147.9	\$147.7	\$148.5	0.5%	4.4%	0.4%
ROCKINGHAM	Shenandoah Valley	\$128.9	\$133.8	\$141.7	\$150.3	\$123.4	\$177.7	\$181.7	\$200.4	\$210.1	4.9%	39.8%	0.6%
SHENANDOAH	Shenandoah Valley	\$114.9	\$119.7	\$125.6	\$127.5	\$100.8	\$130.6	\$138.8	\$145.4	\$152.5	4.9%	19.6%	0.4%
STAUNTON CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$51.7	\$51.5	\$57.5	\$66.4	\$45.2	\$63.1	\$77.6	\$79.2	\$77.5	-2.2%	16.7%	0.2%
WARREN	Shenandoah Valley	\$63.4	\$65.5	\$68.9	\$69.7	\$54.5	\$77.8	\$81.5	\$87.4	\$95.8	9.6%	37.5%	0.3%
WAYNESBORO CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$55.1	\$57.2	\$60.0	\$60.6	\$47.3	\$66.9	\$73.0	\$77.8	\$85.9	10.4%	41.6%	0.2%
WINCHESTER CITY	Shenandoah Valley	\$92.6	\$95.8	\$103.5	\$106.6	\$71.7	\$96.1	\$107.7	\$103.5	\$113.5	9.7%	6.5%	0.3%
Regional Total	Shenandoah Valley	\$1,174.4	\$1,215.7	\$1,294.4	\$1,340.5	\$997.8	\$1,439.2	\$1,557.0	\$1,602.8	\$1,655.7	3.3%	23.5%	4.7%
BRUNSWICK	Southern Virginia	\$10.7	\$11.0	\$11.2	\$11.3	\$8.8	\$10.1	\$10.7	\$11.3	\$12.0	6.7%	6.2%	0.0%
CHARLOTTE	Southern Virginia	\$7.2	\$7.5	\$8.0	\$8.3	\$5.9	\$7.1	\$7.4	\$8.0	\$8.4	4.9%	2.1%	0.0%
DANVILLE CITY	Southern Virginia	\$91.1	\$91.6	\$98.7	\$103.8	\$77.8	\$100.0	\$112.7	\$179.8	\$233.6	29.9%	125.0%	0.7%
EMPORIA CITY	Southern Virginia	\$28.8	\$29.7	\$29.5	\$25.6	\$18.7	\$25.8	\$26.6	\$28.0	\$27.6	-1.5%	8.1%	0.1%
GREENSVILLE	Southern Virginia	\$21.7	\$23.0	\$24.4	\$27.0	\$20.6	\$26.4	\$26.6	\$27.1	\$27.6	2.0%	2.2%	0.1%

HALIFAX	Southern Virginia	\$40.9	\$43.3	\$46.5	\$46.5	\$36.8	\$49.7	\$53.2	\$56.6	\$55.1	-2.7%	18.4%	0.2%
HENRY	Southern Virginia	\$31.9	\$33.9	\$37.3	\$34.8	\$29.8	\$42.3	\$45.4	\$46.9	\$50.5	7.8%	45.1%	0.1%
LUNENBURG	Southern Virginia	\$4.2	\$4.3	\$4.5	\$4.7	\$4.0	\$5.3	\$5.3	\$5.6	\$5.2	-6.4%	10.6%	0.0%
MARTINSVILLE CITY	Southern Virginia	\$24.3	\$24.4	\$25.4	\$26.0	\$20.2	\$24.6	\$25.0	\$25.9	\$27.7	6.9%	6.7%	0.1%
MECKLENBURG	Southern Virginia	\$68.7	\$71.2	\$73.2	\$78.4	\$72.6	\$100.7	\$106.2	\$115.0	\$129.9	12.9%	65.7%	0.4%
PITTSYLVANIA	Southern Virginia	\$21.5	\$23.3	\$23.3	\$25.0	\$21.4	\$28.8	\$31.5	\$35.6	\$41.6	17.1%	66.6%	0.1%
Regional Total	Southern Virginia	\$351.0	\$363.3	\$382.1	\$391.4	\$316.6	\$420.7	\$450.7	\$539.8	\$619.3	14.7%	58.2%	1.8%
MONTGOMERY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$186.3	\$193.2	\$209.7	\$222.1	\$145.9	\$237.6	\$275.9	\$279.6	\$293.7	5.1%	32.3%	0.8%
BRISTOL CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$63.5	\$64.8	\$67.8	\$70.0	\$54.2	\$80.8	\$94.5	\$157.4	\$179.7	14.2%	156.6%	0.5%
WYTHE	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$103.6	\$108.3	\$112.3	\$114.7	\$86.5	\$129.9	\$144.7	\$146.3	\$153.1	4.7%	33.5%	0.4%
WASHINGTON	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$94.6	\$98.2	\$102.5	\$103.2	\$76.4	\$115.2	\$125.9	\$127.5	\$129.0	1.2%	25.1%	0.4%
PULASKI	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$65.1	\$66.2	\$70.3	\$74.1	\$56.4	\$77.6	\$81.7	\$84.5	\$90.5	7.1%	22.0%	0.3%
CARROLL	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$37.9	\$41.4	\$43.5	\$42.0	\$33.6	\$46.8	\$49.9	\$52.9	\$54.8	3.8%	30.5%	0.2%
GILES	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$25.5	\$26.8	\$28.4	\$29.6	\$21.4	\$31.8	\$33.3	\$35.9	\$37.5	4.5%	26.6%	0.1%
SMYTH	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$22.6	\$22.4	\$23.9	\$25.8	\$20.6	\$27.3	\$28.3	\$28.6	\$31.3	9.3%	21.1%	0.1%
PATRICK	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$19.7	\$20.6	\$22.2	\$21.5	\$17.3	\$22.2	\$23.0	\$25.6	\$30.0	17.1%	39.2%	0.1%
RADFORD CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$19.9	\$20.3	\$20.9	\$21.4	\$13.3	\$19.1	\$20.2	\$23.0	\$25.6	11.3%	19.5%	0.1%
FLOYD	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$15.0	\$16.1	\$16.4	\$16.1	\$11.2	\$16.3	\$17.8	\$18.3	\$18.3	0.3%	13.5%	0.1%
GALAX CITY	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$14.5	\$14.7	\$15.5	\$15.7	\$11.6	\$15.6	\$16.2	\$16.8	\$18.0	6.9%	14.4%	0.1%
GRAYSON	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$9.0	\$9.5	\$9.6	\$10.3	\$9.8	\$12.9	\$13.1	\$14.5	\$13.9	-4.6%	34.4%	0.0%
BLAND	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$4.0	\$4.3	\$4.6	\$4.8	\$4.2	\$5.0	\$5.1	\$5.2	\$5.2	0.7%	7.8%	0.0%
Regional Total	Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands	\$681.2	\$706.7	\$747.5	\$771.6	\$562.1	\$838.2	\$929.7	\$1,016.2	\$1,080.7	6.3%	40.1%	3.1%
BUCHANAN	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$11.6	\$11.8	\$12.2	\$12.3	\$8.7	\$11.2	\$11.8	\$12.4	\$12.4	-0.1%	0.6%	0.0%
DICKENSON	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$12.1	\$12.5	\$12.6	\$12.9	\$9.1	\$11.4	\$12.9	\$13.5	\$12.9	-5.0%	-0.6%	0.0%
LEE	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$21.3	\$21.7	\$21.8	\$21.7	\$16.8	\$21.9	\$21.8	\$22.2	\$23.2	4.6%	7.2%	0.1%
NORTON CITY	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$13.9	\$13.9	\$14.7	\$15.3	\$11.1	\$14.5	\$15.5	\$13.0	\$14.2	9.5%	-7.1%	0.0%
RUSSELL	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$17.1	\$17.3	\$17.8	\$17.7	\$12.7	\$16.6	\$17.5	\$18.0	\$17.5	-2.7%	-0.9%	0.0%
SCOTT	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$26.1	\$26.7	\$27.4	\$27.8	\$19.1	\$22.5	\$23.0	\$23.3	\$23.1	-0.8%	-16.8%	0.1%
TAZEWELL	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$42.0	\$42.0	\$43.3	\$44.1	\$34.8	\$44.9	\$47.9	\$55.2	\$60.9	10.3%	38.2%	0.2%
WISE	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$54.5	\$55.4	\$55.7	\$56.3	\$43.2	\$54.7	\$58.0	\$59.8	\$61.5	2.8%	9.2%	0.2%
Regional Total	Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia	\$198.6	\$201.3	\$205.5	\$208.0	\$155.5	\$197.9	\$208.2	\$217.4	\$225.7	3.8%	8.5%	0.6%
ALLEGHANY	Virginia Mountains	\$22.4	\$22.9	\$24.9	\$25.2	\$18.7	\$25.0	\$26.7	\$28.5	\$26.4	-7.4%	4.8%	0.1%
BATH	Virginia Mountains	\$84.7	\$87.6	\$88.0	\$85.4	\$50.5	\$80.9	\$87.9	\$100.0	\$116.6	16.7%	36.6%	0.3%
BEDFORD	Virginia Mountains	\$53.4	\$56.3	\$61.6	\$65.7	\$51.6	\$66.7	\$71.4	\$81.4	\$82.2	1.1%	25.2%	0.2%
BOTETOURT	Virginia Mountains	\$50.2	\$50.2	\$52.5	\$53.4	\$39.5	\$54.2	\$60.4	\$60.4	\$59.8	-0.9%	12.1%	0.2%
COVINGTON CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$17.2	\$17.7	\$17.6	\$17.5	\$11.8	\$15.6	\$16.3	\$17.2	\$17.4	0.7%	-0.8%	0.0%
CRAIG	Virginia Mountains	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$2.4	\$2.9	\$2.9	\$3.1	\$3.2	3.3%	4.1%	0.0%
FRANKLIN	Virginia Mountains	\$50.3	\$52.2	\$55.4	\$56.9	\$48.5	\$65.6	\$67.9	\$72.2	\$74.7	3.4%	31.1%	0.2%
HIGHLAND	Virginia Mountains	\$1.7	\$1.8	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$1.2	\$1.7	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$2.2	16.5%	14.1%	0.0%
ROANOKE	Virginia Mountains	\$94.3	\$95.7	\$103.3	\$107.0	\$79.1	\$103.6	\$115.1	\$123.3	\$132.3	7.3%	23.7%	0.4%
ROANOKE CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$381.4	\$393.8	\$427.8	\$439.0	\$267.8	\$363.4	\$471.6	\$508.3	\$534.8	5.2%	21.8%	1.5%
SALEM CITY	Virginia Mountains	\$74.5	\$74.3	\$80.8	\$83.0	\$58.2	\$90.9	\$112.2	\$118.0	\$121.5	2.9%	46.5%	0.3%
Regional Total	Virginia Mountains	\$832.9	\$855.6	\$916.9	\$938.0	\$629.3	\$870.4	\$1,034.3	\$1,114.3	\$1,171.1	5.1%	24.8%	3.3%
VIRGINIA	Statewide Totals	\$25,194.5	\$26,364.8	\$27,873.8	\$29,064.7	\$17,516.3	\$25,219.1	\$30,344.3	\$33,326.59	\$35,129.3	5.4%	20.9%	100.0%

*Lodging includes short-term rentals and second home spending

**Transportation includes both ground and air transportation

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY	
	Notes:
JPA#	

APPLICANTS

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL ANSWERS. If a question does not apply to your project, please print N/A (not applicable) in the space provided. **If additional space is needed, attach extra 8 ½ x 11 inch sheets of paper.**

<u>Check all that apply</u>			
☐ Pre-Construction Notification ☐ (PCN) NWP # _____ <i>(For Nationwide Permits ONLY - No DEQ-VWP permit writer will be assigned)</i>	☐ SPGP ☐ PASDO-PGP SELF VERIFICATION <i>(Replaces Regional Permit 17 (RP-17))</i>	☐ DEQ Reapplication Existing permit number: _____	☐ Receiving federal funds Agency providing funding: _____

PREVIOUS ACTIONS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED WORK (Include all federal, state, and local pre application coordination, site visits, previous permits, or applications whether issued, withdrawn, or denied)				
Historical information for past permit submittals can be found online with VMRC - https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/ - or VIMS - http://ccrm.vims.edu/perms/newpermits.html				
Agency	Action / Activity	Permit/Project number, including any non-reporting Nationwide permits previously used (e.g., NWP 13)	Date of Action	If denied, give reason for denial

1. APPLICANT, AGENT, PROPERTY OWNER, AND CONTRACTOR INFORMATION						
The applicant(s) is/are the legal entity to which the permit may be issued (see How to Apply at beginning of form). The applicant(s) can either be the property owner(s) or the person/people/company(ies) that intend(s) to undertake the activity. The agent is the person or company that is representing the applicant(s). If a company, please also provide the company name that is registered with the State Corporation Commission (SCC), or indicate no registration with the SCC.						
Legal Name(s) of Applicant(s) Accomack County, Attn: Michael T. Mason				Agent (if applicable) Moffatt & Nichol, Attn: Ira Brotman		
Mailing address P.O. Box 388				Mailing address 101 West Main Street, Suite 3000		
City Accomac	State VA	ZIP Code 23301	City Norfolk	State VA	ZIP Code 23510	
Phone number w/area code (757)787-5700	Fax		Phone number w/area code (757)628-8222	Fax		
Mobile	E-mail		Mobile	E-mail ibrotman@moffattnichol.com		
State Corporation Commission Name and ID number (if applicable)				State Corporation Commission Name and ID number (if applicable)		
<i>Certain permits or permit authorizations may be provided via electronic mail. If the applicant wishes to receive their permit via electronic mail, please provide an e-mail address here:</i> _____						

1. APPLICANT, AGENT, PROPERTY OWNER, AND CONTRACTOR INFORMATION (Continued)

Property owner(s) legal name, if different from applicant			Contractor, if known		
Mailing address			Mailing address		
City	State	ZIP code	City	State	ZIP code
Phone number w/area code	Fax		Phone number w/area code	Fax	
Mobile	E-mail		Mobile	E-mail	
State Corporation Commission Name and ID number (if applicable)			State Corporation Commission Name ID number (if applicable)		

2. PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

(Attach a copy of a detailed map, such as a USGS topographic map or street map showing the site location and project boundary, so that it may be located for inspection. Include an arrow indicating the north direction. Include the drainage area if the SPGP box is checked on Page 7.)

Street Address (911 address if available)	City/County/ZIP Code Accomack County
Subdivision	Lot/Block/Parcel #
Name of water body(ies) within project boundaries and drainage area (acres or square miles). Folly Creek	
Tributary(ies) to: <u>Atlantic Ocean</u> Basin: _____ Sub-basin: _____ (Example: Basin: <u>James River</u> Sub-basin: <u>Middle James River</u>)	
Special Standards (based on DEQ Water Quality Standards 9VAC25-260 et seq.): _____	
Project type (check one) _____ ☐ Single user (private, non-commercial, residential) ☒ Multi-user (community, commercial, industrial, government) ☐ Surface water withdrawal	
Latitude and longitude at center of project site (decimal degrees): <u>37.69352</u> / <u>-75.62528</u> (Example: 37.33164/-77.68200)	
USGS topographic map name: <u>Accomack/Metompkin Inlet</u>	
8-digit USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for your project site (See http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm): <u>02040304</u> If known, indicate the 10-digit and 12-digit USGS HUCs (see http://consapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/maps/HUEXplorer.htm): 0204030401 020403040103	
Name of your project (Example: <i>Water Creek driveway crossing</i>) <u>Folly Creek Maintenance Dredging</u>	
Is there an access road to the project? ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, check all that apply: ☐ public ☐ private ☐ improved ☐ unimproved	
Total size of the project area (in acres): <u>5.65</u>	

2. PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION (Continued)

Provide driving directions to your site, giving distances from the best and nearest visible landmarks or major intersections:

The site is accessible by boat, with the closest public ramp at the Folly Creek Public Boat Ramp off of Folly Creek Rd. on Folly Creek

Does your project site cross boundaries of two or more localities (i.e., cities/counties/towns)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, name those localities: _____

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT, PROJECT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PURPOSES, PROJECT NEED, INTENDED USE(S), AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

- The purpose and need must include any new development or expansion of an existing land use and/or proposed future use of residual land.
- Describe the physical alteration of surface waters, including the use of pilings (#, materials), vibratory hammers, explosives, and hydraulic dredging, when applicable, and whether or not tree clearing will occur (include the area in square feet and time of year).
- Include a description of alternatives considered and measures taken to avoid or minimize impacts to surface waters, including wetlands, to the maximum extent practicable. Include factors such as, but not limited to, alternative construction technologies, alternative project layout and design, alternative locations, local land use regulations, and existing infrastructure
- For utility crossings, include both alternative routes and alternative construction methodologies considered
- For surface water withdrawals, public surface water supply withdrawals, or projects that will alter in stream flows, include the water supply issues that form the basis of the proposed project.

The project is to perform dredging of Folly Creek from the public boat ramp out towards the Atlantic Ocean with dredge extents ending around the pier for 24531 Ocean View Court, Accomac, VA. The dredged material will be placed uplands at a suitable area to be determined by the contractor.

Date of proposed commencement of work (MM/DD/YYYY)

6/1/2025

Date of proposed completion of work (MM/DD/YYYY)

6/1/2026

Are you submitting this application at the direction of any state, local, or federal agency? ^x Yes ____ No

Has any work commenced or has any portion of the project for which you are seeking a permit been completed? ____ Yes ^x No

If you answered "yes" to either question above, give details stating when the work was completed and/or when it commenced, who performed the work, and which agency (if any) directed you to submit this application. In addition, you will need to clearly differentiate between completed work and proposed work on your project drawings.

Are you aware of any unresolved violations of environmental law or litigation involving the property? ____ Yes ^x No
(If yes, please explain)

4. PROJECT COSTS

Approximate cost of only the portion of the project affecting state waters (channelward of mean low water in tidal areas and below ordinary high water mark in nontidal areas): \$ 450,000

5. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in the processing of your application by VMRC.

Property owner's name Upon Request	Mailing address	City	State	ZIP code
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Address and phone number (including area code) of

newspaper P.O. Box 517, Onley, VA, 23418 (757)446-2848

Have adjacent property owners been notified with forms in Appendix A? Yes x No (attach copies of distributed forms)

6. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES INFORMATION

Please provide any information concerning the potential for your project to impact state and/or federally threatened and endangered species (listed or proposed). Attach correspondence from agencies and/or reference materials that address potential impacts, such as database search results or confirmed waters and wetlands delineation/jurisdictional determination. Include information when applicable regarding the location of the project in Endangered Species Act-designated or -critical habitats. Contact information for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation-Division of Natural Heritage can be found on page 4 of this package.

7. HISTORIC RESOURCES INFORMATION

Note: Historic properties include but are not limited to archeological sites, battlefields, Civil War earthworks, graveyards, buildings, bridges, canals, etc. Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470h-2(k)) prevents the USACE from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the USACE, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant.

Are any historic properties located within or adjacent to the project site? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Uncertain
If Yes, please provide a map showing the location of the historic property within or adjacent to the project site.

Are there any buildings or structures 50 years old or older located on the project site? Yes X No Uncertain
If Yes, please provide a map showing the location of these buildings or structures on the project site.

Is your project located within a historic district? Yes ^X No Uncertain

If Yes, please indicate which district:

7. HISTORIC RESOURCES INFORMATION (Continued)

Has a survey to locate archeological sites and/or historic structures been carried out on the property?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Uncertain

If Yes, please provide the following information: Date of Survey: _____

Name of firm: _____

Is there a report on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain

Title of Cultural Resources Management (CRM) report: _____

Was any historic property located? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain

8. WETLANDS, WATERS, AND DUNES/BEACHES IMPACT INFORMATION

Report each impact site in a separate column. If needed, attach additional sheets using a similar table format. Please ensure that the associated project drawings clearly depict the location and footprint of each numbered impact site. For dredging, mining, and excavating projects, use Section 17.

	Impact site number 1	Impact site number 2	Impact site number 3	Impact site number 4	Impact site number 5
Impact description (use all that apply): F=fill EX=excavation S=Structure T=tidal NT=non-tidal TE=temporary PE=permanent PR=perennial IN=intermittent SB=subaqueous bottom DB=dune/beach IS=hydrologically isolated V=vegetated NV=non-vegetated MC=Mechanized Clearing of PFO (Example: F, NT, PE, V)	Transfer Area: T, TE, V, NV				
Latitude / Longitude (in decimal degrees)	~37.69404/-75.63212				
Wetland/waters impact area (square feet / acres)	975 sq ft /0.2 ac				
Dune/beach impact area (square feet)					
Stream dimensions at impact site (length and average width in linear feet, and area in square feet)					
Volume of fill below Mean High Water or Ordinary High Water (cubic yards)					

8. WETLANDS/WATERS IMPACT INFORMATION (Continued)

Cowardin classification of impacted wetland/water or geomorphological classification of stream <i>Example wetland: PFO;</i> <i>Example stream: 'C' channel and if tidal, whether vegetated or non-vegetated wetlands per Section 28.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia</i>					
Average stream flow at site (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions in cubic feet per second) and method of deriving it (gage, estimate, etc.)					
Contributing drainage area in acres or square miles (VMRC cannot complete review without this information)					
DEQ classification of impacted resource(s): Estuarine Class II Non-tidal waters Class III Mountainous zone waters Class IV Stockable trout waters Class V Natural trout waters Class VI Wetlands Class VII https://law.lis.virginia.gov					
For DEQ permitting purposes, also submit as part of this section a wetland and waters boundary delineation map – see (3) in the Footnotes section in the form instructions.					
For DEQ permitting purposes, also submit as part of this section a written disclosure of all wetlands, open water, or streams that are located within the proposed project or compensation areas that are also under a deed restriction, conservation easement, restrictive covenant, or other land-use protective instrument.					

9. APPLICANT, AGENT, PROPERTY OWNER, AND CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATIONS**READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING**

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The Department of the Army permit program is authorized by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. These laws require that individuals obtain permits that authorize structures and work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States, the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters prior to undertaking the activity. Information provided in the Joint Permit Application will be used in the permit review process and is a matter of public record once the application is filed. Disclosure of the requested information is voluntary, but it may not be possible to evaluate the permit application or to issue a permit if the information requested is not provided.

CERTIFICATION: I am hereby applying for permits typically issued by the DEQ, VMRC, USACE, and/or Local Wetlands Boards for the activities I have described herein. I agree to allow the duly authorized representatives of any regulatory or advisory agency to enter upon the premises of the project site at reasonable times to inspect and photograph site conditions, both in reviewing a proposal to issue a permit and after permit issuance to determine compliance with the permit.

In addition, I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

9. APPLICANT, AGENT, PROPERTY OWNER, AND CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATIONS (Continued)		
Is/Are the Applicant(s) and Owner(s) the same? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
Legal name & title of Applicant Accomack County, Attn: Michael T. Mason	Second applicant's legal name & title, if applicable	
Applicant's signature	Second applicant's signature	
Date	Date	
Property owner's legal name, if different from Applicant	Second property owner's legal name, if applicable	
Property owner's signature, if different from Applicant	Second property owner's signature	
Date	Date	
CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW AGENT(S) TO ACT ON APPLICANT'S(S)' BEHALF (IF APPLICABLE)		
I (we), <u>Michael T. Mason</u> (and) _____ , APPLICANT'S LEGAL NAME(S) – <i>complete the second blank if more than one Applicant</i> hereby certify that I (we) have authorized <u>Moffatt & Nichol</u> (and) _____ AGENT'S NAME(S) – <i>complete the second blank if more than one Agent</i> to act on my (our) behalf and take all actions necessary to the processing, issuance, and acceptance of this permit and any and all standard and special conditions attached. I (we) hereby certify that the information submitted in this application is true and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge.		
Applicant's signature	Second applicant's signature, if applicable	
Date	Date	
Agent's signature and title	Second agent's signature and title, if applicable	
Date	Date	
CONTRACTOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
I (we), _____ (and) _____ , APPLICANT'S LEGAL NAME(S) – <i>complete the second blank if more than one Applicant</i> have contracted _____ (and) _____ CONTRACTOR'S NAME(S) – <i>complete the second blank if more than one Contractor</i> to perform the work described in this Joint Permit Application, signed and dated _____. I (we) will read and abide by all conditions as set forth in all federal, state, and local permits as required for this project. I (we) understand that failure to follow the conditions of the permits may constitute a violation of applicable federal, state, and local statutes and that we will be liable for any civil and/or criminal penalties imposed by these statutes. In addition, I (we) agree to make available a copy of any permit to any regulatory representative visiting the project site to ensure permit compliance. If I (we) fail to provide the applicable permit upon request, I (we) understand that the representative will have the option of stopping our operation until it has been determined that we have a properly signed and executed permit and are in full compliance with all of the terms and conditions.		
Contractor's name or name of firm (printed/typed) n/a	Contractor's or firm's mailing address	
Contractor's signature and title	Contractor's license number	Date
Applicant's signature	Second applicant's signature, if applicable	
Date	Date	



END OF GENERAL INFORMATION

The following sections are activity-specific. Fill out only the sections that apply to your particular project.

10. PRIVATE PIERS, MARGINAL WHARVES, AND UNCOVERED BOAT LIFTS

Regional Permit 17 (RP-17), authorizes the installation and/or construction of open pile piers, mooring structures/devices, fender piles, covered boathouses/boatslips, boatlifts, osprey pilings/platforms, accessory pier structures, and certain devices associated with shellfish gardening, for private use, subject to strict compliance with all conditions and limitations further set out in the RP-17 enclosure located at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/RBregional/>. In addition to the information required in this JPA, prospective permittees seeking authorization under RP-17 must complete and submit the 'Regional Permit 17 Checklist' with their JPA. A copy of the 'Regional Permit 17 Checklist' is found in Appendix B of this application package. If the prospective permittee answers "yes" (or "N/A", where applicable) to all of the questions on the 'Regional Permit 17 Checklist', the permittee is in compliance with RP-17 and will not receive any other written authorization from the Corps but may not proceed with construction until they have obtained all necessary state and local permits. **Note: If the prospective permittee answers "no" to any of the questions on the 'Regional Permit 17 Checklist' then their proposed structure(s) does not meet the terms and conditions of RP-17 and written authorization from the Corps is required before commencement of any work.**

If the prospective permittee answers "no" to any of the questions on the 'Regional Permit 17 Checklist' then their proposed structure(s) does not meet the terms and conditions of RP-17 and written authorization from the Corps is required before commencement of any work. In those circumstances, the following information must be included in the application and/or on the drawings in order for the application to be considered complete:

1. The applicant **MUST** provide written justification/need for the encroachment if the proposed structure(s) will extend greater than one-fourth of the distance across the waterway measured from either mean high water to mean high water (including all channelward wetlands) or ordinary high water to ordinary high water (including all channelward wetlands). The measurement should be based on the narrowest distance across the waterway regardless of the orientation of the proposed structure(s).
2. The applicant **MUST** provide written justification/need if the proposed structure(s) is greater than five (5) feet wide or there will be less than four (4) feet elevation between the decking and the vegetated wetlands substrate.
3. The Corps **MAY** require depth soundings across the waterway at increments designated by the Corps project manager. Inclusion of depth sounding data in the original JPA submittal is highly recommended in order to expedite permit evaluation. Depth soundings are typically taken at 10-foot increments for waterways less than 200 feet wide and 20-foot increments for waterways greater than 200 feet wide. Please include the date and time the measurements were taken, whether the data was collected at mean low water (MLW) or MHW, and how the soundings were taken (e.g., tape, range finder, etc.).

Number of vessels to be moored at the pier or wharf:

Do you have an existing pier on your property? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, will it be removed? ____ Yes ____ No

Is your lot platted to the mean low water shoreline? ____ Yes ____ No

In the spaces provided below, give the type (e.g., sail, power, skiff, etc.), size, and registration number of the vessel(s) to be moored

TYPE	LENGTH	WIDTH	DRAFT	REGISTRATION #

11. BOATHOUSES, GAZEBOS, COVERED BOAT LIFTS, AND OTHER ROOFED STRUCTURES OVER WATERWAYS

Number of vessels to be moored at the proposed structure:

Will the sides of the structure be enclosed? ____ Yes ____ No

Area covered by the roof structure _____ square feet

In the spaces provided below, give the type (e.g., sail, power, skiff, etc.), size, and registration number of the vessel(s) to be moored

TYPE	LENGTH	WIDTH	DRAFT	REGISTRATION #

12. MARINAS AND COMMERCIAL, GOVERNMENTAL, AND COMMUNITY PIERS

Have you obtained the Virginia Department of Health's approval for sanitary facilities? ____Yes ____No

You will need to obtain this authorization or a variance before a VMRC permit will be issued.

Will petroleum products or other hazardous materials be stored or handled at the facility? ____Yes ____No

If your answer is yes, please attach your spill contingency plan.

Will the facility be equipped to off-load sewage from boats? ____Yes ____No

EXISTING: wet slips: ____ dry storage: ____ PROPOSED: wet slips: ____ dry storage: ____

**13. FREE STANDING MOORING PILES, OSPREY NESTING POLES, MOORING BUOYS, AND DOLPHINS
(not associated with piers)**

Number of vessels to be moored: ____

Type and number of mooring(s) proposed: ____

In the spaces provided below, give the type (e.g., sail, power, skiff, etc.), size, and registration number of the vessel(s) to be moored

TYPE	LENGTH	WIDTH	DRAFT	REGISTRATION #

Give the name and complete mailing address(es) of the owner(s) of the vessel(s) if not owned by applicant (attach extra sheets if needed):

Do you plan to reach the mooring from your own upland property? ____Yes ____No

If "no," explain how you intend to access the mooring.

14. BOAT RAMPS

Will excavation be required to construct the boat ramp? ____Yes ____No. If "yes," will any of the excavation occur below the plane of the ordinary high water mark/mean high water line or in wetlands? ____Yes ____No. If "yes," you will need to fill out Section 17 for this excavation.

Where will you dispose of the excavated material?

What type of design and materials will be used to construct the ramp (open pile design with salt treated lumber, concrete slab on gravel bedding, etc.)?

Location of nearest public boat ramp

Driving distance to that public ramp ____miles

Will other structures be constructed concurrent with the boat ramp installation? ____Yes ____No

If "yes," please fill out the appropriate sections of this application associated with those other activities.

15. TIDAL/NONTIDAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES (INCLUDING BULKHEADS AND ASSOCIATED BACKFILL, RIPRAP REVETMENTS AND ASSOCIATED BACKFILL, MARSH TOE STABILIZATION, GROINS, JETTIES, AND BREAKWATERS, ETC.) Information on non structural, vegetative alternatives (i.e., Living Shoreline) for shoreline stabilization is available at http://ccrm.vims.edu/coastal_zone/living_shorelines/index.html.

Is any portion of the project maintenance or replacement of an existing and currently serviceable structure? ____Yes ____No
If yes, give length of existing structure: _____ linear feet

If your maintenance project entails replacement of a bulkhead, is it possible to construct the replacement bulkhead within 2 feet channelward of the existing bulkhead? ____Yes ____No If not, please explain below:

Length of proposed structure, including returns: _____ linear feet

Average channelward encroachment of the structure from Mean high water/ordinary high water mark: _____ feet

Mean low water: _____ feet

Maximum channelward encroachment of the structure from Mean high water/ordinary high water mark: _____ feet

Mean low water: _____ feet

Maximum channelward encroachment from the back edge of the Dune _____ feet

Maximum channelward encroachment from the back edge of the Beach _____ feet

Describe the type of construction including all materials to be used (including all fittings). Will filter cloth be used? ____Yes ____No

What is the source of the backfill material? _____

What is the composition of the backfill material? _____

If rock is to be used, give the average volume of material to be used for every linear foot of construction: _____ cubic yards
What is the volume of material to be placed below the plane of ordinary high water mark/mean high water? _____ cubic yards

For projects involving stone:

Average weight of core material (bottom layers): _____ pounds per stone (Class _____)

Average weight of armor material (top layers): _____ pounds per stone (Class _____)

Are there similar shoreline stabilization structures in the vicinity of your project site? ____Yes ____No
If so, describe the type(s) and location(s) of the structure(s):

If you are building a groin or jetty, will the channelward end of the structure be marked to show a hazard to navigation? ____Yes ____No

Has your project been reviewed by the Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service (SEAS)? ____Yes ____No
If yes, please attach a copy of their comments.

16. BEACH NOURISHMENT

Source of material and composition (percentage sand, silt, clay): _____

Volume of material: _____ cubic yards

Area to be covered _____ square feet channelward of mean low water _____ square feet channelward of mean high water
_____ square feet landward of mean low water _____ square feet channelward of mean high water

Mode of transportation of material to the project site (truck, pipeline, etc.):

16. BEACH NOURISHMENT (Continued)

Describe the type(s) of vegetation proposed for stabilization and the proposed planting plan, including schedule, spacing, monitoring, etc. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

17. DREDGING, MINING, AND EXCAVATING

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING TABLE FOR DREDGING PROJECTS

	NEW dredging				MAINTENANCE dredging			
	Hydraulic		Mechanical (clamshell, dragline, etc.)		Hydraulic		Mechanical (clamshell, dragline, etc.)	
	Cubic yards	Square feet	Cubic yards	Square feet	Cubic yards	Square feet	Cubic yards	Square feet
Vegetated wetlands								
Non-vegetated wetlands								
Subaqueous land	17,150	246,000						
Totals								

Is this a one-time dredging event? ☒ Yes ____ No ____ If "no", how many dredging cycles are anticipated: ____
(____ initial cycle in cu. yds.) (____ subsequent cycles in cu. yds.)

Composition of material (percentage sand, silt, clay, rock):

Provide documentation (i.e., laboratory results or analytical reports) that *dredged* material from on-site areas is free of toxics. If not free of toxics, provide documentation of proper disposal (i.e., bill of lading from commercial supplier or disposal site).

Fine grained material, Clay and sandy clay - See attached vibracore report for VC-FC- 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13

Please include a dredged material management plan that includes specifics on how the dredged material will be handled and retained to prevent its entry into surface waters or wetlands. If on-site dewatering is proposed, please include plan view and cross-sectional drawings of the dewatering area and associated outfall.

See attached DMMP.

Will the dredged material be used for any commercial purpose or beneficial use? ____ Yes ^x ____ No

If yes, please explain:

If this is a maintenance dredging project, what was the date that the dredging was last performed? ____
Permit number of original permit: ____ (It is important that you attach a copy of the original permit.)

17. DREDGING, MINING, AND EXCAVATING (Continued)

For mining projects: On separate sheets of paper, explain the operation plans, including: 1) the frequency (e.g., every six weeks), duration (i.e., April through September), and volume (in cubic yards) to be removed per operation; 2) the temporary storage and handling methods of mined material, including the dimensions of the containment berm used for upland disposal of dredged material and the need (or no need) for a liner or impermeable material to prevent the leaching of any identified contaminants into ground water; 3) how equipment will access the mine site; and 4) verification that dredging: a) will not occur in water body segments that are currently on the effective Section 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) priority list ([available at http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/TMDLProgramPriorities.aspx](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/TMDLProgramPriorities.aspx)) or that have an approved TMDL; b) will not exacerbate any impairment; and c) will be consistent with any waste load allocation/limit/conditions imposed by an approved TMDL (see, "What's in my backyard" or subsequent spatial files at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx> to determine the extent of TMDL watersheds and impairment segments).

Have you applied for a permit from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy? ____ Yes ____ No If Yes:

Existing permit number: _____ Date permit issued: _____

Contributing drainage area: _____ square miles

Average stream flow at site (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions): _____ cfs

18. FILL (not associated with backfilled shoreline structures) AND OTHER STRUCTURES (other than piers and boathouses) IN WETLANDS OR WATERS, OR ON DUNES/BEACHES

Source and composition of fill material (percentage sand, silt, clay, rock):

Provide documentation (i.e., laboratory results or analytical reports) that fill material from off-site locations is free of toxics. If not free of toxics, provide documentation of proper disposal (i.e., bill of lading from commercial supplier or disposal site). Documentation is not necessary for fill material obtained from on-site areas.

Explain the purpose of the filling activity and the type of structure to be constructed over the filled area (if any):

Describe any structure that will be placed in wetlands/waters or on a beach dune and its purpose:

Will the structure be placed on pilings? ____ Yes ____ No

Total area occupied by any structure.
_____ Square Feet

How far will the structure be placed channelward from the back edge of the dune? _____ feet

How far will the structure be placed channelward from the back edge of the beach? _____ feet

19. NONTIDAL STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS FOR RESTORATION OR ENHANCEMENT, or TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT RELOCATIONS

If proposed activities are being conducted for the purposes of compensatory mitigation, please attach separate sheets of paper providing all information required by the most recent version of the stream assessment methodology approved by the Norfolk District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, in lieu of completing the questions below. Required information outlined by the methodology can be found at:
<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/UnifiedStreamMethodology.aspx> or
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WetlandsStreams/Mitigation.aspx>.

For all projects proposing stream restoration provide a completed Natural Channel Design Review Checklist and Selected Morphological Characteristics form. These forms and the associated manual can be located at:
<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/StreamReports/NCD%20Review%20Checklist/Natural%20Channel%20Design%20Checklist%20Doc%20V2%20Final%2011-4-11.pdf>

Has the stream restoration project been designed by a local, state, or federal agency? ____ Yes ____ No. If yes, please include the name of the agency here: _____.

Is the agency also providing funding for this project? ____ Yes ____ No

Stream dimensions at impact site (length and average width in linear feet, and area in square feet):

L: _____ (feet) AW: _____ (feet) Area: _____ (square feet)

Contributing drainage area: _____ acres or _____ square miles

19. NONTIDAL STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS FOR RESTORATION OR ENHANCMENT, or TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT RELOCATIONS (Continued)

Existing average stream flow at site (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions): _____ cfs

Proposed average stream flow at site after modifications (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions): _____ cfs

Explain, in detail, the method to be used to stabilize the banks:

Explain the composition of the existing stream bed (percent cobble, rock, sand, etc.):

Will low-flow channels be maintained in the modified stream channel? ____ Yes ____ No.
Describe how:

Will any structure(s) be placed in the stream to create riffles, pools, meanders, etc.? ____ Yes ____ No
If yes, please explain:

20. UTILITY CROSSINGS

Type of crossing: ____ overhead ____ trenched ____ directionally-drilled

Method of clearing corridor of vegetation (check all that apply): ☐ mechanized land clearing that disturbs the soil surface
☐ cutting vegetation above the soil surface

Describe the materials to be used in the installation of the utility line (including gravel bedding for trenched installations, bentonite slurries used during direction-drilling, etc.) and a sequence of events to detail how the installation will be accomplished (including methods used for in-stream and dry crossings).

Will the proposed utility provide empty conduits for any additional utilities that may propose to co-locate at a later date? ____ Yes ____ No.

For overhead crossings over navigable waterways (including all tidal waterways), please indicate the height of other overhead crossings or bridges over the waterway relative to mean high water, mean low water, or ordinary high water mark:

Nominal system voltage, if project involves power lines: _____

Total number of electrical circuits: _____

20. UTILITY CROSSINGS (Continued)

Will there be an excess of excavated material? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, describe the method that will be undertaken to dispose of, and transport, the material to its permanent disposal location and give that location:

Will any excess material be stockpiled in wetlands? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, will the stockpiled material be placed on filter fabric or some other type of impervious surface? ____ Yes ____ No

Will permanent access roads be placed through wetlands/streams? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, will the roads be (check one) ☐ at grade ☐ above grade?

Will the utility line through wetlands/waters be continually maintained (e.g. via mowing or herbicide)? ____ Yes ____ No

If maintained, what is the maximum width? _____ feet

21. ROAD CROSSINGS

Have you conducted hydraulic studies to verify the adequacy of the culverts? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, please attach a copy of the hydraulic study/report.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards require that the backwater for a 100 year storm not exceed 1 foot for all road, culvert, and bridge projects within FEMA-designated floodplains. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requires pipes and culverts 24 inches or less in diameter to be countersunk three inches below the natural stream bed elevations, and pipes and culverts greater than 24 inches to be countersunk at least six inches below the natural stream bed elevations. Hydraulic capacity is determined based on the reduced capacity due to the countersunk position.

Will the culverts be countersunk below the stream bottom? ____ Yes ____ No. If no, explain:

If the project entails a bridged crossing and there are similar crossings in the area, what is the vertical distance above mean high water, mean low water, or ordinary high water mark of those similar structures? _____ feet above _____
For all bridges proposed over navigable waterways (including all tidal water bodies), you will be required to contact the U.S. Coast Guard to determine if a permit is required of their agency.

On separate sheets of paper, describe the materials to be used, the method of construction (including the use of cofferdams), the sequence of construction events, and if bedrock conditions may be encountered. Include cross-sections and profile plans of the culvert crossings including wing walls or rip rap.

22. IMPOUNDMENTS, DAMS, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

If the impoundment or dam is a component of a water withdrawal project, also complete Sections 24 through 26.

Will the proposed impoundment, dam, or stormwater management facility be used for agricultural purposes (e.g., in the operation of a farm)? For DEQ permitting purposes, a farm is considered to be a property or operation that produces goods for market.
____ Yes ____ No

What type of materials will be used in the construction (earth, concrete, rock, etc.)? _____

What is the source of these materials? _____

Provide the dimensions of proposed impoundment, dam, or stormwater management facility, including the height and width of all structures.

Storage capacity* of impoundment: _____ acre-feet

*should be given for the normal pool of recreational or farm ponds, or design pool for stormwater management ponds or reservoirs (the elevation the pond will be at for the design storm, e.g., 10-year, 24-hour storm)

Surface area** of impoundment: _____ acres

**should be given for the normal pool of recreational or farm ponds, or design pool for stormwater management ponds or reservoirs (the elevation the pond will be at for the design storm, e.g., 10-year, 24-hour storm)

22. IMPOUNDMENTS, DAMS, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES (Continued)

Is the proposed project excluded from the Virginia Dam Safety Regulations? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Uncertain

If not excluded, does your proposed project comply with the Virginia Dam Safety Regulations? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Uncertain

Does the proposed design include a vegetation management area per §10.1-609.2? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Uncertain

If your answer to these questions is no or uncertain, you should contact the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Dam Safety Program at (804) 371-6095, or reference the regulations on the Web at

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam_safety_and_floodplains/index.shtml

For stormwater management and flood control facilities:

Design storm event: _____ year storm Retention time: _____ hours

Current average flow (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions): _____ cfs

Method used to derive average flow: _____

Proposed peak outflow for the design storm provided above: _____ cfs

Has the facility been designed as an Enhanced Extended Detention Basin or an Extended Detention Basin in accordance with the Minimum Standard 3.07 of the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Volume I (published by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 1999), or in accordance with the latest version of this handbook? ___ Yes ___ No

Will the impoundment structure be designed to pass a minimum flow at all times? ___ Yes ___ No

If so, please give the minimum rate of flow: _____ cfs

What is the drainage area upstream of the proposed impoundment? _____ square miles

How much of your proposed impoundment structure will be located on the stream bed? _____ square feet

What is the area of vegetated wetlands that will be excavated and/or back-flooded by the impoundment? _____ square feet

What is the *area and length* of streambed that will be excavated and/or back-flooded by the impoundment? _____ square feet
_____ linear feet

Are fish ladders being proposed to accommodate the passage of fish? ___ Yes ___ No

23. OUTFALLS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED WATER WITHDRAWAL ACTIVITIES

Type and size of pipe(s): _____

Daily rate of discharge: _____ mgd

If the discharge will be thermally-altered, provide the maximum temperature: _____

Contributing drainage area: _____ square miles Average daily stream flow at site: _____ cfs

Have you received a Virginia Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit for the proposed project? ___ Yes ___ No.

If yes, please provide the VPDES permit number: _____.

If no, is there a permit action pending? ___ Yes ___ No. If pending, what is the facility name? _____.

The following sections are typically related to surface water withdrawal activities; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license projects; or impacts likely to require instream flow limits. Examples of such projects include, but are not limited to, reservoirs, irrigation projects, power generation facilities, and public water supply facilities that may or may not have associated features, such as dams, intake pipes, outfall structures, berms, etc.

If completing these sections, enter "N/A" in any section that does not apply to the project.

24. INTAKES, OUTFALLS, AND WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES (INCLUDING ALL PROPOSED WATER WITHDRAWAL ACTIVITIES)			
For intakes: Type and size of pipe(s): _____ Type and size of pump(s): _____ Average and Maximum daily rate of withdrawal: _____ and _____ mgd Velocity of withdrawal: _____ fps Screen mesh size: _____ inches / _____ mm If other sizing units, please specify: _____ Contributing drainage area at withdrawal point(s): _____ square miles Average daily stream flow at withdrawal point(s) (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions): _____ cfs Method(s) used to derive average daily stream flow _____ Average annual stream flow at withdrawal point(s): _____ cfs Latitude and longitude of withdrawal point(s) (degrees, minutes, seconds): _____	For outfalls: Type, size, and hydraulic capacity (under normal conditions) of pipe(s): _____, _____, and _____ Daily rate of discharge: _____ mgd If the discharge will be thermally-altered, provide the maximum temperature: _____ Contributing drainage area at discharge point(s): _____ square miles Average daily stream flow at discharge point(s) (flow rate under normal rainfall conditions): _____ cfs Method(s) used to derive average daily stream flow _____ Latitude and longitude of discharge point(s) (degrees, minutes, seconds): _____		
For intakes and dams, use the table below to provide the <u>median</u> monthly stream flows in cubic feet per second (cfs) at the water intake or dam site (not at the stream gage; if there is not a gage at the intake or dam site, you will need to interpolate flows to the intake or dam site based upon the most closely related watershed in which there is an operational stream gage monitored by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS)). Median flow is the value at which half of the measurements are above and half of the measurements are below. Median is also sometimes referred to as the '50% exceedence flow'. The median flow generally must be calculated from USGS historical data. Please do not provide <i>mean (average)</i> flow.			
Month	Median flow (cfs)	Month	Median flow (cfs)
January		July	
February		August	
March		September	
April		October	
May		November	
June		December	

24. INTAKES, OUTFALLS, AND WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES (Continued)

Describe the stream flow gages used, USGS stream flow gage site number and site name (e.g., USGS 01671100 Little River near Doswell, VA), the type of calculations used (such as drainage area correction factors), and the period of record that was used to calculate the median flows provided in the table above. Generally, the period of record should span a minimum of 30 years.

For interbasin transfer of water resources proposed from either the Chowan River, New River, Potomac River, Roanoke River, Big Sandy River, or Tennessee River basins to another river basin, provide the following information:

Destination location (discharge point) of the transfer:

8-digit USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) (See <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>): _____ If known, indicate the 10-digit and 12-digit USGS HUCs (see <http://consapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/maps/HUExplorer.htm>): _____

Latitude and Longitude: _____ - _____ - _____ / _____ - _____ - _____

Provide any available historical low-flows at the intake or dam site.

Describe how the proposed withdrawal at the intake or dam site will impact stream flows in terms of rates, volumes, frequency, etc. (e.g., percent of the flow to be withdrawn, percent of withdrawal returned to the original source, etc.).

Describe how the withdrawal of water will vary over time. For example, will the withdrawal vary by the time of year, by the time of day, or by the time of week? Examples of projects that should describe variable withdrawals include, but are not limited to: power plant cooling withdrawals that increase and decrease seasonally; golf course irrigation; municipal water supply; nurseries; ski resorts that use water for snowmaking; and resorts with weekend or seasonal variations.

24. INTAKES, OUTFALLS, AND WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES (Continued)

Provide the amount of water that will be lost due to consumptive use. For the purpose of this application, consumptive use means the withdrawal of surface waters without recycling of said waters to their source or basin of origin. Examples of consumptive uses are water that is evaporated in cooling towers or by other means in power plants; irrigation water (all types); residential water use that takes place outside of the home; and residential water use both inside and outside of homes for residences served by septic systems. Projects that propose a transfer of water from one river basin to another and/or localities that sell water to other jurisdictions, should document the portion of the withdrawal that is not returned to the originating watershed.

Proposed monthly consumptive volume (million gallons): _____

Attach a map showing the *location* of the withdrawal and of the return of flow, and provide the *amount* of the return flow (million gallons).

For withdrawals proposed on an impoundment, provide a description of flow or release control structures. Include type of structure, rate of flow, size, capacity, invert elevation of outfall pipes referenced to the normal pool elevation, and the mechanism used to control release. Provide a description of available water storage facilities. Include the volume, depth, normal pool elevation, unusable storage volume and dimensions. If applicable, stage-storage relationship at the impounding structure (the volume of water in the impoundment at varying stages of water depth) and volume or rate of withdrawals from the storage facility.

25. WATER WITHDRAWAL USE(S), NEED, AND ALTERNATIVES (Attach additional sheets if needed.)

Describe the proposed use(s) and need for the surface water and information on how demand for surface water was determined. *Golf courses* must provide documentation to justify the amount of water withdrawal, such as the amount of acreage under irrigation, the acreage of fairways versus greens, type of turf grass, evapotranspiration, and irrigation efficiency. *Agricultural* users must supply documentation justifying their requested withdrawal amount, such as type of crop, livestock, or other agriculture animal, number of animals, watering needs, acres irrigated, inches of water applied, and frequency of application. *Other users* of withdrawals for purposes other than those described above must provide sufficient documentation to justify the requested withdrawal amounts.

25. WATER WITHDRAWAL USE(S), NEED, AND ALTERNATIVES (Continued)

Provide the following information at the water intake or dam site. Specify the units of measurement (e.g., million gallons per day, gallons per minute, cubic feet per second, etc.).

Proposed maximum instantaneous withdrawal _____

Proposed average daily withdrawal _____

Proposed maximum daily withdrawal _____

Proposed maximum monthly withdrawal _____

Proposed maximum annual withdrawal _____

Describe how the above withdrawals were calculated, including the relevant assumptions made in that calculation and the documentation or resources used to support the calculations, such as population projections, population growth rates, per-capita use, new uses, changes to service areas, and if applicable, evapotranspiration data and irrigation data.

For surface water withdrawals, public water supply withdrawals, and projects that will alter instream flows, provide information to establish the local water supply need. Attach additional sheets if needed.

EXISTING	PROJECTED
Existing supply sources, yields, and demands: _____ Peak day withdrawal: _____ Average daily withdrawal: _____ Safe yield: _____ Lowest daily flow of record: _____ Types of water uses (residential, public water supply, commercial, industrial, agricultural): _____ Existing water conservation measures and drought response plan, including what conditions trigger implementation: _____	Projected demands over a minimum 30-year planning period: _____ Projected demands in local or regional water supply plan (9VAC25-780 et seq.) or demand for the project service area, if that is smaller in area: _____ Statistical population (growth) trends: _____ Projected demands by type of water use: _____ Projected demands without water conservation measures: _____ Projected demands with long-term water conservation measures: _____

For surface water withdrawals other than public water supply, provide information or documentation that demonstrates alternate sources of water are available for the proposed project during times of reduced instream flow.

25. WATER WITHDRAWAL USE(S), NEED, AND ALTERNATIVES (Continued)

Provide information from the State Water Resources Plan

(<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/WaterSupplyPlanning/StateWaterResourcesPlan.aspx>) and the local or regional water supply plan that covers the area in which the proposed water withdrawal project is located (<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/WaterSupplyPlanning/SWRP%20Final/App%20A%20Water%20Supply%20Plans%20and%20Participating%20Localities.pdf>). Include information from the plan that pertains to projected demand, analysis of alternatives, and water conservation measures. Discuss any discrepancies between the water supply plan and the proposed project. For projects that propose a transfer of water resources from the Chowan River, New River, Potomac River, Roanoke River, Big Sandy River, or Tennessee River basins to another river basin, information should be provided from the water supply plans for both the source and receiving basins. Attach additional sheets if needed.

Provide an alternatives analysis for the proposed water withdrawal project, including the required range of alternatives to be analyzed; a narrative outlining the opportunities and status of regional efforts undertaken; and the criteria used to evaluate each alternative. The analysis must address all of the criteria contained in 9VAC25-360.

Describe any existing, flow-dependent beneficial uses along the affected stream reach. Include both instream and offstream uses. Describe the stream flow necessary to protect existing beneficial uses, how the proposed withdrawal will impact existing beneficial uses, and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impacts that may arise. For projects that propose a transfer of water resources from the Chowan River, New River, Potomac River, Roanoke River, Big Sandy River, or Tennessee River basins to another river basin, this analysis should include both the source and receiving basins. For the purposes of this application, beneficial instream uses include, but are not limited to, the protection of fish and wildlife habitat; maintenance of waste assimilation; recreation; navigation; and cultural and aesthetic values. Offstream beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, domestic uses (including public water supply); agricultural uses; electric power generation; commercial uses; and industrial uses.

Describe the aquatic life known to be present along the affected stream reach. Describe aquatic life that may be impacted by the proposed water withdrawal. Include the species' habitat requirements. For projects that propose a transfer of water resources from either the Chowan River, New River, Potomac River, Roanoke River, Big Sandy River, or Tennessee River basins to another river basin, this analysis should include both the source and receiving basins.

26. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ISSUES FOR MAJOR WATER WITHDRAWALS OR INTERBASIN TRANSFERS

For new or expanded surface water supply projects, use separate sheets of paper to summarize the steps taken to seek public input per 9VAC25-210-320, and identify the issues raised during the public information process.

For transfer of water resources proposed from either the Chowan River, New River, Potomac River, Roanoke River, Big Sandy River, or Tennessee River basins to another river basin, if public input was not required per 9VAC25-210-320, summarize on separate sheets of paper any coordination and/or notice provided to the public, local/state government, and interested parties in the affected river basins and identify any issues raised.

APPENDIX A

Adjacent Property Owner's Acknowledgement Form

I, _____, own land next to/ across the water from/ in the same cove
(print adjacent property owner's name)

as the land of _____.
(print applicant's name)

I have reviewed the applicant's project drawings dated _____ to be submitted for all
(date of drawings)

necessary federal, state, and local permits.

_____ I have no comment regarding the proposal

_____ I do not object to the proposal

_____ I object to the proposal

The applicant has agreed to contact me for additional comments if the proposal changes prior to construction of the project.

(Before signing this form, please be sure that you have checked the appropriate option above)

Adjacent property owner's signature

Date

NOTE: IF YOU OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL, THE REASON(S) YOU OPPOSE THE PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO VMRC IN WRITING. AN OBJECTION WILL NOT NECESSARILY RESULT IN A DENIAL OF A PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED WORK. HOWEVER, VALID COMPLAINTS WILL BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION DURING THE PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS.

APPENDIX A

Adjacent Property Owner's Acknowledgement Form

I, _____, own land next to/ across the water from/ in the same cove
(print adjacent property owner's name)

as the land of _____.
(print applicant's name)

I have reviewed the applicant's project drawings dated _____ to be submitted for all
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necessary federal, state, and local permits.

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Adjacent property owner's signature

Date

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Dredged Material Management Plan

Folly Creek Maintenance Dredging

Folly Creek, located on the seaside of the Eastern Shore in the County of Accomack, requires maintenance dredging to restore navigability.

This Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) summarizes the existing conditions, materials to be dredged, volumes to be dredged, dredging methods and placement of the dredged material. The permit requests dredging an approximate 5,000 linear feet of Folly Creek from Folly Creek boat ramp to the east. The dredged material is proposed to be placed within an upland placement area to be selected by the contractor.

Existing Conditions. Condition surveys, as shown on the permit drawings, show shoaling along this channel and the need for dredging of this shallow draft navigation channel.

Material to be Dredged. Vibracores and soil gradation testing have been completed and are attached for reference. The vibracores, within the vicinity of the proposed dredging reach, consist of predominately fine-grained material classified as clay (CH) and sandy clay (CL), with fines ranging from 70% to 96%.

Channel Dimensions and Volumes. The selected channel bottom width is 60 feet with assumed side slopes of 3:1 (Horizontal:Vertical). The alignment of the dredging extents in plan view can be found in the drawings. A dredge depth of -6 feet MLLW was selected based on other adjacent shallow draft navigation projects. With a 1-foot allowable paid overdepth, and 1-foot of non-pay overdepth shown. Providing for the requested maximum dredging template is to -8 feet MLLW. The estimated volume to be dredged within the paid template (to -7 feet MLLW) is 9,100 Cubic Yards, and 17,200 Cubic Yards if dredged to maximum allowable of -8 feet MLLW.

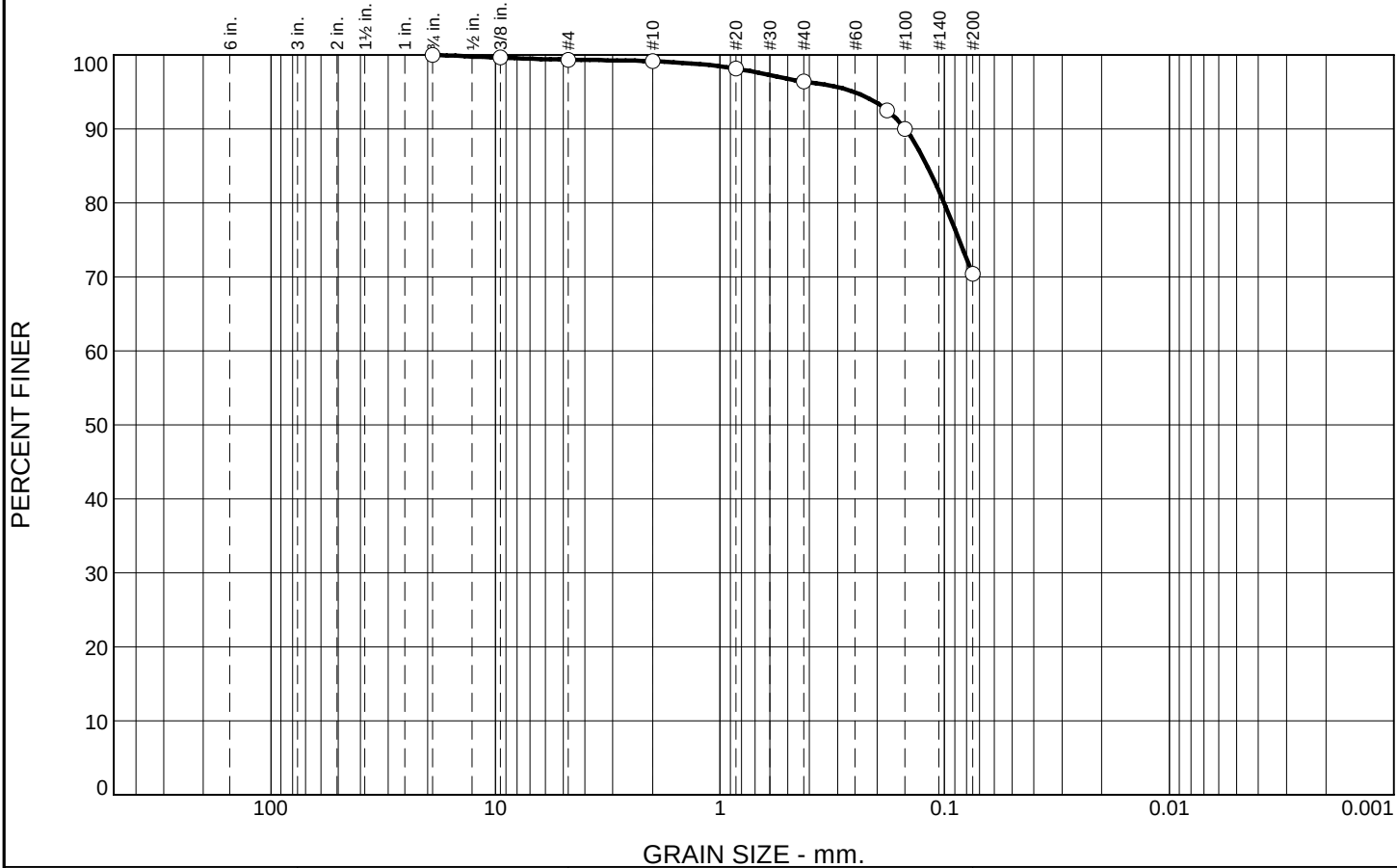
Equipment. Dredging is expected to be completed by mechanical dredging. As shown on the permit, the expected transfer site, to move material from barge/scow to truck, is the Folly Creek boat ramp, owned by the County of Accomack County. Mats will be used for access; the wetlands will be replanted as necessary to restore the existing vegetation.

Mechanical Dredging

- Deck (or flat-top) barges (for excavator) and hopper barges (for transporting dredged material to offload areas)
- Long-reach (estimated up to 60-foot) excavator on barge.
- Powered boat/tug for pushing barges.

Placement Area. Dredge material would be trucked to the permittable contractor selected upland placement area and unloaded within the designated area.

Particle Size Distribution Report



% +3"	% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines	
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay
0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	2.7	26.0	70.4	

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT FINER	SPEC.* PERCENT	PASS? (X=NO)
.75	100.0		
.375	99.6		
#4	99.3		
#10	99.1		
#20	98.1		
#40	96.4		
#80	92.5		
#100	90.0		
#200	70.4		

* (no specification provided)

<u>Soil Description</u>		
Gray, Sandy Lean CLAY		
<u>Atterberg Limits</u>		
PL= 18	LL= 43	PI= 25
<u>Coefficients</u>		
D ₉₀ = 0.1500	D ₈₅ = 0.1196	D ₆₀ =
D ₅₀ =	D ₃₀ =	D ₁₅ =
D ₁₀ =	C _u =	C _c =
<u>Classification</u>		
USCS= CL	AASHTO= A-7-6(16)	
<u>Remarks</u>		
Natural Moisture = 56.0%		

Location: VC-FC-08
Sample Number: VC-FC-08

Date:

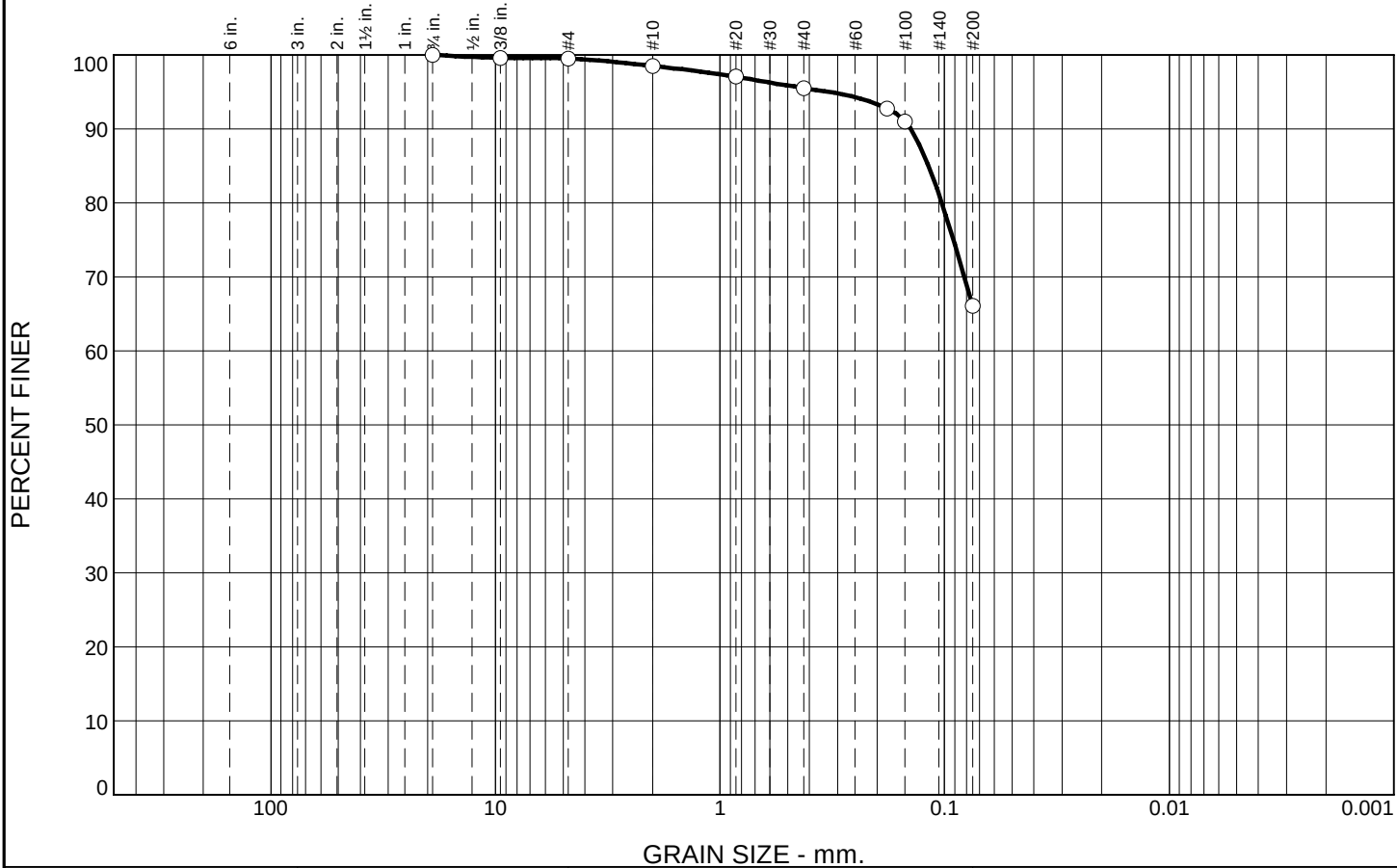
Terracon

Client: Moffat & Nichol
Project: Folly Creek Dredge

Project No: K3217106

Figure 33A

Particle Size Distribution Report



% +3"	% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines	
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay
0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	3.0	29.4	66.1	

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT FINER	SPEC.* PERCENT	PASS? (X=NO)
.75	100.0		
.375	99.6		
#4	99.5		
#10	98.5		
#20	97.0		
#40	95.5		
#80	92.7		
#100	91.0		
#200	66.1		

* (no specification provided)

Soil Description Gray, Sandy Fat CLAY		
Atterberg Limits PL= 34 LL= 84 PI= 50		
Coefficients D ₉₀ = 0.1419 D ₈₅ = 0.1179 D ₆₀ = D ₅₀ = D ₃₀ = D ₁₅ = D ₁₀ = C _u = C _c =		
Classification USCS= CH AASHTO= A-7-5(33)		
Remarks Natural Moisture = 71.2%		

Location: VC-FC-09
Sample Number: VC-FC-09

Date:

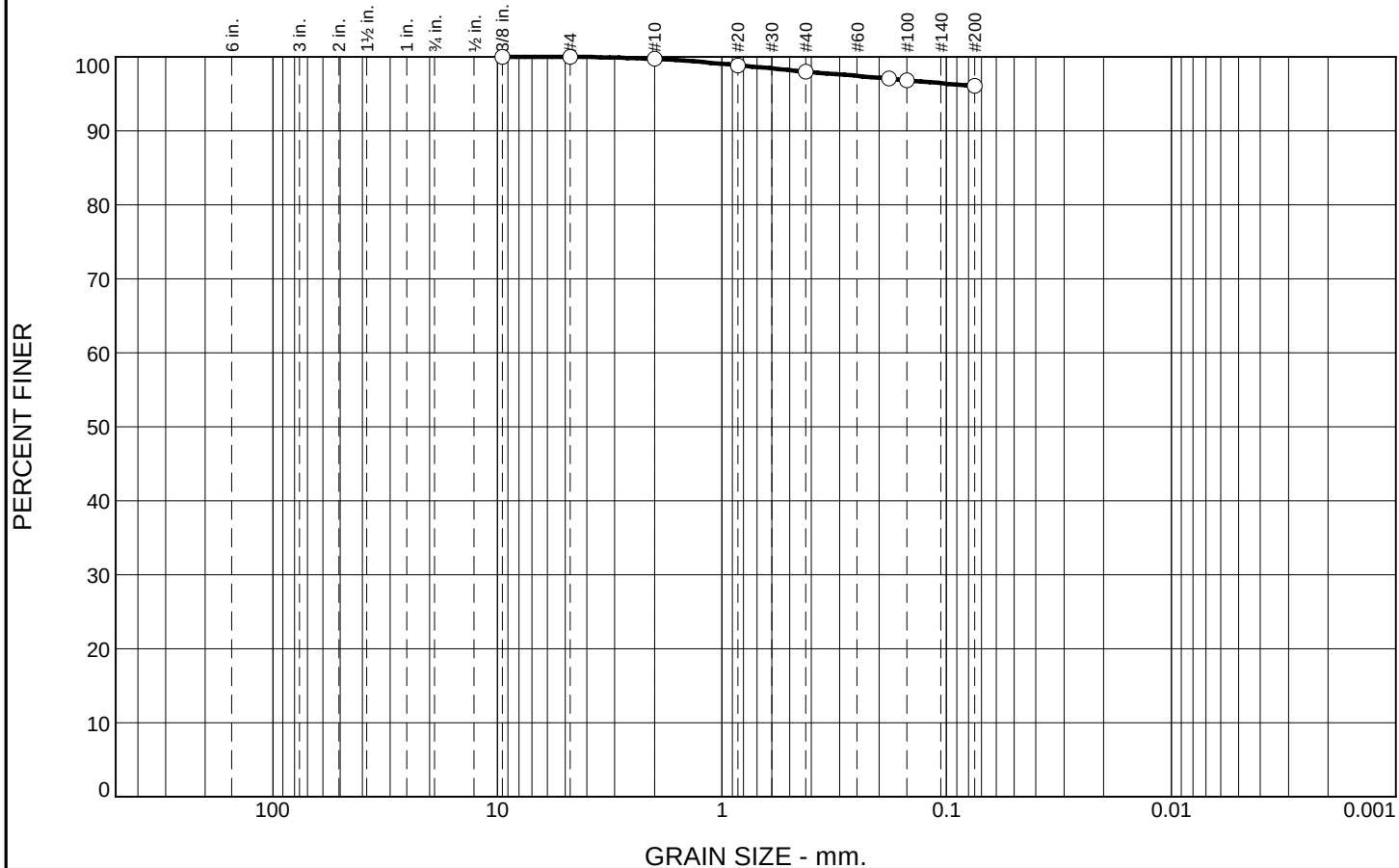
Terracon

Client: Moffat & Nichol
Project: Folly Creek Dredge

Project No: K3217106

Figure 34A

Particle Size Distribution Report



% +3"	% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines	
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.7	2.0	96.0	

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT FINER	SPEC.* PERCENT	PASS? (X=NO)
.375	100.0		
#4	100.0		
#10	99.7		
#20	98.8		
#40	98.0		
#80	97.0		
#100	96.8		
#200	96.0		

* (no specification provided)

<u>Soil Description</u>		
Gray, Fat CLAY		
<u>Atterberg Limits</u>		
PL= 29	LL= 68	PI= 39
<u>Coefficients</u>		
D ₉₀ =	D ₈₅ =	D ₆₀ =
D ₅₀ =	D ₃₀ =	D ₁₅ =
D ₁₀ =	C _u =	C _c =
<u>Classification</u>		
USCS= CH	AASHTO= A-7-6(44)	
<u>Remarks</u>		
Natural Moisture = 63.1%		

Location: VC-FC-10
Sample Number: VC-FC-10

Date:

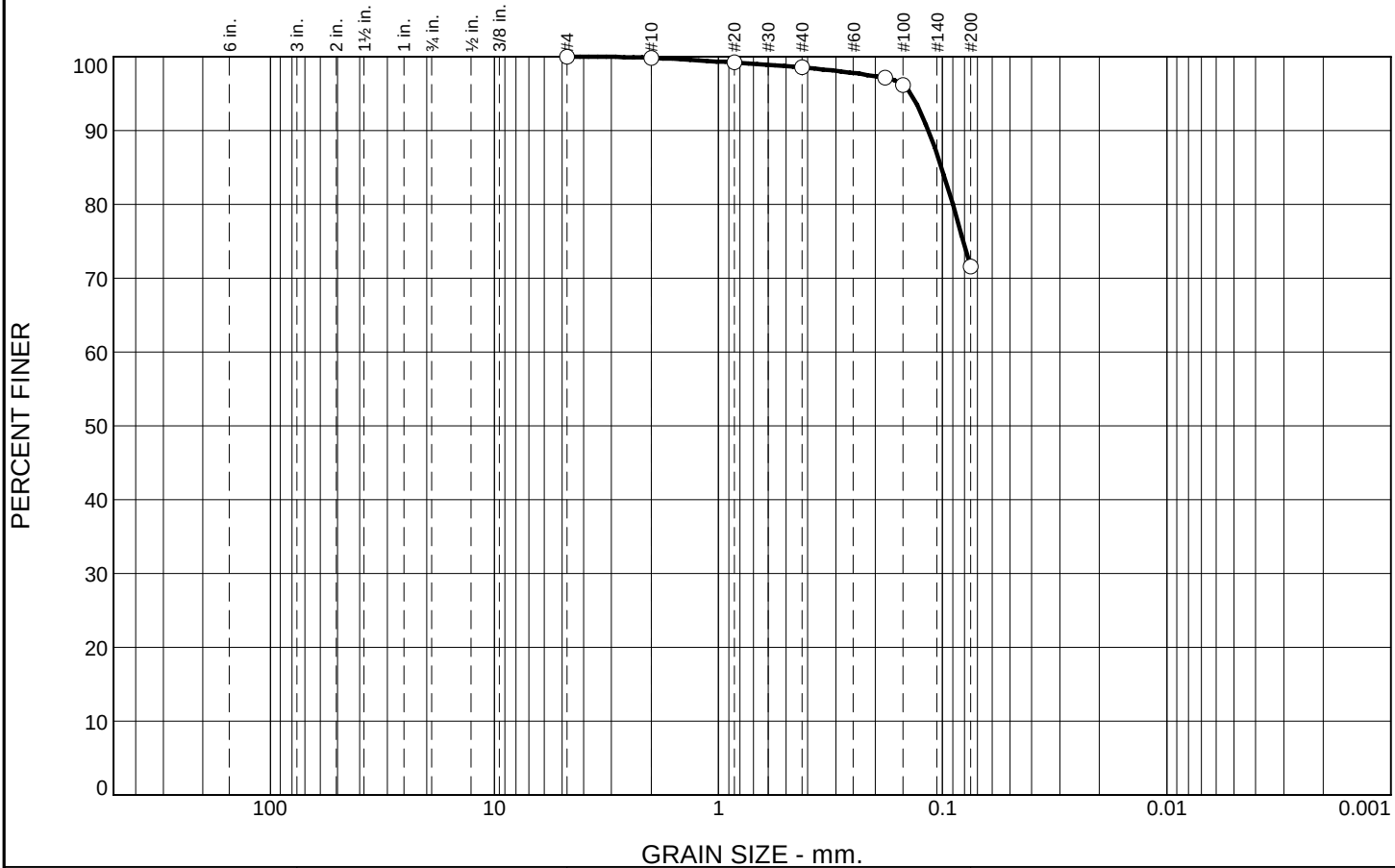
Terracon

Client: Moffat & Nichol
Project: Folly Creek Dredge

Project No: K3217106

Figure 35A

Particle Size Distribution Report



% +3"	% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines	
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.3	27.0	71.5	

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT FINER	SPEC.* PERCENT	PASS? (X=NO)
#4	100.0		
#10	99.8		
#20	99.2		
#40	98.5		
#80	97.1		
#100	96.1		
#200	71.5		

* (no specification provided)

Soil Description Gray, Fat CLAY with Sand		
Atterberg Limits PL= 26 LL= 61 PI= 35		
Coefficients D ₉₀ = 0.1156 D ₈₅ = 0.1011 D ₆₀ = D ₅₀ = D ₃₀ = D ₁₅ = D ₁₀ = C _u = C _c =		
Classification USCS= CH AASHTO= A-7-6(26)		
Remarks Natural Moisture = 60.2%		

Location: VC-FC-11
Sample Number: VC-FC-11

Date:

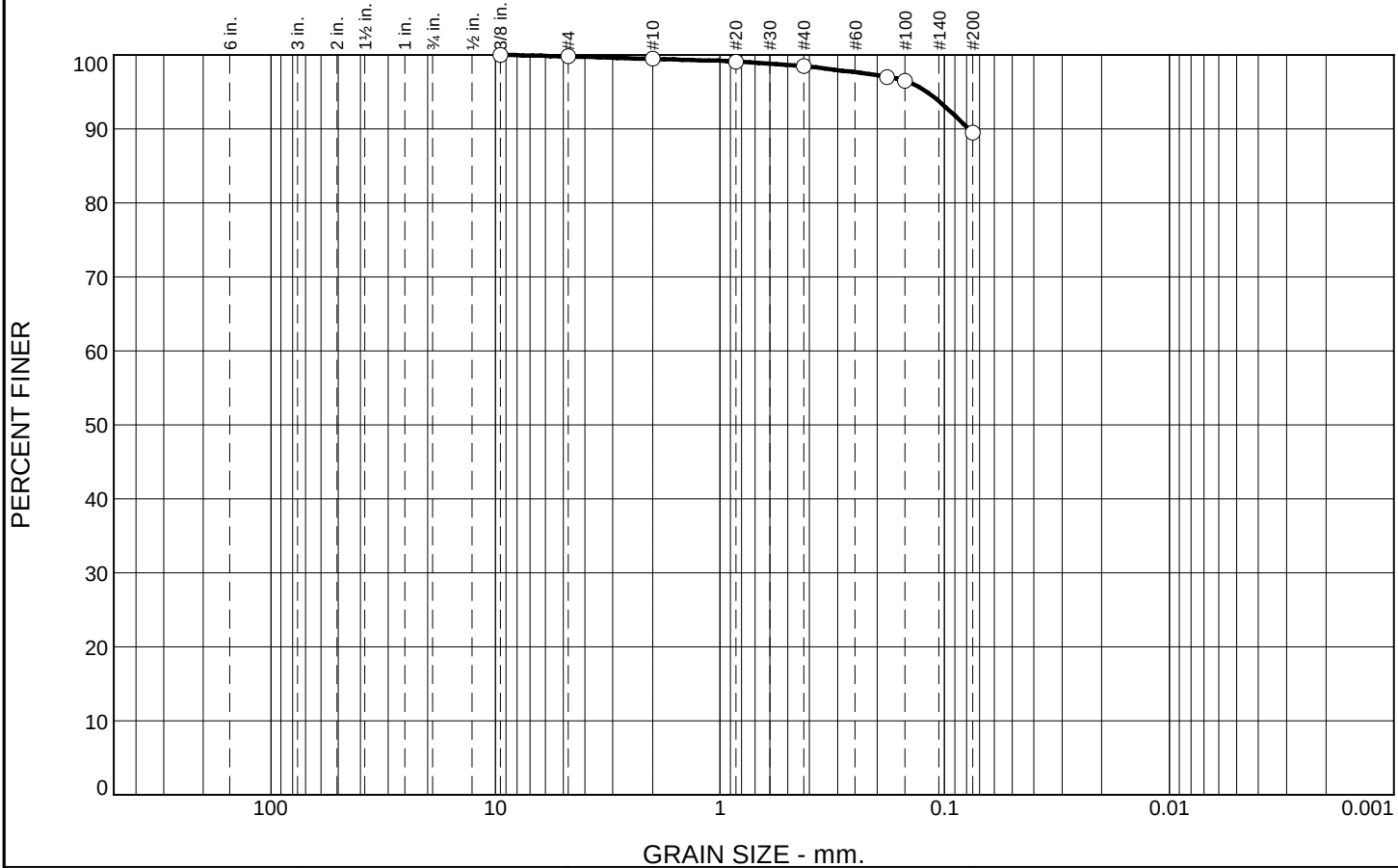
Terracon

Client: Moffat & Nichol
Project: Folly Creek Dredge

Project No: K3217106

Figure 36A

Particle Size Distribution Report



% +3"	% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines	
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay
0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.0	8.9	89.5	

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT FINER	SPEC.* PERCENT	PASS? (X=NO)
.375	100.0		
#4	99.8		
#10	99.4		
#20	99.1		
#40	98.4		
#80	97.0		
#100	96.5		
#200	89.5		

* (no specification provided)

<u>Soil Description</u>		
Gray, Fat CLAY		
<u>Atterberg Limits</u>		
PL= 33	LL= 82	PI= 49
<u>Coefficients</u>		
D ₉₀ = 0.0782	D ₈₅ =	D ₆₀ =
D ₅₀ =	D ₃₀ =	D ₁₅ =
D ₁₀ =	C _u =	C _c =
<u>Classification</u>		
USCS= CH	AASHTO= A-7-5(52)	
<u>Remarks</u>		
Natural Moisture = 76.2%		

Location: VC-FC-13
Sample Number: VC-FC-13

Date:

Terracon

Client: Moffat & Nichol
Project: Folly Creek Dredge

Project No: K3217106

Figure 38A

D

C

A

[illegible]

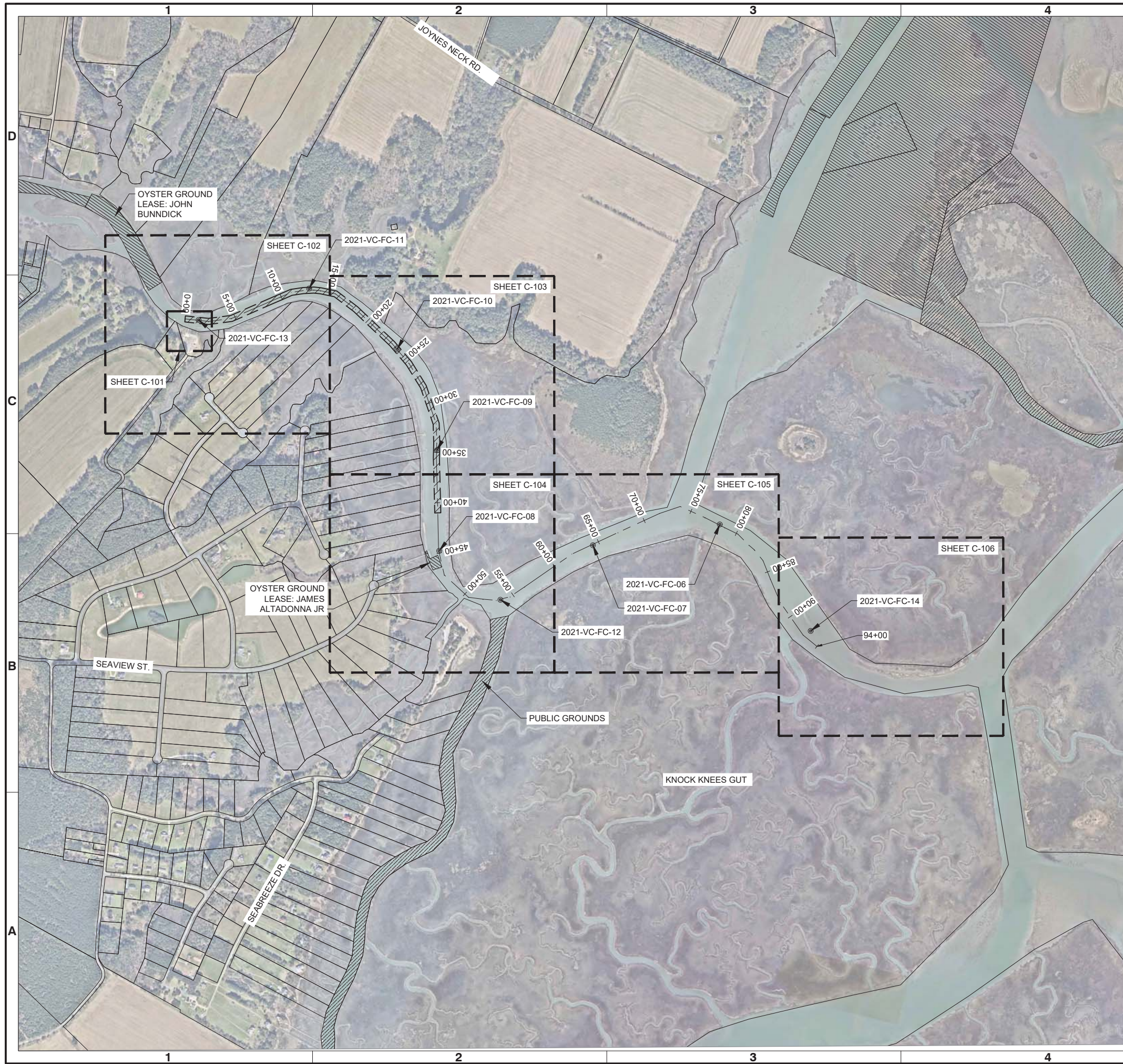
FOLLY CREEK WATERWAY MAINTENANCE/ CHANNEL DREDGING THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA	TITLE SHEET, LOCATION MAP AND INDEX OF SHEETS
--	--

Designed by: GS	Date: DEC.09, 2024		Rev. -
	Dwn by: ILC	Old by: IB	
Reviewed by: IB		Drawing code:	
Submitted by:		Drawing Scale:	
MOFFATT & NICHOL		Plot scale: 1:1 (0 SHEET)	

SEAL

Sheet
Reference No.
G-001
INDEX: 1 OF 9

DRAWING SCALES SHOWN BASED ON 22"x34" DRAWING



LEGEND

———— PROPERTY LINES

— — — CENTERLINE



DREDGE AREA



AQUACULTURE LEASE AREA (PRIVATE)



AQUACULTURE LEASE AREA (PUBLIC)

2021-VC-FC-## © VIBRACORE LOCATION,
SEE APPENDIX FOR DETAILS

VIBRACORE POINT TABLE		
VC	Easting (ft)	Northing (ft)
2021-VC-FC-01	12325037.78	3788806.16
2021-VC-FC-02	12324201.41	3788455.65
2021-VC-FC-03	12323616.12	3787904.23
2021-VC-FC-04	12322926.21	3787365.63
2021-VC-FC-05	12321318.86	3786536.99
2021-VC-FC-06	12317826.30	3786943.99
2021-VC-FC-07	12316569.40	3786737.92
2021-VC-FC-08	12315046.59	3786682.51
2021-VC-FC-09	12315025.70	3787679.69
2021-VC-FC-10	12314631.20	3788679.55
2021-VC-FC-11	12313758.08	3789281.13
2021-VC-FC-12	12315652.90	3786197.90
2021-VC-FC-13	12312663.14	3788969.47
2021-VC-FC-14	12318726.49	3785889.00

[illegible]

FOLLY CREEK
WATERWAY MAINTENANCE/
CHANNEL DREDGING
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA

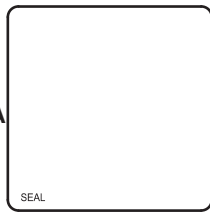
OVERALL LOCATION MAP

Designed by: GS	Date: DEC 09, 2024		Rev. -
	Dwn by: ILC	Plk'd by: IB	
M&N Project No. 201429-05		Drawing code:	
Reviewed by: IB		Drawing Scale:	
Submitted by: MOFFATT & NICHOL		Plot scale: 1:1 (D SHEET)	



moffatt & nichol
101 W. MAIN STREET #3000
NORFOLK, VA 23510
757-628-8222

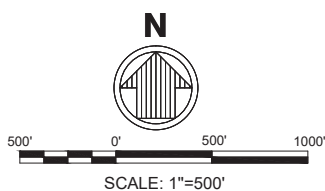
PREPARED FOR:
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA



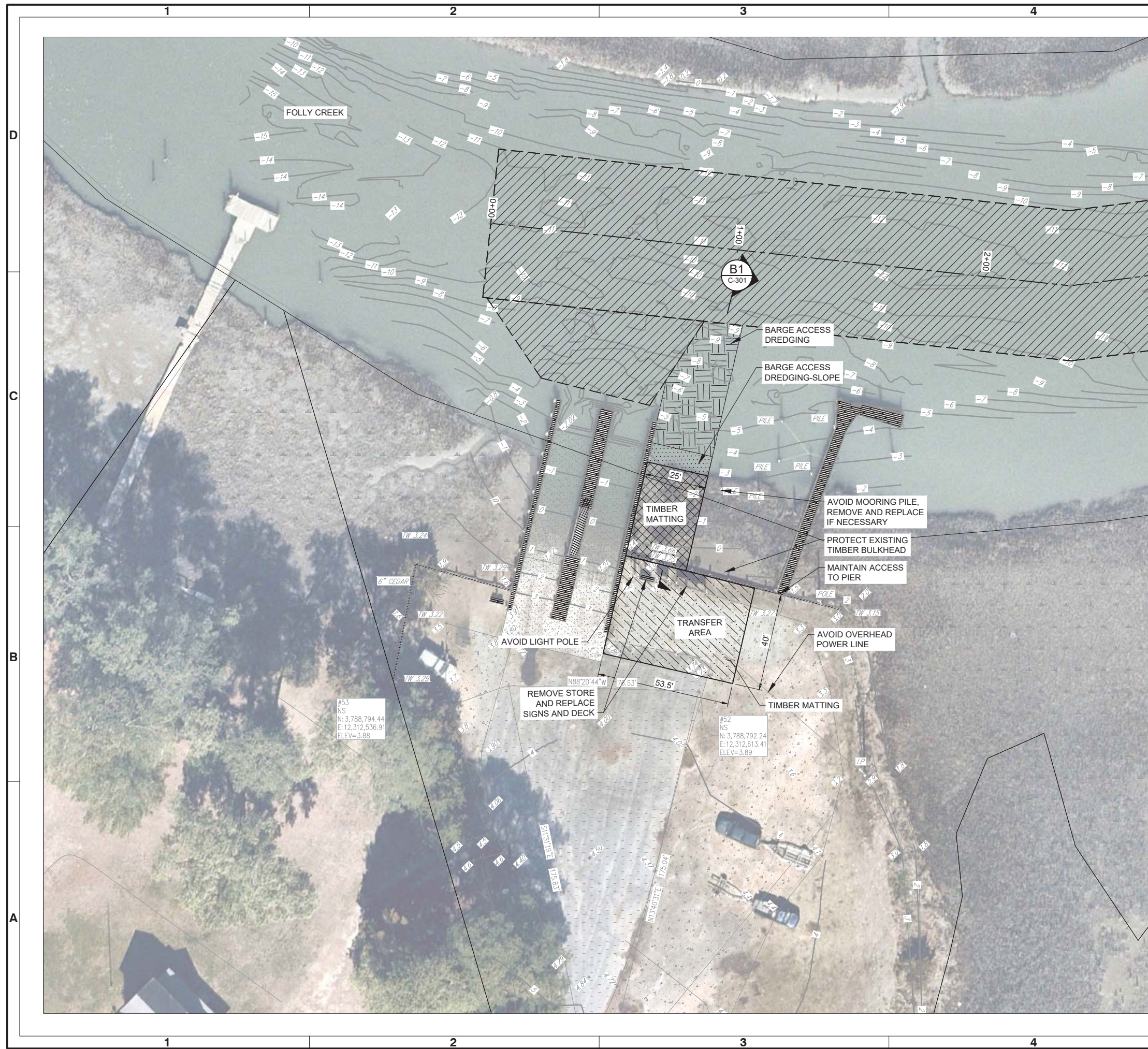
Sheet
Reference No.

C-100

INDEX: 2 OF 9



FOR PERMITS
ISSUED: 2024-12-09
NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION



LEGEND

———— PROPERTY LINES

— — — CENTERLINE



DREDGE AREA,



TIMBER MATTING



TRANSFER AREA

WORKING POINT TABLE

(SEE DREDGING PLAN SHEETS
FOR LOCATIONS)

WP	Easting (ft)	Northing (ft)
WP-01	12312529.69	3788980.51
WP-02	12312762.85	3788955.39
WP-03	12312989.12	3788984.91
WP-04	12313385.91	3789158.75
WP-05	12313581.83	3789243.48
WP-06	12313700.19	3789261.11
WP-07	12313805.39	3789266.03
WP-08	12313870.83	3789259.43
WP-09	12314020.08	3789228.39
WP-10	12314219.24	3789077.44
WP-11	12314580.55	3788735.69
WP-12	12314747.67	3788539.16
WP-13	12314890.70	3788308.16
WP-14	12315016.95	3787942.40
WP-15	12315020.24	3787786.30
WP-16	12315022.88	3787753.11
WP-17	12315019.10	3787606.12
WP-18	12315033.05	3787059.12

SITE RESTORATION NOTES:

1. TIMBER MATTING AREA. UPON COMPLETION OF THE DREDGING, AND REMOVAL OF THE TIMBER MATTING, THE IMPACTED AREA SHALL BE RE-GRADED, WITH CLEAN SAND ADDED AS NECESSARY TO RESTORE TO PRE-CONSTRUCTION ELEVATIONS/GRADES. ONCE GRADED THE DISTURBED AREA SHALL BE PLANTED WITH SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA AT 1.5' ON CENTER SPACING. PLUGS SHALL BE 2" WITH A MIN STEM HEIGHT OF 10".



A horizontal graphic scale bar with alternating black and white segments. It is marked with '20'', '0'', '20'', and '40'' from left to right.

SCALE: 1"=20'

FOR PERMITS

ISSUED: 2024-12-09
NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION

NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

**FOLLY CREEK
WATERWAY MAINTENANCE/
CHANNEL DREDGING
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA**

**FOLLY CREEK
BOAT RAMP
TRANSFER AREA**

Designed by: GS	Date: DEC. 09, 2024		Rev. —	
	Drawn by: ILC	Chk'd by: IB		M&N Project No. 201429-05
	Reviewed by: IB			
Submitted by:			Drawing Scale:	

moffett & nichol
 101 W. MAIN STREET #3000
 NORFOLK, VA 23510
 757-628-8222

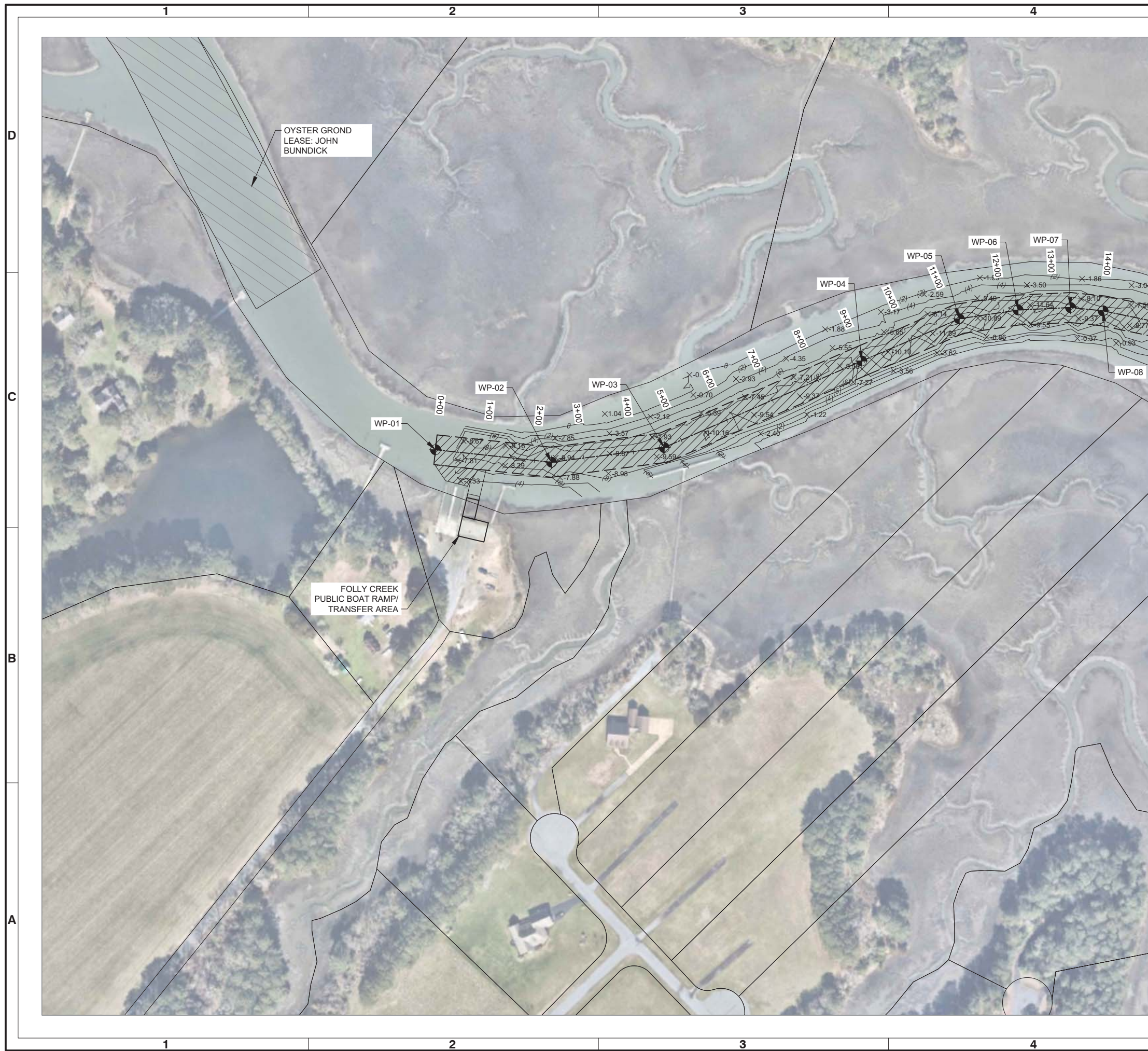
PREPARED FOR:
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK VA

SEA

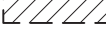
Sheet
Reference No.

C-101

INDEX: 3 OF 9



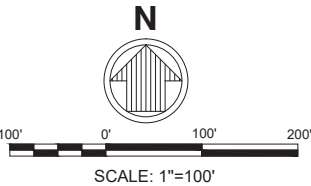
LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
|  | CHANNEL CENTERLINE |
|  | PROPERTY LINES |
|  | CONTOUR LINES |
| X.XX | SPOT ELEVATIONS |
|  | DREDGE AREA |
|  | AQUACULTURE LEASE AREA (PRIVATE) |
|  | WORKING POINTS,
SEE SHEET C-101 FOR TABLE |

MATCHLINE: SHEET C-103

SURVEY NOTES

1. HORIZONTAL CONTROL IS BASED ON VIRGINIA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SOUTH ZONE, NAD 1983/1993 (HARN), US SURVEY FEET.
2. ALL ELEVATIONS SHOWN HEREON ARE NEGATIVE VALUES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
3. ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET BASED ON NOS MEAN LOWER-LOW WATER (MLLW), 1983-2001 NTDE.
4. THE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY WAS COMPLETED UNDER THE DIRECT AND RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OF DAVE BERNSTEIN FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY MADE UNDER HIS SUPERVISION. THAT ORIGINAL DATA WAS OBTAINED IN MARCH AND APRIL OF 2021. THIS MAP DATA INCLUDING METADATA MEETS MINIMUM ACCURACY STANDARDS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
5. SOURCE OF BACKGROUND IMAGE IS WWW.NEARMAPS.COM.



FOR PERMITS
ISSUED: 2024-12-09
NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

**FOLLY CREEK
WATERWAY MAINTENANCE/
CHANNEL DREDGING
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA**

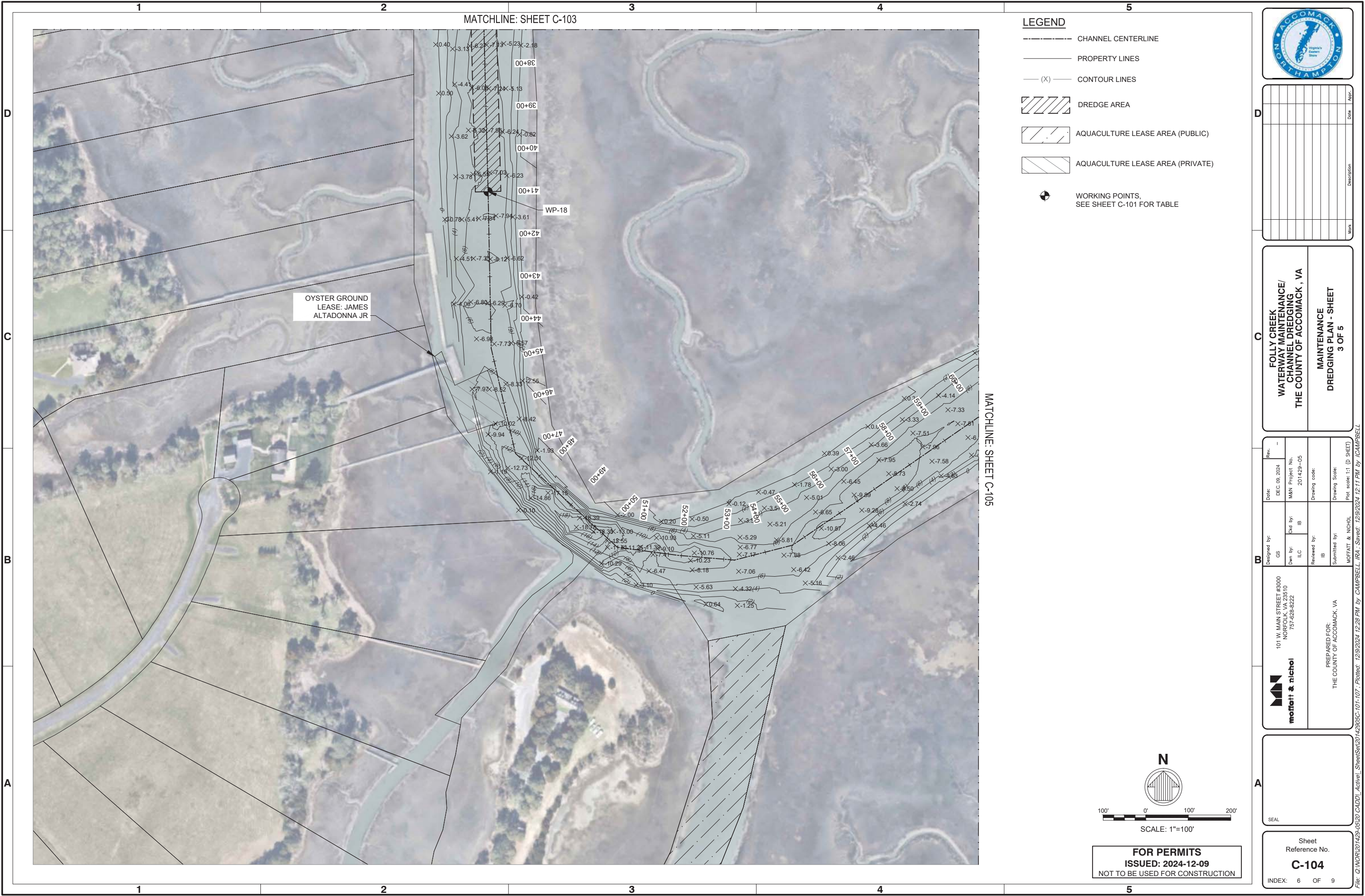
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1 OF 5**

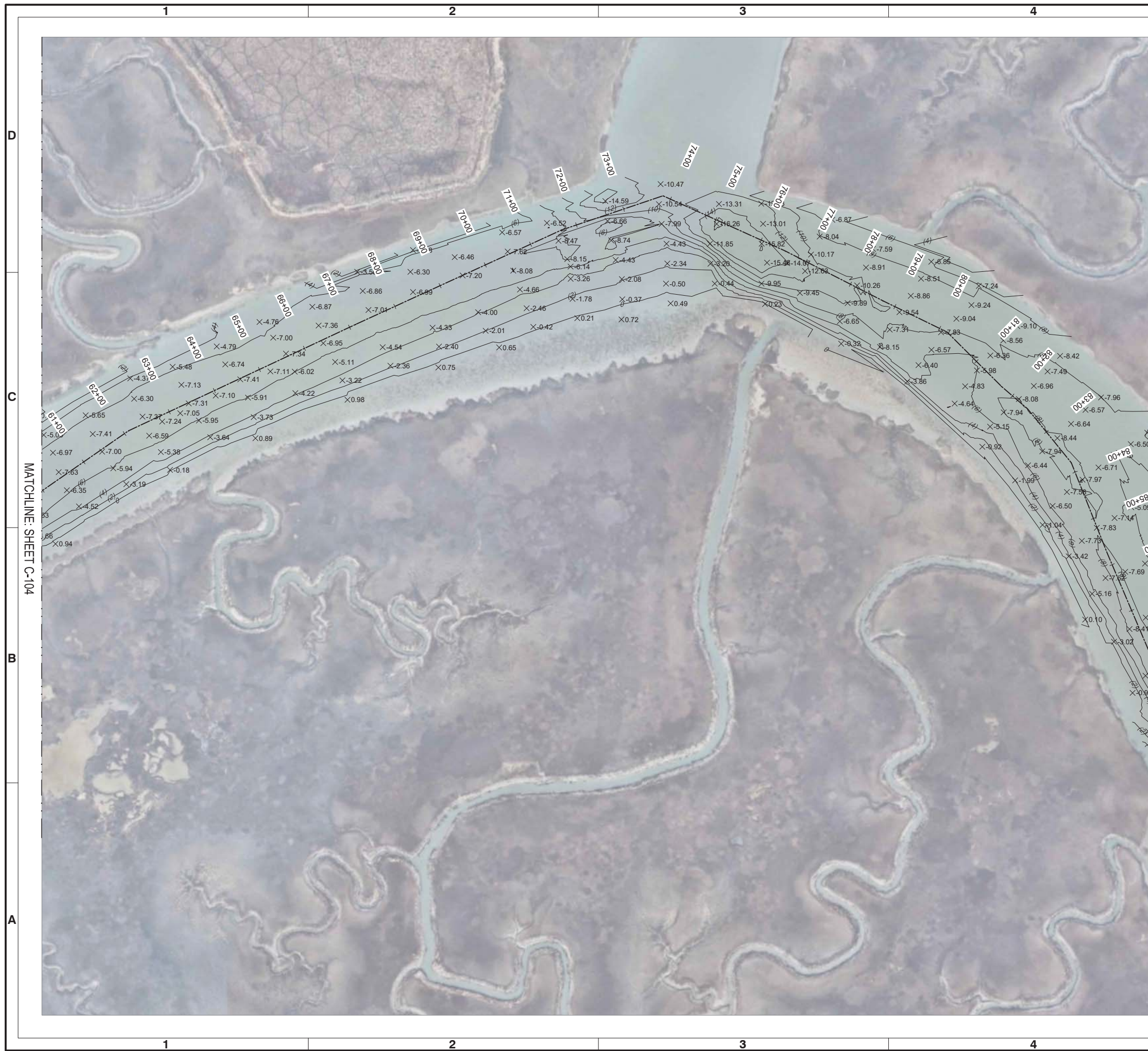
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**FOLLY CREEK
WATERWAY MAINTENANCE/
CHANNEL DREDGING
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA**

**MAINTENANCE
DREDGING PLAN - SHEET
4 OF 5**

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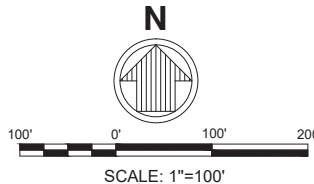
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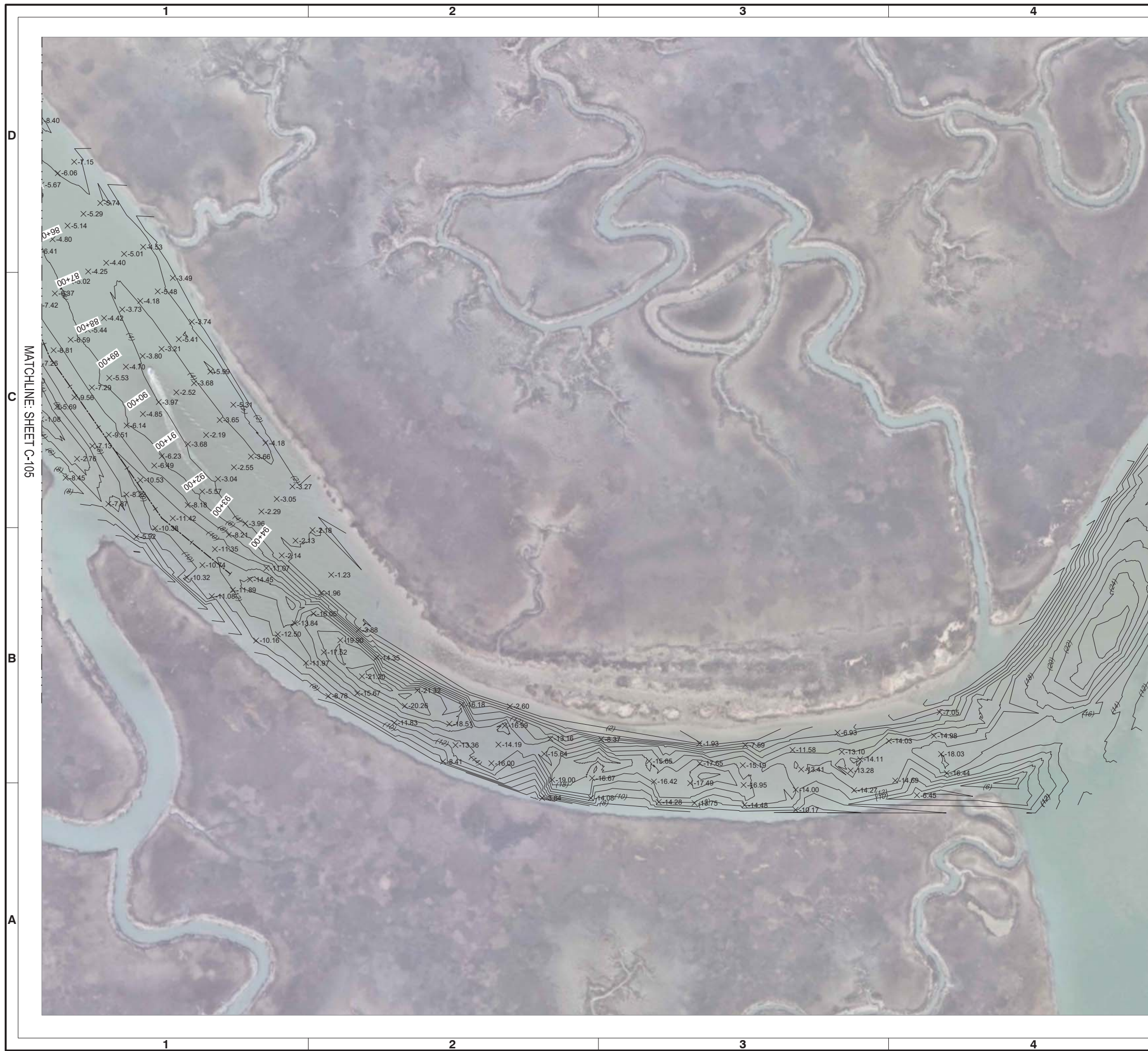
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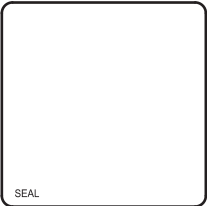
**FOLLY CREEK
WATERWAY MAINTENANCE/
CHANNEL DREDGING
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA**

**MAINTENANCE
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5 OF 5**

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PREPARED FOR:
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA

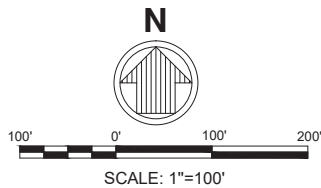


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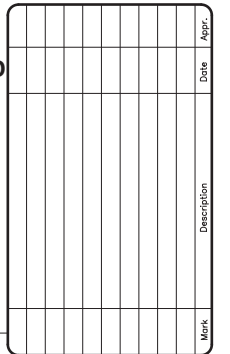
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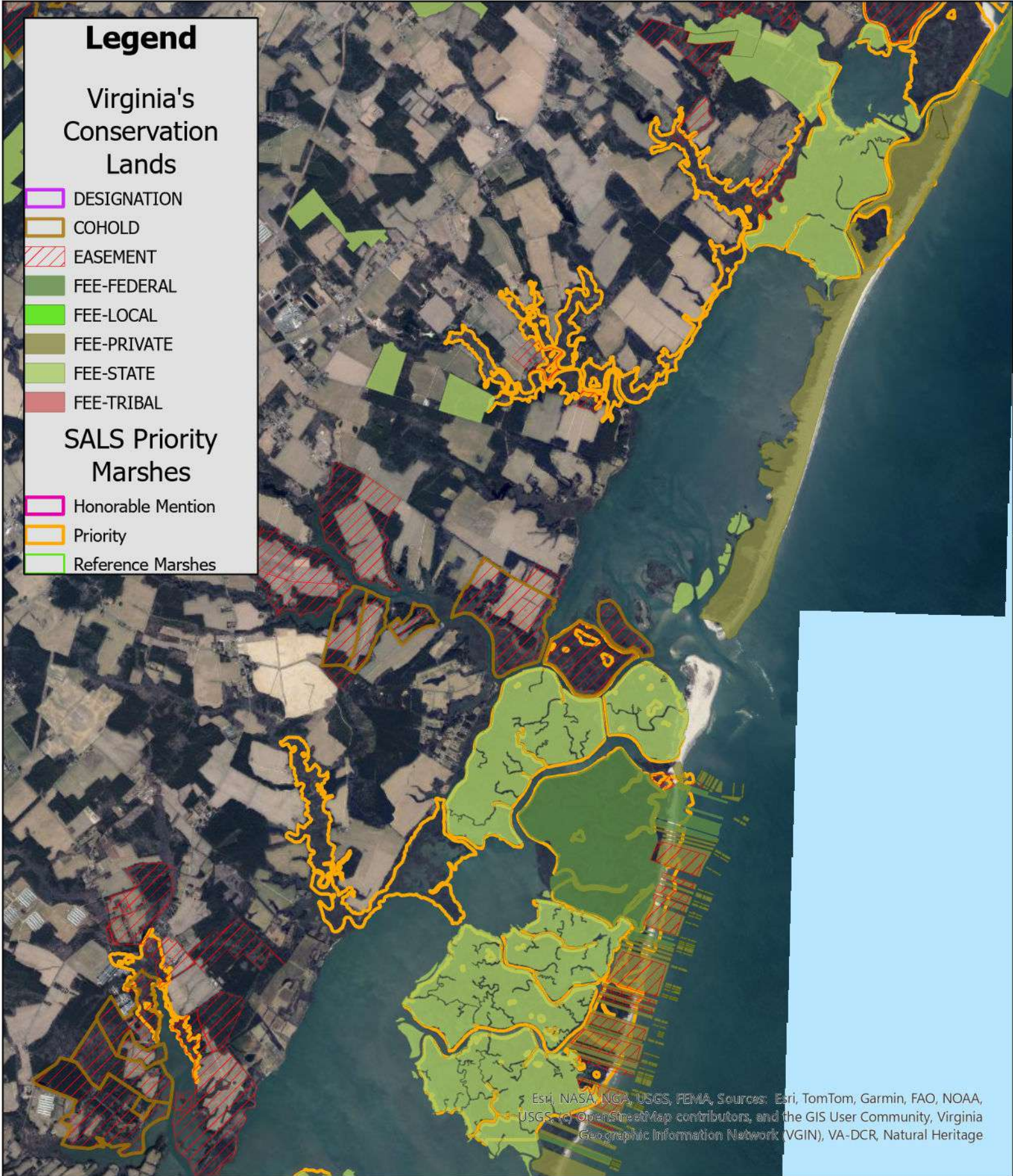
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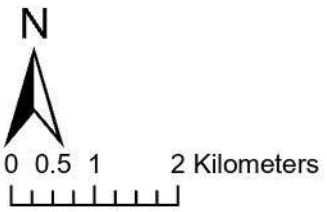
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VA

DEX: 7 OF 8

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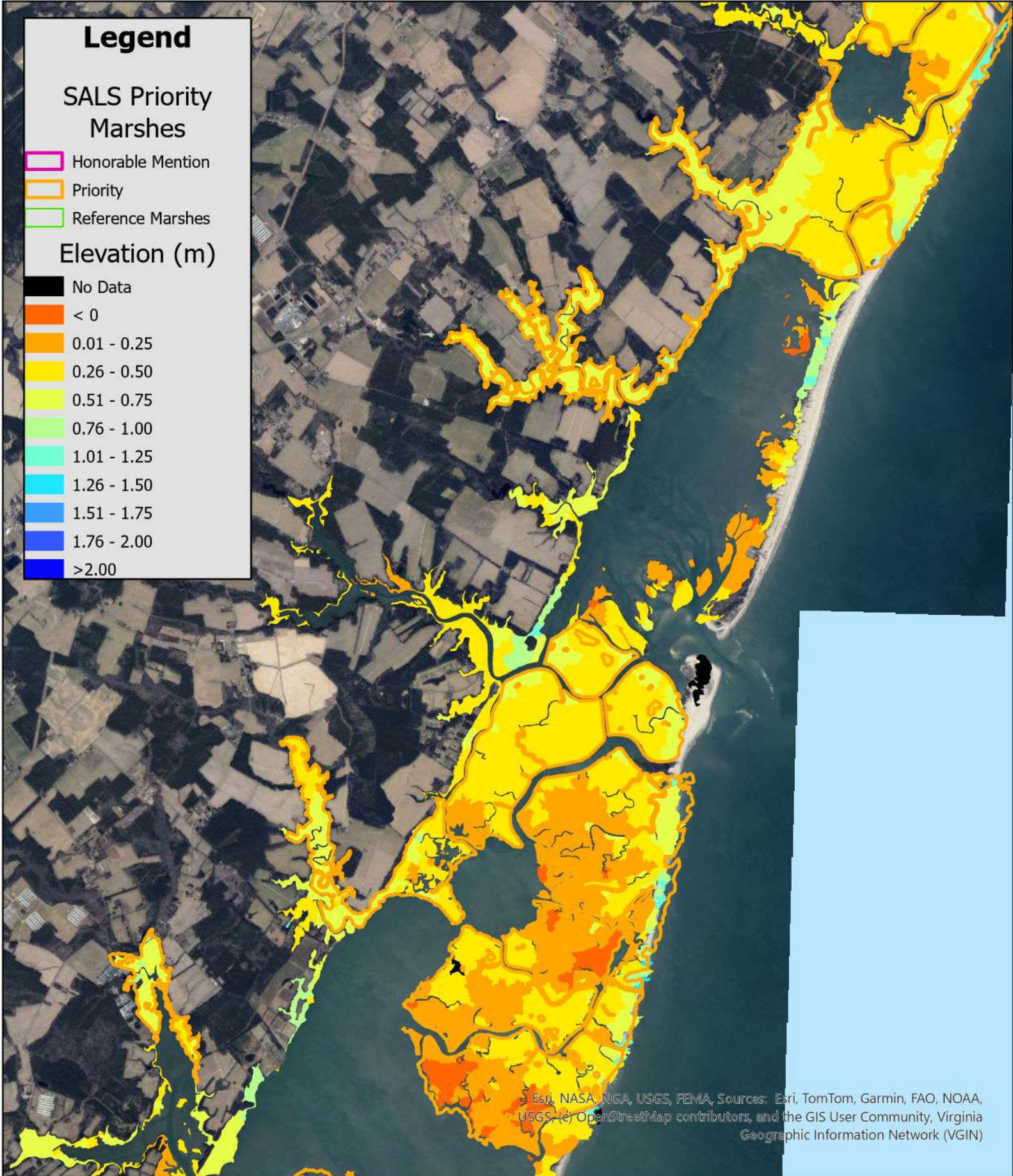
Esri, NASA, NOAA, USGS, FEMA, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, and OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), VA-DCR, Natural Heritage



Potential Dredge Material Placement Sites for Parker's Creek and Folly Creek

Map shows priority areas for Saltmarsh Sparrow
habitat restoration and landowner information





Legend

SALS Priority Marshes

- Honorable Mention
- Priority
- Reference Marshes

Elevation (m)

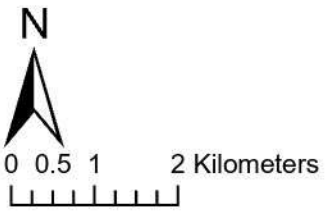
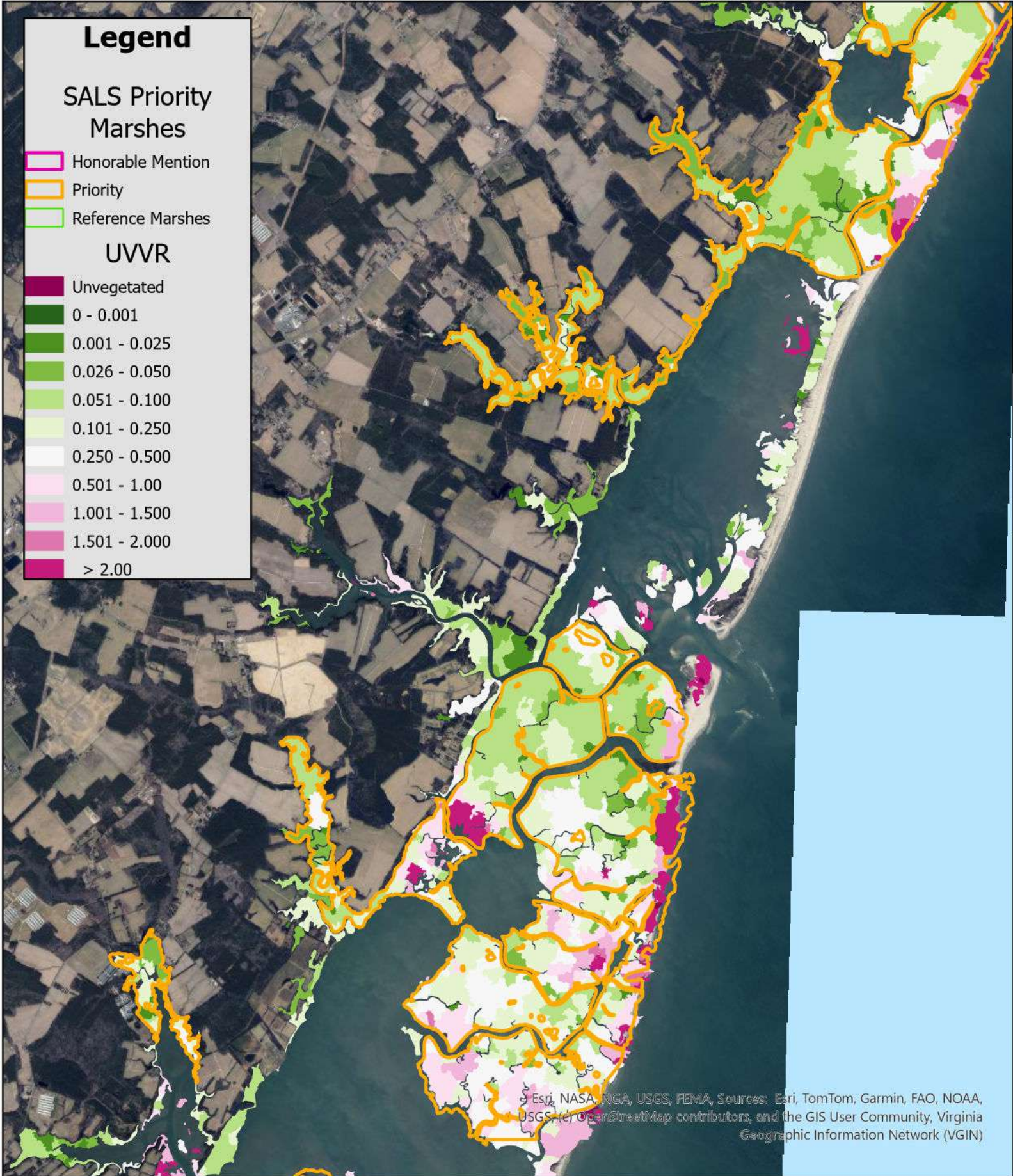
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN)

Potential Dredge Material Placement Sites for Parker's Creek and Folly Creek

Marsh elevation map





**Potential Dredge Material Placement Sites
for Parker's Creek and Folly Creek**

Unvegetated-vegetated marsh ratio (UVVR)
Marshes with a value <0.15 are considered unstable



Proposal to
Virginia Marine Resource Commission
Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Fund



Project:
***Middle Peninsula Dredged Material
Land Acquisition/Federal Lease & Placement
Site Management Design***

Applicant:
Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority

Total Project Cost
\$900,000

Note: Reduced scopes and budgets may be offered for consideration in an effort to provide VMRC with a funding level which can be accommodated due to anticipated excessive demand. The applicant is willing to discuss these changes to the scope and awarded amount if deemed necessary by VMRC.

Contact Information:
Lewis Lawrence
Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority
Executive Director
Email – llawrence@mppdc.com
Phone – (804) 832-6747

Executive Summary

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA), enabled under 15.2-6600 in partnership with the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) enabled under 15.2-4400, respectfully requests \$900,000 from the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund (WMF) to advance a regionally coordinated, federally compliant Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) strategy serving seventeen (17) Congressionally authorized Federal Navigation Channels (FNCs) in rural coastal Virginia. This application supports waterway enhancement in rural coastal Virginia as defined by §15.2-7600 and should be given special consideration as noted in the WMF Guidelines. In addition, this application should also receive special consideration as noted in the WMF Guidelines as the existing investment and leveraged funds secured by the applicant and partners listed in Section 3.0 of this application, exceed a three-to-one match.

The USACE Norfolk District has recently clarified that, where dredged material placement is required beyond October 1, 2040, real property interests must comply with current federal policy. As stated by Jeff Swallos, GISP, Chief, Operations Branch, USACE Norfolk District (January 26, 2026):

“If the project requires a dredged material placement site beyond October 1, 2040, a new real property interest in fee simple must be acquired in accordance with current policy (ER 405-1-12, 1 May 1998), unless a policy exception is granted by HQUSACE. Planning for this acquisition should begin well in advance to avoid project delays.”

Regional Context & Urgency

The Middle Peninsula contains seventeen federally authorized shallow-draft navigation channels that support working waterfronts, commercial seafood operations, marinas, public access facilities, and marine-dependent businesses. These waterways are critical to the economic and cultural vitality of rural coastal Virginia as defined under §15.2-7600 of the Code of Virginia.

As ongoing planning efforts under the Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore Dredged Material Management Initiative (DMMI) advance site-specific dredging projects such as Aberdeen Creek, Davis Creek, and Winter Harbor toward implementation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has clarified federal real estate requirements governing dredged material placement. Continued federal participation in dredging requires long-term, legally sufficient real property interests for placement areas.

Many historic placement areas in the Middle Peninsula are controlled through time-limited USACE easements that may not satisfy current federal requirements. Without proactive documentation, prioritization, and advancement of publicly controlled placement capacity, dredging implementation and federal cost participation are at risk.

Existing Investment & Leveraged Funds

The region has already secured substantial public investment and federal authorization, including:

- Ongoing support for the Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore DMMI (DMMI), which is developing regional master planning, legal, regulatory, and conceptual site frameworks;
- Approximately \$810,000 in congressionally directed funding dedicated to land acquisition for dredged material management purposes; and
- Approximately \$7.5 million allocated to the MPCBPAA to implement the Municipal Dredging Program operational costs.
- Federal Work Plans and Community Project Funding has allocated over \$24M to support shallow draft navigation in the region.

However, a critical gap remains between master planning, land acquisition funding, and dredging implementation: a consolidated federal placement compliance framework and advancement of a preferred regional DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness.

This application fills that gap.

Proposed Three-Phase Approach

Consistent with WMF eligibility for feasibility studies, pre-project engineering, and upland containment design for beneficial use, the proposed project will proceed in three coordinated phases over a 12-month period:

Phase I – Federal Navigation Channel Placement Compliance & Real Estate Inventory

Develop a consolidated placement inventory, document ownership and expiration status of existing USACE placement areas, and establish a federal compliance and risk matrix for all seventeen FNCs.

Phase II – Regional DMMA Screening, Evaluation & Selection

Identify and evaluate candidate sites capable of serving multiple federally authorized channels, integrate beneficial use considerations, and select one preferred regional DMMA for advancement.

Phase III – Preferred DMMA Advancement to Preliminary Engineering

Advance the selected site to approximately 30% conceptual engineering, including boundary and topographic survey, limited geotechnical reconnaissance, capacity refinement, order-of-magnitude cost estimating, and a permitting roadmap.

This disciplined structure ensures early decision points, focused investment in one preferred site, and tangible engineering outcomes within a 12-month timeframe.

Alignment with Commonwealth Priorities

The proposed project directly aligns with the intent of the Virginia by:

- Supporting shallow-draft navigation in rural coastal Virginia;
- Advancing feasibility and pre-project engineering;
- Supporting the design and strategic acquisition of upland containment areas; and
- Integrating Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) for shoreline stabilization, erosion mitigation, and resilience enhancement.

By structuring regional DMMA as managed sediment assets rather than disposal sites, this project supports the Commonwealth's increasing emphasis on beneficial use and long-term coastal resilience.

Outcome & Impact

Upon completion, the project will produce:

- A consolidated federal placement compliance inventory for all 17 FNCs;
- A documented real estate expiration and risk matrix;
- A prioritized acquisition framework;
- One preferred regional DMMA advanced to preliminary engineering readiness;
- A permitting and implementation roadmap supporting continued federal dredging participation.

The requested \$900,000 investment converts prior planning, acquisition funding, and dredging implementation allocations into a coordinated, federally compliant regional dredged material management system.

By filling this critical intermediate gap, the project protects existing public investment, supports working waterfront economies, and positions the Middle Peninsula for sustainable shallow-draft navigation management into the future.

This proposal directly addresses each of the Virginia's evaluation criteria through documented need, defined scope, regulatory feasibility, demonstrated administrative capacity, and advancement of beneficial use—supporting infrastructure.

I.0 Statement of Need and Urgency

The MPCBPAA, in partnership with the MPPDC, seeks funding to proactively address a newly clarified federal requirement that materially affects the long-term viability of dredging within the Middle Peninsula's seventeen (17) Congressionally authorized FNCs.

Under USACE Civil Works policy, and as formalized through Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs), non-Federal sponsors are required to provide, at no cost to the Federal Government, all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and dredged material disposal areas (LERDs) necessary for project construction, operation, and maintenance. In accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 405-1-12 (Real Estate Handbook), required real property interests for Civil Works projects must generally be acquired in fee simple unless otherwise approved by Headquarters USACE.

The Norfolk District has recently clarified that, where dredged material placement is required beyond October 1, 2040, real property interests must comply with current federal policy. As stated by Jeff Swallos, GISP, Chief, Operations Branch, USACE Norfolk District (January 26, 2026):

“If the project requires a dredged material placement site beyond October 1, 2040, a new real property interest in fee simple must be acquired in accordance with current policy (ER 405-1-12, 1 May 1998), unless a policy exception is granted by HQUSACE. Planning for this acquisition should begin well in advance to avoid project delays.”

Many historic placement areas within the Middle Peninsula are privately owned or controlled through time-limited USACE easements or lease agreements that pre-date current federal real estate policy. As these arrangements expire, they may no longer satisfy federal requirements for continued dredged material placement. **Without proactive planning, evaluation, and acquisition of publicly controlled placement areas, local sponsors risk delays or loss of federal participation in dredging projects essential to maintaining navigable access.**

The Middle Peninsula's 17 federally authorized navigation channels support commercial seafood landings, working waterfront businesses, public access facilities, marinas, and marine-dependent infrastructure across rural coastal Virginia. Disruption in dredging continuity would directly affect economic activity, public safety, and resilience in communities that depend upon shallow-draft navigation.

This project is urgent because:

- The majority of federally authorized channels lack placement areas supported by active, viable real estate interests, while others rely on time-limited easements or leases that may not meet current federal policy requirements beyond 2040. Without documented verification and corrective planning, these channels are at immediate or near-term risk of project delay.
- Where active easements exist, Federal real estate compliance must be addressed well in advance of the October 1, 2040 threshold to allow sufficient time for site identification, evaluation, acquisition, and integration into future dredging cycles.
- Placement capacity, ownership conditions, lease terms, and expiration timelines are not currently consolidated into a single, decision-ready database for the region's seventeen (17) federally authorized navigation channels.
- Publicly controlled upland containment and beneficial use areas must be strategically identified, evaluated, and advanced before existing private placement options expire or become non-compliant with federal policy.
- The region has already allocated and encumbered \$810,000 toward land acquisition for dredged material management; however, planning-level evaluation, screening, and conceptual design must precede strategic acquisition to ensure federal eligibility and long-term viability.

This proposal builds upon the previously funded *Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore Dredged Material Management Initiative* (DMMI) and advances the next critical step: developing a documented, feasible pathway for long-term, federally compliant dredged material placement that sustains navigation, supports beneficial use, and protects the Middle Peninsula's working waterfront economy.

2.0 Project Description

The MPCBPAA, in partnership with the MPPDC, is advancing the DMMI under a award originally administered by the Virginia Port Authority. The DMMI scope includes channel condition assessments, legal and regulatory analyses of in-water and upland disposal alternatives, CAD area identification studies, technical site assessments, and foundational information for potential disposal and reuse sites.

The DMMI establishes a regional Master Plan framework identifying dredging needs, conceptual disposal strategies, and potential upland and in-water alternatives. That effort significantly advances regional understanding of dredged material management challenges and opportunities.

However, as DMMI planning advances and projects such as Aberdeen Creek, Davis Creek, and Winter Harbor approach implementation, the USACE has clarified federal real estate requirements governing dredged material placement associated with federally authorized navigation channels. Continued federal participation in dredging now requires greater certainty regarding long-term, compliant real property interests for placement areas

While DMMI evaluated alternatives and conceptual sites, the next steps necessary, particularly given the recent federal stance, are:

- Create a consolidated compliance inventory for the seventeen (17) federally authorized navigation channels (FNCs) in the Middle Peninsula;
- Document the ownership, term, and expiration status of all historic placement areas relative to current federal policy;
- Establish a regional compliance risk matrix tied to federal Items of Local Cooperation obligations;
- Advance a preferred regional DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness sufficient to support strategic land acquisition and future permitting.

This proposal represents the next logical and necessary step in the region's dredged material management program. It transitions from Master Planning to documented federal compliance assurance, real estate readiness, and preliminary engineering advancement.

Geographic Area & Project Focus

The proposed project focuses on the Middle Peninsula region of rural coastal Virginia, consisting of six counties (Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, and King William) and the incorporated towns of West Point, Urbanna, and Tappahannock.

Within this region are seventeen (17) Congressionally authorized FNCs that support commercial seafood operations, working waterfronts, public access facilities, marinas, and marine-dependent businesses. These federally authorized channels constitute the primary focus of the placement compliance inventory and DMMA advancement activities described in this proposal.

Although the Middle Peninsula contains more than 120 navigable waterways, this project specifically targets the seventeen federally authorized navigation channels identified in Phase I for compliance documentation, risk categorization, and regional placement strategy development.

Regional coordination will occur through engagement with the affected counties and municipalities throughout each phase of work. Figure 1 illustrates the geographic location of the Middle Peninsula and the distribution of federally authorized navigation channels addressed in this proposal.

The following phased structure translates this documented need and defined geographic focus into a disciplined implementation pathway. Consistent with the Virginia's eligibility for feasibility evaluations, pre-project engineering studies, permitting strategy development, and the design of upland containment areas for beneficial use, the project will proceed in three coordinated phases:

Figure 1: Map of Middle Peninsula localities.



- **Phase I:** Federal Navigation
Channel Placement Compliance & Real Estate Inventory
- **Phase II:** Regional DMMA Screening, Evaluation & Selection
- **Phase III:** Preferred DMMA Advancement to Preliminary Engineering (approximately 30% level)

Together, these phases will produce a defensible, implementation-ready framework that:

- Protects continued federal dredging participation;
- Aligns with existing regional land acquisition allocations;
- Advances beneficial use and resilience objectives;
- Identifies dredged material management options for ongoing dredging design projects; and
- Positions the Middle Peninsula for long-term, sustainable shallow-draft navigation management.

2.1 Phase I – Regional Navigation Channel & DMMA Assessment

Phase I establishes a consolidated, federally defensible placement compliance framework for the seventeen (17) Congressionally authorized FNCs in the Middle Peninsula.

As DMMA advances 3 of the 17 FNC's toward implementation — Aberdeen Creek, Davis Creek, and Winter Harbor the lack of historic Federal information has slowed or stymied implantation.

The need to fully assess and document the 17 FNC's including Federal easement areas with time limited private lease holdings and local sponsor owned holding areas is critical. Phase I assessment will be a planning level effort intended to build a database of historical USACE information for all 17 FNC's of which fifteen of the water bodies were federally authorized in individual Rivers and Harbors Acts (Rappahannock River, Urbanna Creek, Pamunkey River, Milford Haven, Mattaponi River, Lockies Creek, Horn Harbor, Jackson Creek, Mill Creek, Hoskins Creek, Broad Creek, Whiting Creek, Davis Creek, Winter Harbor, Parrots Creek). Two water bodies were federally authorized by Section 107 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960 (Public Law 86-645, as amended); (Aberdeen Creek and Queens Creek). The data base will include Year authorized, construction cost, maintenance cost, items of local cooperation, terminal facilities, project economic infrastructure, areas with federal leases, time

remaining on the lease, and exploration with private lease holder willingness to sell fee simple ownership for future dredge material holding.

This work will require individual research of USACE Chief of Engineers Annual Reports, USACE Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Chesapeake Bay Fishing Harbors Economic Study, Maryland and Virginia and other required material. This information does not exist in a single repository and impacts all 17 FNC dredging projects within the Middle Peninsula

This work requires immediate clarity regarding the availability, ownership status, and long-term viability of dredged material placement areas serving federally authorized channels. Federal participation in dredging is contingent upon legally sufficient real property interests for placement, and the region must proactively document and evaluate those interests to avoid project delays.

Phase I transitions the program from conceptual alternative evaluation to documented federal placement readiness.

Upon completion of Phase I, the region will have:

- A consolidated placement inventory for all federally authorized navigation channels;
- A documented real estate expiration timeline;
- A channel-by-channel federal compliance risk matrix;
- A prioritized acquisition and advancement strategy;
- A defensible basis for advancing one or more regional DMMA's in Phase II and Phase III; and
- Funding pathway and placement eligibility decision framework.

Task 2.1.1 – Federally Authorized Navigation Channel Placement Inventory

This task documents all historic and currently identified dredged material placement areas associated with the seventeen federally authorized navigation channels within the Middle Peninsula.

For each FNC, the project will:

- Identify known historic and active placement locations
- Map placement sites using GIS parcel data
- Document ownership (public or private)
- Identify the type of real estate interest (fee simple, easement, lease, license)
- Document term and expiration (if applicable)
- Identify any federal lease or USACE-controlled interest
- Associate each placement site with the navigation channel(s) it serves

This task focuses exclusively on placement compliance conditions and does not duplicate DMMA channel characterization work.

Deliverable 2.1.1:

Federal Navigation Channel Placement Inventory & GIS Mapping Atlas.

Task 2.1.2 – Real Estate Term, Expiration & Federal Interest Review

This task evaluates the sufficiency of documented placement interests relative to current federal requirements and dredging implementation timelines.

For each placement area identified in Task 1.1, the project will:

- Review expiration timelines of easements and leases
- Identify placement areas lacking documented long-term control
- Evaluate whether ownership structure appears consistent with current USACE fee interest expectations (planning-level review)

- Identify channels where placement documentation is incomplete or unclear
- The intent is to create transparency around potential compliance vulnerabilities before dredging contracts are executed.

Deliverable 2.1.2:

Real Estate Status & Expiration Summary Table.

Task 2.1.3 – Federal Compliance & Risk Categorization Matrix

Using the information compiled in Tasks 1.1 and 1.2, each federally authorized navigation channel will be categorized according to placement compliance condition:

- Compliant & Viable – Placement supported by publicly controlled or long-term real estate interests consistent with federal requirements.
- At-Risk (Time-Limited) – Placement dependent on expiring or potentially non-compliant interests.
- Deficient or Undocumented – No clearly documented viable placement meeting federal standards.

This risk matrix will be structured to support both regional planning and near-term dredging implementation decisions.

Deliverable 2.1.3:

Federal Placement Compliance & Risk Matrix (Channel-by-Channel).

Task 2.1.4 – Regional Placement Demand & Acquisition Priority Analysis

Building upon DMMI volume assumptions and current dredging design projects, this task evaluates placement demand relative to compliant capacity.

This task will:

- Estimate cumulative placement demand across federally authorized channels
- Compare demand against placement areas categorized as compliant
- Identify geographic clusters where regional DMMAAs could serve multiple FNCs
- Establish acquisition and advancement priority tiers based on:
 - Expiration urgency
 - Federal dredging recurrence
 - Volume demand
 - Proximity efficiencies

This task directly informs the screening and advancement work in Phase II and aligns with the region's existing land acquisition allocation.

Deliverable 2.1.4:

Regional Placement Capacity & Acquisition Prioritization Report.

2.1.5 Funding Pathway & Placement Eligibility Decision Framework

Placement site planning, design, acquisition, and construction may be funded through different sources, including federal participation, state funding, or locally administered programs. The source of funding can materially influence:

- Real estate requirements (e.g., fee simple ownership expectations);

- Items of Local Cooperation obligations;
- Eligibility of dredging projects that may use a given placement site;
- Federal nexus and associated permitting requirements; and
- Long-term operational flexibility for the non-federal sponsor.

For example, placement areas planned, designed, and constructed with federal participation may be subject to federal real estate policy and may be limited to use by specifically authorized federal navigation projects. Conversely, placement areas advanced with state or locally administered funding may provide greater flexibility in determining which dredging projects may utilize the site, subject to regulatory constraints and sponsor-defined operating parameters.

To ensure informed decision-making, this task will develop a structured decision-support framework for the non-federal sponsor that clarifies the implications of funding pathways on:

- Placement eligibility;
- Long-term site control and management authority;
- Beneficial use flexibility; and
- Future federal participation options.

This framework will be presented as a decision tree or flow chart that illustrates the relationship between funding source, real estate requirements, and allowable placement uses. The objective is to provide the MPCBPAA and participating localities with a clear governance roadmap prior to advancing site acquisition and engineering.

Deliverable 2.1.5:

Funding Pathway & Placement Eligibility Decision Tree (Flow Chart) and Accompanying Memorandum.

Phase II – Regional DMMA Screening, Evaluation & Selection

Phase II builds directly upon the Federal Placement Compliance & Risk Matrix developed in Phase I (Section 2.1). Using documented compliance gaps, expiration timelines, and projected placement demand, this phase identifies and evaluates candidate DMMAs capable of serving high-priority federally authorized navigation channels.

This phase is targeted and implementation-oriented. Screening and evaluation will focus on:

- Channels categorized as At-Risk or Deficient in Phase I;
- Geographic clusters where shared placement improves efficiency; and
- Sites capable of supporting near-term dredging implementation projects, potentially including Aberdeen Creek, Davis Creek, and Winter Harbor, or other identified priority channels.

The objective of Phase II is to identify at least one preferred regional DMMA site (and, if appropriate, a secondary alternative) suitable for advancement to preliminary engineering in Phase III.

2.2.1 Targeted Parcel Identification & GIS Suitability Screening

Using Phase I prioritization results, this task identifies candidate parcels capable of serving as regional DMMAs.

Work will include:

- Identification of publicly owned and acquisition-eligible parcels;

- GIS-based environmental constraint mapping (wetlands, floodplain, resource areas);
- Access evaluation (pipeline corridors, barge feasibility, haul routes);
- Proximity analysis to multiple federally authorized channels;
- Preliminary acreage and footprint suitability assessment;
- Fatal flaw screening (e.g., insufficient size, prohibitive environmental conflicts, deed restrictions).

This screening will respond directly to compliance gaps and capacity shortfalls identified in Phase I.

Deliverable 2.2.1:

GIS Suitability Screening & Parcel Shortlist Report.

2.2.2 Multi-Channel Serviceability & Capacity Modeling

For parcels passing initial screening, this task evaluates their ability to serve multiple federally authorized navigation channels efficiently.

Work will include:

- Planning-level capacity modeling tied to projected dredging volumes;
- Evaluation of phased cell development potential;
- Shared infrastructure opportunities;
- Sequencing analysis for recurring dredging cycles;
- High-level lifecycle capacity recovery assumptions (re-excavation and beneficial use).

The goal is to determine whether candidate sites can function as regional hubs rather than single-project disposal areas.

Deliverable 2.2.2:

Multi-Channel Serviceability & Regional Capacity Analysis Memorandum.

2.2.3 Preliminary Beneficial Use & Resilience Integration Evaluation

Consistent with WMF priorities, this task evaluates how candidate DMMAAs can support beneficial use and resilience objectives.

For shortlisted sites, the project will:

- Identify shoreline stabilization and erosion mitigation reuse pathways;
- Evaluate environmental restoration opportunities;
- Consider elevation enhancement and flood mitigation applications;
- Assess re-excavation logistics to maintain long-term capacity.

This remains a planning-level evaluation to inform site selection and Phase III engineering.

Deliverable 2.2.3:

Beneficial Use & Resilience Integration Summary.

2.2.4 Preferred Site Selection & Advancement Recommendation

Using outputs from Tasks 2.2.1–2.2.3, this task formalizes selection of one preferred regional DMMA site (and potentially one secondary alternative).

Selection criteria will include:

- Reduction of federal compliance risk;

- Capacity relative to projected demand;
- Technical feasibility;
- Proximity efficiencies;
- Alignment with available acquisition funding;
- Beneficial use integration potential;
- Implementation readiness for near-term dredging projects.

This task concludes Phase II by establishing a defensible basis for advancing the selected site into Phase III preliminary engineering.

Deliverable 2.2.4:

Preferred DMMA Selection & Advancement Memorandum.

2.3 Phase III – Preferred DMMA Advancement to Preliminary Engineering

Phase III advances the preferred DMMA identified in Phase II to preliminary engineering readiness (approximately 30% design level) sufficient to support:

- Strategic land acquisition;
- Demonstration of federal placement compliance capability;
- Future permitting;
- Phased implementation planning; and
- Continued federal participation in dredging projects.

This phase transitions the project from site identification to technical validation and implementation readiness while remaining within the scope of pre-project engineering and feasibility development. Any efficiencies realized during planning will be utilized to further advance design and permitting.

At completion of Phase III, the region will have:

- A technically validated preferred regional DMMA site;
- Conceptual engineering sufficient for acquisition and funding decisions;
- Refined capacity and cost projections;
- A defined regulatory pathway; and
- A clear roadmap to implementation.

2.3.1 Boundary Verification & Topographic Survey

To support conceptual engineering and capacity modeling, this task will:

- Confirm property boundaries;
- Develop a topographic base map;
- Identify access corridors and staging areas;
- Map existing drainage patterns and constraints;
- Establish baseline site conditions.

This task provides the technical foundation for conceptual layout development and capacity calculations.

Deliverable 2.3.1:

Boundary & Topographic Survey Package.

2.3.2 Limited Geotechnical & Site Reconnaissance

This task will conduct reconnaissance-level subsurface exploration sufficient to inform conceptual containment and embankment planning.

Work will include:

- Targeted borings or test pits (limited scope);
- Preliminary soil classification;
- General groundwater depth assessment;
- Planning-level evaluation of embankment suitability.

This is not a full construction geotechnical investigation but will reduce uncertainty and support defensible cost estimates.

Deliverable 2.3.2:

Geotechnical Reconnaissance Memorandum.

2.3.3 Conceptual DMMA Layout & Containment Design (Approx. 30%)

Using survey and geotechnical inputs, this task will develop conceptual engineering plans including:

- Preliminary cell configuration and footprint;
- Conceptual dike alignments and elevations;
- Staging and access layout;
- Decanting and return-water management concept;
- Storm resilience and freeboard considerations;
- Phased development plan aligned with dredging cycles.

Drawings will be prepared at a conceptual (approximately 30%) level sufficient to support permitting strategy and cost estimation.

Deliverable 2.3.3:

30% Conceptual Engineering Drawings & Basis of Planning Report.

2.3.4 Capacity Refinement & Order-of-Magnitude Cost Estimate

This task refines regional capacity modeling and develops planning-level cost estimates.

Work will include:

- Refined volumetric capacity calculations;
- Phased cell sequencing analysis;
- Lifecycle capacity restoration strategy (re-excavation/beneficial use cycles);
- Order-of-magnitude capital cost estimate (Class 4/5 level);
- Preliminary operational considerations (high-level).

This establishes realistic funding needs for future implementation.

Deliverable 2.3.4:

Capacity Refinement & Preliminary Capital Cost Estimate Report.

2.3.5 Permitting & Regulatory Roadmap

This task establishes the regulatory pathway for eventual implementation.

Work will include:

- Identification of federal, state, and local permits likely required;
- NEPA pathway considerations (if federal nexus applies);
- Water quality and return-flow permitting strategy;
- Zoning and land use considerations;
- Pre-application coordination (as appropriate).

This task does not include preparation of final permit applications.

Deliverable 2.3.5:

Permitting & Regulatory Strategy Memorandum.

2.3.6 Implementation & Acquisition Alignment Strategy

This task connects preliminary engineering to actionable next steps.

Work will include:

- Alignment with the existing \$810,000 land acquisition allocation;
- Phased implementation roadmap;
- Identification of future funding pathways (federal/state match potential);
- Sequencing relative to active dredging design projects.

This ensures Phase III produces a usable implementation bridge rather than a conceptual study.

Deliverable 2.3.6:

Implementation & Acquisition Advancement Plan.

3.0 Budget & Leveraged Funding Strategy

Existing Regional Investment

The Middle Peninsula continues to leverage secured public investment to advance dredged material management and dredging implementation across the region, but this investment does not adequately support a planned network of sites needed for the municipal dredging program.

Ongoing investments include:

- Ongoing support for the DMMI, which is developing regional master planning, legal, regulatory, and conceptual site frameworks;
- Approximately \$810,000 in congressionally directed funding dedicated to land acquisition for dredged material management purposes; and
- Approximately \$7.5 million allocated to the MPCBPAA to implement the Municipal Dredging Program operational costs.
- Federal Work Plans and Community Project Funding has allocated over \$24M to support shallow draft navigation in the region.

The dredging these above funds support cannot occur without adequate placement site capacity.

The Remaining Gap

While funding exists for master planning, land acquisition, and dredging construction, a critical gap remains:

- A consolidated federal placement compliance inventory for the 17 federally authorized navigation channels;
- Documentation of expiration timelines and real estate sufficiency;
- A prioritized acquisition framework tied to federal risk;
- Preliminary engineering validation of a preferred regional DMMA.

Without this intermediate step, acquisition funding cannot be deployed strategically, and dredging funds remain vulnerable to placement-related delays or federal participation constraints.

This application fills that specific and previously unaddressed gap.

Proposed WMF Budget

Phase / Task	Description	Amount
<i>Phase I – Federal Navigation Channel Placement Compliance & Real Estate Inventory</i>		
2.1.1	Federal Navigation Channel Placement Inventory & GIS Atlas	\$70,000
2.1.2	Real Estate Term & Expiration Review	\$35,000
2.1.3	Federal Compliance & Risk Matrix Development	\$30,000
2.1.4	Regional Placement Capacity & Acquisition Prioritization Analysis	\$25,000
2.1.5	Funding Pathway & Placement Eligibility Decision Memorandum	\$25,000
	<i>Phase I Subtotal</i>	<i>\$185,000</i>
<i>Phase II – Regional DMMA Screening, Evaluation & Selection</i>		
2.2.1	GIS Suitability Screening & Parcel Shortlist	\$70,000
2.2.2	Multi-Channel Serviceability & Capacity Modeling	\$55,000
2.2.3	Beneficial Use & Resilience Integration Evaluation	\$35,000
2.2.4	Preferred Site Selection & Advancement Memorandum	\$40,000
	<i>Phase II Subtotal</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>Phase III – Preferred DMMA Advancement to Preliminary Engineering</i>		
2.3.1	Boundary & Topographic Survey	\$80,000
2.3.2	Limited Geotechnical Investigation	\$90,000
2.3.3	30% Conceptual Engineering & Layout Development	\$100,000
2.3.4	Capacity Refinement & Order-of-Magnitude Cost Estimate	\$30,000
2.3.5	Permitting & Regulatory Roadmap	\$20,000
2.3.6	Implementation & Acquisition Alignment Strategy	\$20,000
	<i>Phase III Subtotal</i>	<i>\$340,000</i>
Project Management & Grant Administration	Project oversight, procurement, Legal QA/QC, financial management, reporting, and agency coordination	\$175,000
	TOTAL WMF FUNDING REQUEST	\$900,000

How This Request Leverages Prior Investment

The requested \$900,000 in WMF funding provides the compliance, engineering, and acquisition-readiness bridge between:

- DMMI master planning efforts,
- Available land acquisition funds, and
- Municipal dredging implementation dollars.

By advancing a preferred regional DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness and establishing a defensible federal compliance framework, this project:

- Protects continued federal participation in dredging;
- Enables strategic use of \$810,000 in land acquisition funding;
- Supports deployment of \$7.5 million in Municipal Dredging Program funds; and
- Converts prior planning investments into implementation-ready infrastructure.

In effect, this request transforms existing planning and funding commitments into a coordinated, federally compliant regional dredged material management system. The intentional management of this grant ensures that this complex, multi-phase effort is executed efficiently, strategically sequenced with existing land acquisition and dredging implementation funds, and aligned with federal placement compliance requirements, while maintaining full adherence to WMF administrative and reporting standards.

The requested \$900,000 represents a strategic bridge investment that leverages more than \$8 million in secured planning, acquisition, and dredging implementation funding, substantially exceeding the WMF's three-to-one match consideration threshold.

4.0 Project Schedule

The proposed work is structured for completion within twelve (12) months from Notice to Proceed; however, to account for potential land access coordination, survey scheduling, or regulatory consultation timing, the grant term may extend up to twenty-four (24) months if necessary to ensure orderly and compliant completion of Phase III activities. The schedule is structured to allow overlapping task execution, early decision-making, and timely advancement of one preferred DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness.

Phases I and II are structured to produce a preferred site selection decision by approximately Month 6, allowing Phase III field work and conceptual engineering to proceed without delay.

12-Month Schedule Overview

Month	Activity
Month 1	Project kickoff; consultant procurement (if required); data collection begins
Months 1–3	Phase I – Placement inventory, real estate review, compliance & risk matrix development
Months 3–6	Phase II – GIS screening, multi-channel capacity modeling, beneficial use evaluation, preferred site selection
Month 6	Preferred DMMA site formally selected
Months 6–8	Boundary & topographic survey (Phase III)
Months 7–9	Limited geotechnical investigation & laboratory analysis
Months 8–11	30% conceptual engineering development; capacity refinement; cost estimate preparation
Months 9–11	Permitting & regulatory coordination; implementation alignment strategy
Month 12	Final documentation, executive briefing, and project closeout

The schedule is intentionally structured to:

- Complete federal compliance analysis early to inform site screening;
- Advance only one preferred DMMA into survey and geotechnical investigation to maintain cost control and schedule discipline;
- Allow engineering to proceed in parallel with laboratory analysis;
- Produce a complete preliminary engineering and acquisition-readiness package within twelve months.

The 12-month schedule assumes:

- Timely access to real estate documentation;
- Site access authorization for survey and limited geotechnical exploration upon preferred site selection;
- Standard seasonal field conditions;
- No requirement for full permit application preparation during this phase.

If unforeseen field conditions, access constraints, or federal coordination requirements impact survey or geotechnical activities, the project may require modest schedule adjustment. In addition, if Phase II identifies a secondary site requiring limited reconnaissance to confirm feasibility, minor overlap in survey or desktop evaluation may occur without altering the overall 12-month completion target.

5.0 Feasibility of the Proposed Planning Project

The proposed project is technically, institutionally, and statutorily feasible and directly aligned with the intent of the Virginia and applicable provisions of the Code of Virginia and builds directly upon existing regional planning, secured funding, and active dredging program implementation.

Statutory & Programmatic Eligibility

The Middle Peninsula qualifies as rural coastal Virginia under §15.2-7600 of the Code of Virginia, which identifies localities dependent upon working waterfronts, commercial seafood industries, and shallow-draft navigable waterways. Special consideration is provided under WMF guidelines for projects supporting waterway enhancement in rural coastal Virginia.

The seventeen (17) federally authorized navigation channels addressed in this proposal are shallow-draft channels that support the congressionally driven commerce requirement for commercial seafood operations, marinas, public wharfs and public access facilities, and boat yards. Continued navigability of these waterways is essential to the economic and community viability of the region.

This project also aligns directly with WMF eligible uses, including:

- Feasibility and pre-project engineering studies;
- Design, lease, or purchase of upland containment areas; and
- BUDM for environmental restoration and mitigation of coastal erosion or flooding

Accordingly, the proposed phased advancement of a regional DMMA fully conforms to program eligibility requirements.

Alignment with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Priorities

The Commonwealth of Virginia has increasingly emphasized BUDM as the preferred long-term placement strategy, prioritizing reuse for shoreline stabilization, erosion mitigation, marsh creation, and flood resilience over single-use disposal.

This proposal directly advances that policy direction by:

- Integrating beneficial use planning into site screening (Phase II);
- Designing upland containment areas to support selective re-excavation and reuse cycles (Phase III);
- Evaluating resilience and elevation enhancement opportunities; and
- Structuring regional DMMA as managed sediment assets rather than disposal sites.

By advancing a publicly controlled regional DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness, this project creates infrastructure capable of supporting long-term BUDM strategies consistent with evolving legislative and policy priorities.

Technical Feasibility

The DMMI has already established foundational understanding of channel conditions, sediment characteristics, regulatory constraints, and conceptual dredged material management alternatives. Active dredging design efforts for Aberdeen Creek, Davis Creek, and Winter Harbor further demonstrate that channel needs are well documented and implementation-ready.

The present request does not initiate speculative planning. Rather, it advances documented regional needs through:

- Consolidation of federally authorized navigation channel placement conditions;
- Real estate and expiration analysis;
- Targeted site screening based on documented compliance gaps; and
- Advancement of preferred regional DMMA(s) to preliminary engineering (approximately 30% level).

The phased structure ensures decision points before field work begins and limits engineering advancement to one preferred site, maintaining both technical focus and schedule control.

Institutional Feasibility

The MPPDC and MPCBPAA have demonstrated experience managing awards and coordinating multi-jurisdictional dredging initiatives.

MPPDC is currently advancing DMMI under prior WMF funding and has established administrative systems for:

- Consultant procurement and oversight;
- Grant reporting and reimbursement documentation;
- Intergovernmental coordination; and
- Regional stakeholder engagement.

The MPCBPAA has been allocated approximately \$7.5 million to advance the Municipal Dredging Program and is actively coordinating dredging implementation across multiple localities. This established institutional framework provides the administrative and technical capacity required to complete the proposed work within the 12-month schedule.

Financial Feasibility

This project is supported by substantial leveraged investment, including:

- Ongoing WMF support for DMMI planning efforts;
- Approximately \$810,000 in congressionally directed funding dedicated to land acquisition for dredged material management; and
- Approximately \$7.5 million allocated to the Municipal Dredging Program.

The requested \$900,000 WMF investment fills the critical intermediate gap between master planning, land acquisition funding, and dredging implementation dollars. The project does not rely on speculative future funding to complete the proposed scope.

Regulatory & Permitting Feasibility

Phases I and II consist of planning-level inventory, screening, and analysis activities that do not require construction permits.

Phase III includes boundary survey and limited geotechnical reconnaissance only. These activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local requirements. Preparation of full permit applications is not included in this request; rather, a permitting and regulatory roadmap will be developed to guide subsequent implementation.

This structured approach ensures that the project remains feasible within the proposed 12-month timeframe without dependence on extended permitting processes.

Overall Feasibility Conclusion

The project is statutorily eligible, technically disciplined, institutionally supported, financially leveraged, and aligned with the Commonwealth's increasing emphasis on BUDM. It advances a compliant, publicly controlled regional DMMA capable of supporting federal navigation maintenance while promoting long-term resilience and coastal restoration objectives.

6.0 Status of Necessary Permits

The proposed project consists of planning, compliance documentation, site screening, and preliminary engineering activities. No construction activities are included within the scope of this request.

Phases I and II involve document review, GIS analysis, compliance evaluation, and site screening. These activities do not require federal, state, or local construction permits.

Phase III includes boundary verification, topographic survey, and limited geotechnical reconnaissance at the preferred DMMA site. These activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local requirements and do not constitute construction of a dredged material containment facility.

Preparation and submission of full construction permit applications are not included in this request. Instead, Task 2.3.5 will develop a Permitting & Regulatory Roadmap identifying:

- Anticipated federal, state, and local permits;

- Potential National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) considerations if a federal nexus applies;
- Water quality and return-flow requirements;
- Zoning and land use considerations; and
- Recommended sequencing for future permit applications.

This phased approach ensures that the project can be completed within the proposed schedule without dependency on extended regulatory review timelines, while positioning the preferred DMMA site for efficient advancement into formal permitting following completion of this planning effort.

7.0 Project Management & Administrative Capacity

The MPCBPAA, in partnership with the MPPDC, possesses the institutional capacity, technical expertise, and administrative infrastructure necessary to successfully implement the proposed project within the proposed schedule.

Governance & Program Structure

The MPCBPAA serves as the regional entity responsible for advancing public access and dredging-related initiatives across the Middle Peninsula. The MPCBPAA is actively administering the Municipal Dredging Program, for which approximately \$7.5 million has been allocated to support implementation of shallow-draft dredging projects.

MPPDC provides regional planning, financial management, and grant administration services in support of the MPCBPAA and its member localities. MPPDC is currently advancing the DMMI under prior WMF funding and has established administrative systems for:

- Consultant procurement and contract management;
- Financial tracking and reimbursement documentation;
- Quarterly and annual reporting;
- Multi-jurisdictional coordination; and
- Compliance with state and federal grant requirements.

This established framework provides continuity and minimizes administrative startup risk.

Project Management & Oversight

Project management and grant administration will be provided through a dedicated PM & Grant Management function, funded as a separate line item in the project budget. This structure ensures:

- Centralized oversight of scope, schedule, and budget;
- Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) review of technical deliverables;
- Coordination between engineering consultants, survey teams, geotechnical contractors, and regulatory agencies;
- Ongoing communication with the VMRC and USACE; and
- Timely submission of reimbursement requests and required documentation.

Given the multi-phase structure of this project — including federal compliance documentation, regional screening, survey and geotechnical coordination, preliminary engineering development, and interagency consultation — dedicated project management oversight is essential to ensure disciplined execution, cost control, and schedule performance. The project management structure is intentionally designed to provide centralized coordination, QA/QC review of technical deliverables, financial accountability, and

direct communication with VMRC and USACE throughout the project lifecycle. This separation of management oversight from technical production strengthens accountability and delivery performance.

Technical Expertise & Consultant Bench

MPPDC and the MPCBPAA have cultivated a regional bench of technical experts with experience in:

- Dredging program management;
- Coastal and hydraulic engineering;
- Geotechnical analysis;
- BUDM;
- Regulatory compliance and permitting strategy; and
- GIS-based suitability modeling.

Through DMMI and related initiatives, the region has established working relationships with engineering firms, sediment management specialists, and regulatory consultants familiar with the hydrodynamic, environmental, and real estate conditions of the Middle Peninsula.

In addition, the region maintains access to academic institutions and research partners capable of providing technical consultation related to sediment characterization, coastal resilience, and beneficial use applications. This broader technical network strengthens the project's analytical rigor and policy alignment.

Interagency Coordination

Successful advancement of a regional DMMA requires coordination with:

- USACE-Norfolk District;
- VMRC and various other state agencies;
- Local governments and planning staff;
- Environmental regulatory agencies; and
- Potential land acquisition stakeholders.

MPPDC and the MPCBPAA have demonstrated experience coordinating across these entities under prior WMF initiatives and the Municipal Dredging Program. Existing communication channels and established professional relationships reduce institutional friction and enhance schedule reliability.

Administrative Controls & Financial Management

MPPDC maintains established financial management systems to ensure:

- Proper procurement procedures;
- Invoice verification and cost tracking;
- Documentation of eligible expenses;
- Compliance with state and federal grant requirements; and
- Timely reporting to funding agencies.

This administrative infrastructure ensures that WMF funds will be managed transparently and in accordance with all applicable guidelines. MPPDC maintains a federally compliant procurement policy and financial management system consistent with state grant requirements.

Capacity Conclusion

The combined governance structure of the MPCBPAA and MPPDC, supported by an experienced technical consultant bench and established interagency relationships, provides the organizational capacity necessary to implement the proposed three-phase project efficiently and responsibly.

The project management framework is designed to ensure disciplined execution, regulatory coordination, and timely advancement of one preferred regional DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness within the proposed 12-month schedule.

8.0 Potential Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials

Alignment with Commonwealth Policy Direction

The Commonwealth of Virginia has increasingly emphasized BUDM as a preferred long-term strategy for managing sediment generated from Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributary dredging projects. Beneficial use generally includes the placement or reuse of dredged material for ecological restoration and coastal resilience purposes, such as:

- Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration;
- Island and shoreline stabilization;
- Wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement; and
- Fish and shellfish habitat improvement.

This policy direction reflects a broader shift toward managing sediment as a resource rather than a waste material.

Regional Implementation Context

MPPDC is currently engaged in Coastal Zone Management (CZM)–funded initiatives focused on SAV mitigation strategies and regional beneficial use implementation planning to compliment the ongoing DMMI. These efforts evaluate in-water and shoreline restoration opportunities that depend upon reliable access to dredged material.

However, effective beneficial use implementation often requires:

- Temporary upland staging areas;
- Dewatering and conditioning prior to reuse;
- Controlled storage aligned with environmental windows; and
- Flexibility to coordinate dredging cycles with restoration timing.

Without publicly controlled upland capacity, beneficial use opportunities may be limited by logistical constraints.

Role of the Proposed Regional DMMA

The regional DMMA advanced through this proposal provides the enabling infrastructure necessary to support future beneficial use projects. By advancing a publicly controlled DMMA to preliminary engineering readiness, this project will:

- Provide compliant upland containment capacity for temporary staging and dewatering;
- Facilitate phased reuse of sediment for shoreline stabilization, wetland enhancement, and habitat restoration projects;
- Improve regional flexibility to align dredging events with restoration opportunities; and

- Support long-term sediment management strategies consistent with evolving Commonwealth priorities.

The Phase III conceptual engineering will incorporate containment configuration and lifecycle capacity strategies that allow selective re-excavation and reuse, positioning the region to implement beneficial use projects as funding and restoration opportunities arise.

Coastal Mitigation & Resilience Outcomes

By strengthening publicly controlled placement capacity, this project enhances the Middle Peninsula's ability to mitigate coastal erosion, improve habitat conditions, and support flood resilience initiatives while maintaining compliance with federal navigation placement requirements.

The proposed DMMA is structured as sediment management infrastructure that supports navigation maintenance and environmental restoration objectives in tandem.

9.0 Potential Beneficial Impact to the Community

Advancement of a federally compliant regional DMMA directly supports the efficient implementation of dredging projects across the Middle Peninsula. By reducing placement uncertainty and federal compliance risk, this project strengthens the region's ability to maintain navigable access for commercial watermen, recreational boaters, and marine-dependent businesses.

The dredging of shoaled channels will benefit the community in a variety of ways. First, by providing ease of access to and from the waters of the Commonwealth for commercial watermen as well as recreational boaters. Second, the US Coast Guard has the potential to use the open channels to reach calls more quickly. Finally, boaters traveling past the dredged channels will more easily and safely be able access the marinas, boat yards and other working waterfront businesses located in the region. This will bring more revenue to local businesses and increase visibility of the Middle Peninsula in the boating community. As explained above, the local government programs are anticipated to create and grow the dredging industry, resulting in new direct, indirect, and induced jobs, businesses and services in the region.

The Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shores' working waterfronts were inventoried in 2011 and may be found here:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/FundsInitiativesProjects/task92-12c.pdf>.

Additionally, establishing operations via public-private partnerships or other means where manufacturing of dredged material may occur for any material not beneficially used will directly contribute to local communities and economies via the creation of new jobs. Concrete products made of dredged material have the potential to help local, state, and national deficits in concrete as well as providing innovative solutions which can help reduce nutrient loading and even absorption of carbon from the atmosphere. The MPPDC has established professional relationships and a strong history working with private sector companies committed to partnering to advance innovative and beneficial solutions for the reuse of dredged material via the manufacturing of concrete products.

10.0 Economic Justification for Need

The Middle Peninsula's rural coastal localities are fiscally constrained and heavily dependent on working waterfront industries, marine-dependent businesses, and navigable shallow-draft waterways. While the

General Assembly has prioritized dredging through the WMF , continued implementation depends upon secure and compliant dredged material placement capacity. Without advancement of a regional DMMA, existing dredging allocations remain vulnerable to delay or loss of federal participation.

The channels to be included in the proposed effort are essential gateways to the Middle Peninsula’s working waterfronts. Economically, working waterfront industries contribute to rural coastal Virginia’s local and regional economies. Revenue is generated through tourism and recreation, boat building, harvesting of natural resources, maritime transport, and marine construction.

Within the Middle Peninsula recreation and commercial activity provide a large economic benefit to the counties as well as the Commonwealth. **Appendix A** presents the Maritime Jobs data from NOAA for all counties involved in the project. **Appendix B** offers a list of Virginia Marine Resources Commission Commercial Licenses and Permits purchased by member jurisdictions’ residents. A summary from the Virginia Working Waterfronts Master Plan (2015) of economic activity in the Middle Peninsula is included below.

ESSEX COUNTY –\$7,285 in VMRC Commercial Licenses & Permits representing 42 different types of licenses (2015).

GLOUCESTER COUNTY –\$181,098 in VMRC Commercial Licenses & Permits representing 104 different types of licenses (2015)

KING WILLIAM COUNTY –\$8,245 in VMRC Commercial Licenses & Permits representing 39 different types of licenses (2015)

KING & QUEEN COUNTY–\$6,993 in VMRC Commercial Licenses & Permits representing 35 different types of licenses (2015).

MIDDLESEX COUNTY–\$70,435 in VMRC Commercial Licenses & Permits representing 80 different types of licenses (2015).

MATHEWS COUNTY–\$57,481 in VMRC Commercial Licenses & Permits representing 86 different types of licenses (2015).

Table 4: Maritime jobs counting for employees, wages (2013), and good & services (NOAA Coastal County Snapshots, 2013).				
County	Maritime Employees	Percentage of Jobs in County	Maritime job Wages	Goods and Services
Mathews	111	1.7%	\$1 million	\$2 million
Gloucester	902	9.5%	\$12 million	\$23 million
Middlesex	247	7.7%	\$4 million	\$8 million
Essex	400	-	\$5.7 million	\$10.8 million
<i>Please note that NOAA does not track data for King William and King & Queen Counties, which is why they are not included in this table.</i>				

Additionally, previous MPPDC studies have shown a direct correlation between navigability and local property values. Local findings indicate that for every foot of change in channel depth in a navigable channel, there is a 16% change in real estate value to properties adjacent to the subject waterway. For instance, if a channel shoals by one-foot, real estate values decrease 16% in response to that change. Conversely, if dredging results in a channel that is deeper by two feet, then real estate values increase by 32%. This finding demonstrates how critical navigability is to the tax base of rural coastal localities and it

is anticipated that the proposed activities will have significant to real estate property values in the region.

Finally, and most importantly, implementation depends upon resolution of placement compliance constraints. The outcomes of the proposed activities will be transferrable to other rural localities around the Commonwealth and result in optimal and cost-efficient government operation.

Appendix A: NOAA Maritime Jobs Snapshot – Middle Peninsula PDC Jurisdictions

Essex County, Virginia

Maritime Jobs = A Healthy Economy

In 2015, maritime-related businesses provided NA of the total jobs in Essex County. This represents a 0% increase in maritime jobs since 2005. Nationwide, maritime jobs represent double the number of jobs supported by agriculture.

Essex County maritime jobs account for



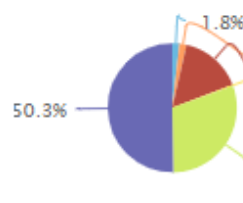
Maritime Jobs by Sector

Comparing Essex County's maritime sectors to the state and nation shows how local concerns may or may not coincide with state and national priorities.

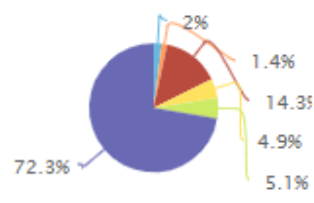
Essex County



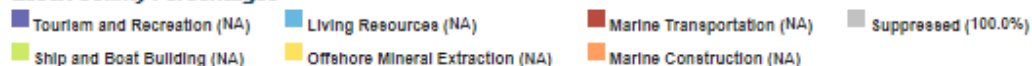
Virginia



Nation



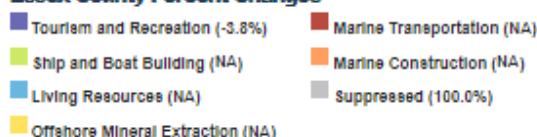
Essex County Percentages



Job Trends

When making coastal management decisions, it is important to understand how the six sectors have changed over time.

Essex County Percent Changes



Percent Change in Jobs



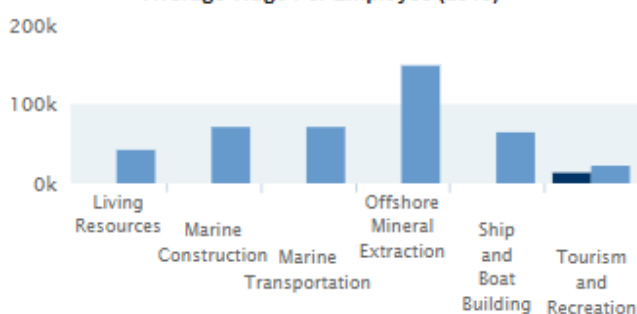
Number of Jobs Gained or Lost



County and National Wages

Higher local wages can be attractive to employees but a deterrent to new or expanding businesses. Managers should consider cost of living rates when making this comparison.

Average Wage Per Employee (2015)

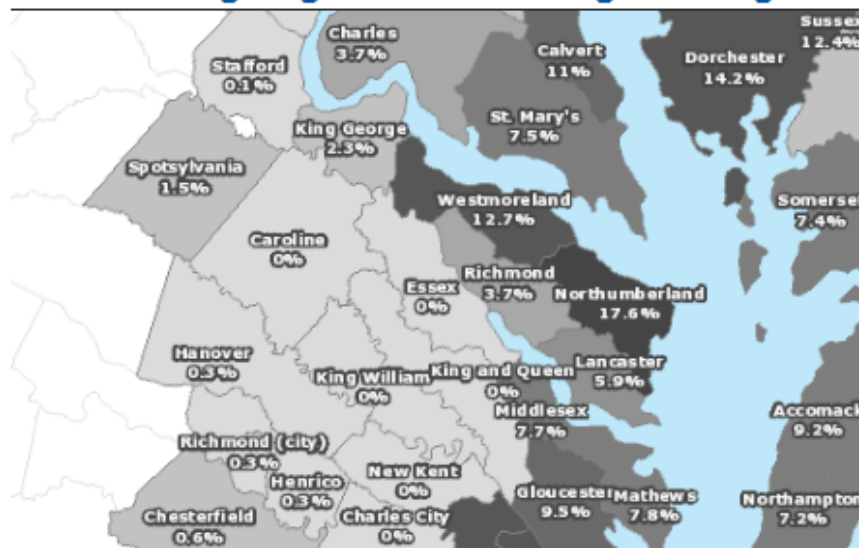


Impact of Part-time Workers

Average tourism wages can be smaller due to the high percentage of part-time workers, but total tourism wages are often among the highest because of the large number of people employed.

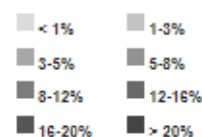
■ County ■ National

Understanding Neighbors Makes a Region Stronger



Knowing how neighboring communities depend on maritime resources can be important when it comes to developing regional governance policies that benefit all. See the Coastal County Snapshots for nearby counties to better understand regional similarities and differences.

Maritime Jobs as % of Total Jobs (2015)



Digging Deeper

This snapshot provides a good starting point, but there are aspects of the economy that are not captured in this analysis. Information to help fill these gaps is listed below.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Key Economic Sectors

Economic statistics that focus on employment, like those used in this snapshot, miss the contributions of the self-employed. However, the self-employed are an important part of some sectors, like commercial fishing. NOAA compiles a wide range of [data on commercial fishing](#) that more fully illustrates this sector's economic importance.

Values Outside the Market

Because many of the natural features that make the coast attractive can be enjoyed at no cost, their value is not evident in the "market" data (jobs, wages, etc.). However, independent studies have estimated these "nonmarket" values (aesthetics, health, safety, etc.).

- [National Ocean Economics Program](#)

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- [Developing and using information on nonmarket values](#)
- [Assessing tradeoffs](#)

Additional Coastal Economic Resources

- [NOAA Fisheries Social Indicators](#)
- [Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership](#)
- [Introduction to Economics for Coastal Managers](#)

Data Source for This Snapshot

[Economics: National Ocean Watch \(ENOW\)](#). This data set provides ocean- and Great Lakes-related establishments, employment, and wages computed using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, and gross domestic product (GDP) data derived from state GDP statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Gloucester County, Virginia

Maritime Jobs = A Healthy Economy

In 2015, maritime-related businesses provided 10.9% of the total jobs in Gloucester County. This represents a 65% increase in maritime jobs since 2005. Nationwide, maritime jobs represent double the number of jobs supported by agriculture.

Gloucester County maritime jobs account for

1,012
employees

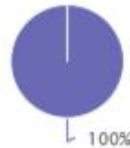
\$15m
in wages
in 2015

\$28m
in goods & services

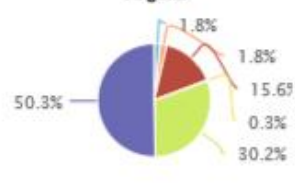
Maritime Jobs by Sector

Comparing Gloucester County's maritime sectors to the state and nation shows how local concerns may or may not coincide with state and national priorities.

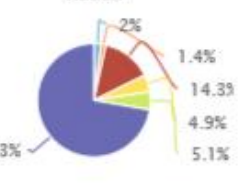
Gloucester County



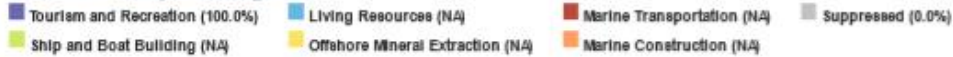
Virginia



Nation



Gloucester County Percentages



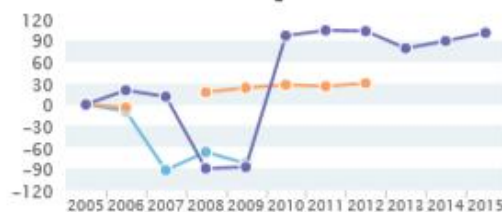
Job Trends

When making coastal management decisions, it is important to understand how the six sectors have changed over time.

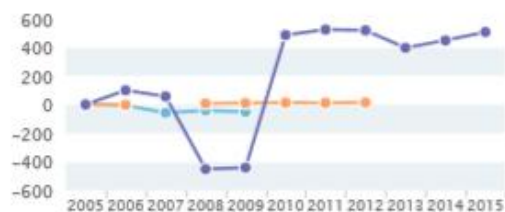
Gloucester County Percent Changes



Percent Change in Jobs



Number of Jobs Gained or Lost



County and National Wages

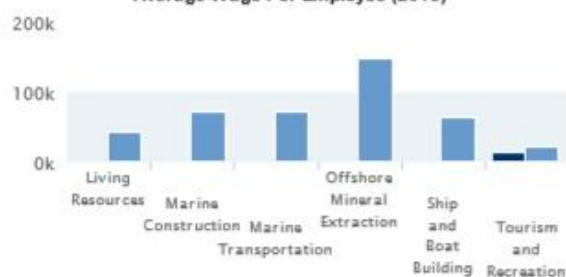
Higher local wages can be attractive to employees but a deterrent to new or expanding businesses. Managers should consider cost of living rates when making this comparison.

Impact of Part-time Workers

Average tourism wages can be smaller due to the high percentage of part-time workers, but total tourism wages are often among the highest because of the large number of people employed.

■ County ■ National

Average Wage Per Employee (2015)



Understanding Neighbors Makes a Region Stronger



Digging Deeper

This snapshot provides a good starting point, but there are aspects of the economy that are not captured in this analysis. Information to help fill these gaps is listed below.

Frequently Asked Questions (<https://coast.noaa.gov/snapshots/faq/ocean-jobs.pdf>)

Key Economic Sectors

Economic statistics that focus on employment, like those used in this snapshot, miss the contributions of the self-employed. However, the self-employed are an important part of some sectors, like commercial fishing. NOAA compiles a wide range of [data on commercial fishing](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/index) that more fully illustrates this sector's economic importance.

Values Outside the Market

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- National Ocean Economics Program (<http://www.oceaneconomics.org/nonmarket/>)

Combining Data to Make Decisions

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- Developing and using information on nonmarket values (<http://nepis.epa.gov/Adobe/PDF/P100ERJY.pdf>)
- Assessing tradeoffs (<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/invest.html>)

Additional Coastal Economic Resources

- NOAA Fisheries Social Indicators (<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/humandimensions/social-indicators/index>)
- Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership (<http://www.marineecosystems-services.org/>)
- Introduction to Economics for Coastal Managers (<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/economics.html>)

Data Source for This Snapshot

Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) (<https://coast.noaa.gov/dataregistry/search/collection/info/enow>). This data set provides ocean- and Great Lakes-related establishments, employment, and wages computed using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, and gross domestic product (GDP) data derived from state GDP statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Mathews County, Virginia

Maritime Jobs = A Healthy Economy

In 2015, maritime-related businesses provided 5.4% of the total jobs in Mathews County. This represents a 35% decrease in maritime jobs since 2005. Nationwide, maritime jobs represent double the number of jobs supported by agriculture.

Mathews County maritime jobs account for

79
employees

\$878k
in wages
in 2015

\$2m
in goods & services

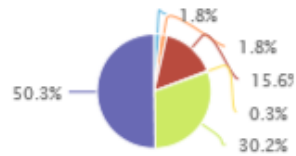
Maritime Jobs by Sector

Comparing Mathews County's maritime sectors to the state and nation shows how local concerns may or may not coincide with state and national priorities.

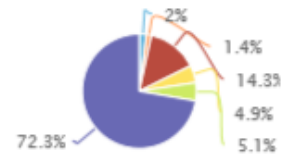
Mathews County



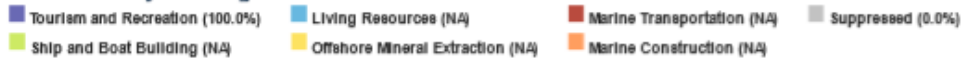
Virginia



Nation



Mathews County Percentages



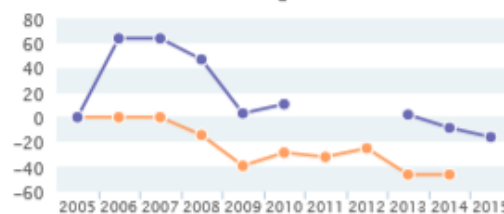
Job Trends

When making coastal management decisions, it is important to understand how the six sectors have changed over time.

Mathews County Percent Changes



Percent Change in Jobs



Number of Jobs Gained or Lost



County and National Wages

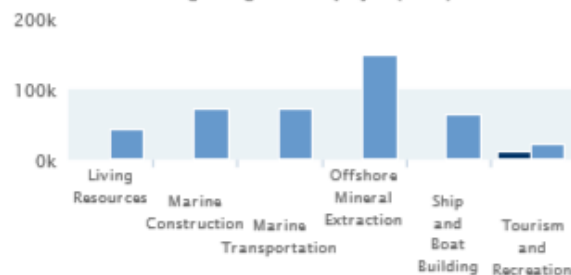
Higher local wages can be attractive to employees but a deterrent to new or expanding businesses. Managers should consider cost of living rates when making this comparison.

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■ County ■ National

Average Wage Per Employee (2015)



Understanding Neighbors Makes a Region Stronger



Digging Deeper

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Values Outside the Market

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Additional Coastal Economic Resources

- NOAA Fisheries Social Indicators (<http://www.stnms.noaa.gov/humandimensions/social-indicators/index>)
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Data Source for This Snapshot

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Middlesex County, Virginia

Maritime Jobs = A Healthy Economy

In 2015, maritime-related businesses provided 6.4% of the total jobs in Middlesex County. This represents a 46% decrease in maritime jobs since 2005. Nationwide, maritime jobs represent double the number of jobs supported by agriculture.

Middlesex County maritime jobs account for

206
employees

\$5m
in wages
in 2015

\$9m
in goods & services

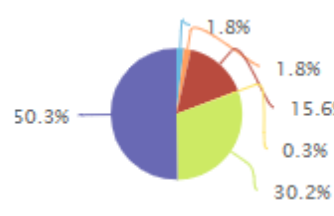
Maritime Jobs by Sector

Comparing Middlesex County's maritime sectors to the state and nation shows how local concerns may or may not coincide with state and national priorities.

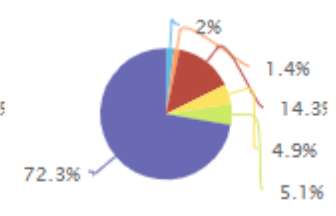
Middlesex County



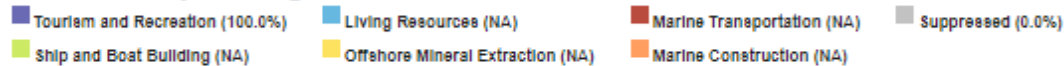
Virginia



Nation



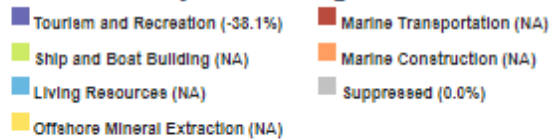
Middlesex County Percentages



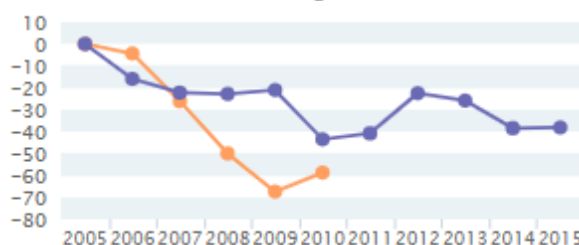
Job Trends

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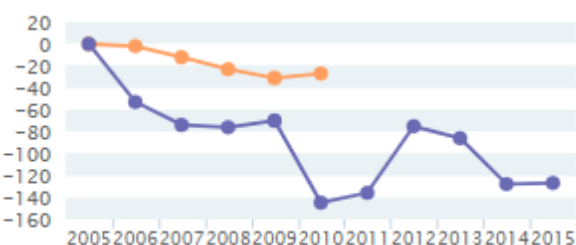
Middlesex County Percent Changes



Percent Change in Jobs



Number of Jobs Gained or Lost



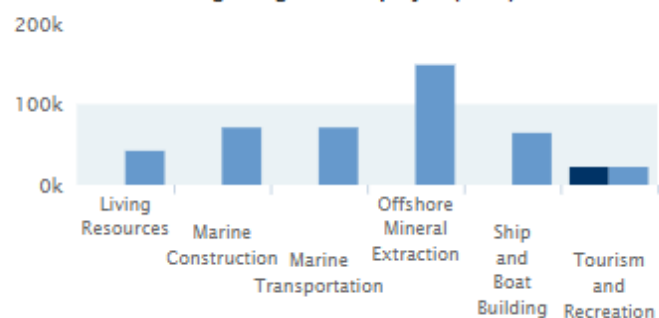
County and National Wages

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Impact of Part-time Workers

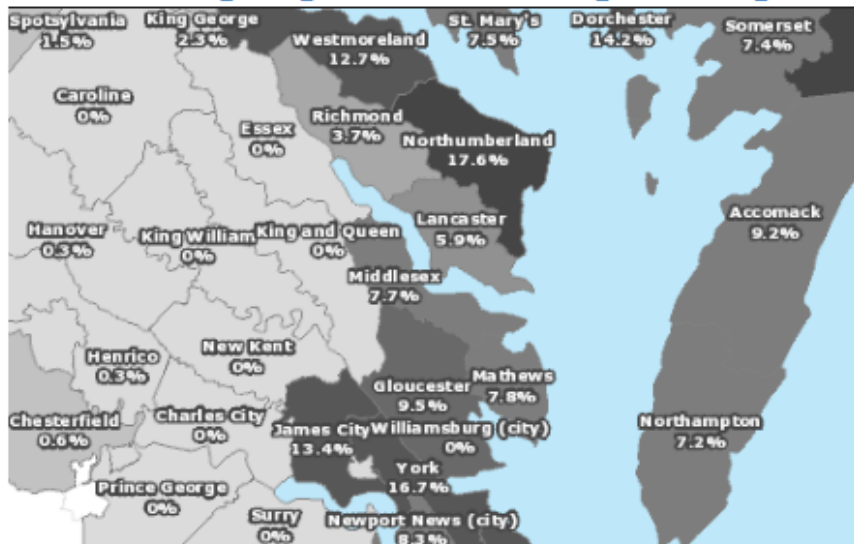
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Average Wage Per Employee (2015)



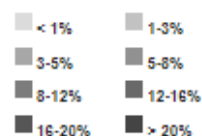
■ County ■ National

Understanding Neighbors Makes a Region Stronger



Knowing how neighboring communities depend on maritime resources can be important when it comes to developing regional governance policies that benefit all. See the Coastal County Snapshots for nearby counties to better understand regional similarities and differences.

Maritime Jobs as % of Total Jobs (2015)



Digging Deeper

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Appendix B: VMRC 2018 Commercial Licenses and Permits

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

Essex County					
Gear	Description	Licenses	Individuals	Price	Total
104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	1	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2	2	\$50.00	\$100.00
108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	1	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
109	OYS AQUACULT HARVESTER PERMIT	1	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
134	SHELLFISH HARVESTER TAG	1	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
209	CRAB HAND SCRAPE-DOUBLE	1	1	\$53.00	\$53.00
211	CRAB POT-85 OR LESS	3	3	\$48.00	\$144.00
212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	3	3	\$79.00	\$237.00
215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	3	3	\$9.00	\$27.00
217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	5	5	\$36.00	\$180.00
227	CRAB AGENT PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	15	6	\$16.00	\$240.00
304	GILL NETS-1200 OR LESS	7	2	\$24.00	\$168.00
349	SB BAY PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	8	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
354	AM SHAD BYCATCH PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	3	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
372	CLASS B GILL NET PERMIT	3	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
379	USER FEE OYSTER ALL GEAR	2	2	\$300.00	\$600.00
382	USER FEE SHUCKING < 10000 GAL	1	1	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
385	USER FEE OYSTER SINGLE BUYER	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE	1	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
388	FISH POT-100 OR LESS	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
391	EEL POT-100 OR LESS	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
402	SHUCKING HOUSE-TO 10,000	1	1	\$33.00	\$33.00
411	BUYERS BUSINESS PLACE	1	1	\$126.00	\$126.00
412	OYSTER SINGLE BUYER LICENSE	1	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
414	OYSTER BUYER BOAT/TRUCK IDENTIFIER PERMIT	2	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	15	15	\$0.00	\$0.00
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	34	34	\$0.00	\$0.00
475	TILEFSH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	17	17	\$0.00	\$0.00
476	BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	16	16	\$190.00	\$3040.00
501	COMM REGISTRATION-SENIOR CITIZ	2	2	\$90.00	\$180.00
516	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD SR	1	1	\$90.00	\$90.00
717	TRANSFERRED PEELER POT	1	1	\$36.00	\$36.00
770	TRANS CLASS A GILL NET	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
805	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-MORE THAN 6	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
811	CLASS B FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
992	REPLACEMENT DECAL	1	1	\$1.00	\$1.00
Total Essex County					\$6,728.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

Gloucester County					
Gear	Description	Licenses	Individuals	Price	Total
102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	12	12	\$35.00	\$420.00
103	OYSTER DREDGE PUBLIC GROUND	30	30	\$50.00	\$1500.00
104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	125	125	\$10.00	\$1250.00
105	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-DOUBLE	7	7	\$70.00	\$490.00
106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	169	169	\$50.00	\$8450.00
108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	21	21	\$10.00	\$210.00
109	OYS AQUACULT HARVESTER PERMIT	63	63	\$5.00	\$315.00
110	OYS AQUACULT VESSEL PERMIT	11	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
111	CLAM BY HAND/RAKE	1	1	\$24.00	\$24.00
112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	6	6	\$58.00	\$348.00
113	CLAM DREDGE-HAND	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
119	CLAM AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	2	2	\$10.00	\$20.00
121	CLAM AQUACULT VESSEL PERMIT	4	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
122	AQUACULTURE HUSBANDRY PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
123	WARMWATER SHELLFISH GPS PRMT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
125	SHELLFISH ICING PERMIT	33	28	\$0.00	\$0.00
126	DAILY SHELLFISH RELAY PERMIT	12	1	\$150.00	\$1800.00
131	CONCH-DREDGE	2	2	\$58.00	\$116.00
132	CHANNELED WHELK POT	5	5	\$51.00	\$255.00
133	SHELLFISH BULK TAG	21	18	\$10.00	\$210.00
134	SHELLFISH HARVESTER TAG	66	55	\$10.00	\$660.00
208	CRAB HAND SCRAPE-SINGLE	3	3	\$26.00	\$78.00
209	CRAB HAND SCRAPE-DOUBLE	4	4	\$53.00	\$212.00
211	CRAB POT-85 OR LESS	14	14	\$48.00	\$672.00
212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	72	72	\$79.00	\$5688.00
213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	12	12	\$127.00	\$1524.00
215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	12	11	\$9.00	\$108.00
216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	8	8	\$19.00	\$152.00
217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	35	35	\$36.00	\$1260.00
222	CRAB POT-86 TO 127	8	8	\$79.00	\$632.00
223	CRAB POT-128 TO 170	1	1	\$79.00	\$79.00
227	CRAB AGENT PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
228	ALTERNATE HOURS PERMIT, CRABBING	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
229	MEDICAL EXEMPTION PERMIT, CRABBING	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
280	CRAB TRAP	47	4	\$8.00	\$376.00
302	STAKED GILL NET	4	1	\$24.00	\$96.00
303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	198	72	\$16.00	\$3168.00
304	GILL NETS-1200 OR LESS	108	38	\$24.00	\$2592.00
305	COMMERCIAL FISH CAST/THROW NET	1	1	\$13.00	\$13.00
308	FISH TROT LINE	8	5	\$19.00	\$152.00
309	COMMERCIAL FISH DIP NET	1	1	\$9.00	\$9.00
310	HAUL SEINE-UNDER 500 YDS	8	8	\$48.00	\$384.00
311	HAUL SEINE-500 YDS & OVER	6	6	\$146.00	\$876.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

319	COMMERCIAL HOOK & LINE	12	12	\$31.00	\$372.00
320	COMMERCIAL FISH PIER	2	2	\$83.00	\$166.00
331	COMM HOOK & LINE STRIPED BASS	7	7	\$31.00	\$217.00
349	SB BAY PERMIT	34	34	\$0.00	\$0.00
352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	100	40	\$0.00	\$0.00
354	AM SHAD BYCATCH PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
365	SPINY DOGFISH LIMIT ENTRY PRMT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	67	67	\$0.00	\$0.00
372	CLASS B GILL NET PERMIT	34	34	\$0.00	\$0.00
379	USER FEE OYSTER ALL GEAR	184	184	\$300.00	\$55200.00
381	USER FEE SHUCKING < 1000 GAL	1	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
382	USER FEE SHUCKING < 10000 GAL	2	2	\$1000.00	\$2000.00
385	USER FEE OYSTER SINGLE BUYER	3	3	\$100.00	\$300.00
386	USER FEE OYSTER MULTIPLE BUYER	4	4	\$300.00	\$1200.00
387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE	21	21	\$50.00	\$1050.00
388	FISH POT-100 OR LESS	12	12	\$19.00	\$228.00
389	FISH POT-300 OR LESS	6	6	\$24.00	\$144.00
390	FISH POT- OVER 300	3	3	\$62.00	\$186.00
391	EEL POT-100 OR LESS	8	8	\$19.00	\$152.00
392	EEL POT-300 OR LESS	9	9	\$24.00	\$216.00
393	EEL POT- OVER 300	5	5	\$62.00	\$310.00
401	SHUCKING HOUSE-UNDER 1000	1	1	\$12.00	\$12.00
402	SHUCKING HOUSE-TO 10,000	2	2	\$33.00	\$66.00
410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	29	8	\$63.00	\$1827.00
411	BUYERS BUSINESS PLACE	9	9	\$126.00	\$1134.00
412	OYSTER SINGLE BUYER LICENSE	3	3	\$50.00	\$150.00
413	OYSTER MULTIPLE BUYER LICENSE	4	4	\$100.00	\$400.00
414	OYSTER BUYER BOAT/TRUCK IDENTIFIER PERMIT	7	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
415	CHANNELED WHELK BUYERS PERMIT	11	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
416	HORSESHOE CRAB BUYING PERMIT	11	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
417	BLACK DRUM BUYER PERMIT	11	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
419	STRIPED BASS BUYER PERMIT	13	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
420	EEL BUYER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
421	EEL SELF-MARKET PERMIT	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	87	87	\$0.00	\$0.00
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	258	258	\$0.00	\$0.00
475	TILEFISH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	74	74	\$0.00	\$0.00
476	BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT	17	17	\$0.00	\$0.00
500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	280	280	\$190.00	\$53200.00
501	COMM REGISTRATION-SENIOR CITIZ	48	48	\$90.00	\$4320.00
502	COMM REG TRANSFER FROM DELAYED	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
515	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD	7	7	\$190.00	\$1330.00
516	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD SR	3	3	\$90.00	\$270.00
600	SEAFOOD LANDING LICENSE	6	1	\$175.00	\$1050.00
601	SUMMER FLOUNDER ENDORSEMENT	2	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

709	TRANSFERRED CRAB SCRAPE-DOUBLE	1	1	\$53.00	\$53.00
711	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 100	3	3	\$48.00	\$144.00
712	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 300	7	7	\$79.00	\$553.00
717	TRANSFERRED PEELER POT	3	3	\$36.00	\$108.00
719	TRANSFERRED HOOK & LINE	1	1	\$31.00	\$31.00
732	TRANSFERRED CHANNELED WHELK	1	1	\$51.00	\$51.00
770	TRANS CLASS A GILL NET	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
800	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-6 & UNDER	6	5	\$90.00	\$740.00
805	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-MORE THAN 6	1	1	\$175.00	\$175.00
810	CLASS A FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	5	5	\$100.00	\$500.00
811	CLASS B FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
815	STRIPED BASS CHARTER PERMIT	3	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
820	COMMERCIAL PIER-SALTWT RECREAT	2	2	\$632.00	\$1264.00
825	BOAT RENTAL	4	1	\$14.00	\$56.00
992	REPLACEMENT DECAL	12	6	\$1.00	\$12.00
Total Gloucester County					\$163,945.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

King William County

Gear	Description	Licenses	Individuals	Price	Total
103	OYSTER DREDGE PUBLIC GROUND	1	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	1	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2	2	\$50.00	\$100.00
108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	2	2	\$10.00	\$20.00
125	SHELLFISH ICING PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
211	CRAB POT-85 OR LESS	10	10	\$48.00	\$480.00
212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	3	3	\$79.00	\$237.00
215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	2	2	\$9.00	\$18.00
217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	4	4	\$36.00	\$144.00
222	CRAB POT-86 TO 127	2	2	\$79.00	\$158.00
227	CRAB AGENT PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
302	STAKED GILL NET	2	2	\$24.00	\$48.00
303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	34	11	\$16.00	\$544.00
304	GILL NETS-1200 OR LESS	3	3	\$24.00	\$72.00
308	FISH TROT LINE	17	1	\$19.00	\$323.00
310	HAUL SEINE-UNDER 500 YDS	1	1	\$48.00	\$48.00
319	COMMERCIAL HOOK & LINE	2	2	\$31.00	\$62.00
331	COMM HOOK & LINE STRIPED BASS	1	1	\$31.00	\$31.00
349	SB BAY PERMIT	9	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	16	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
354	AM SHAD BYCATCH PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	8	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
372	CLASS B GILL NET PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
379	USER FEE OYSTER ALL GEAR	2	2	\$300.00	\$600.00
381	USER FEE SHUCKING < 1000 GAL	1	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
385	USER FEE OYSTER SINGLE BUYER	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE	2	2	\$50.00	\$100.00
389	FISH POT-300 OR LESS	1	1	\$24.00	\$24.00
391	EEL POT-100 OR LESS	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
392	EEL POT-300 OR LESS	1	1	\$24.00	\$24.00
401	SHUCKING HOUSE-UNDER 1000	1	1	\$12.00	\$12.00
410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1	1	\$63.00	\$63.00
411	BUYERS BUSINESS PLACE	1	1	\$126.00	\$126.00
412	OYSTER SINGLE BUYER LICENSE	1	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
414	OYSTER BUYER BOAT/TRUCK IDENTIFIER PERMIT		1	\$0.00	\$0.00
419	STRIPED BASS BUYER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
420	EEL BUYER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	27	27	\$0.00	\$0.00
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	83	83	\$0.00	\$0.00
475	TILEFSH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	21	21	\$0.00	\$0.00
476	BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	21	21	\$190.00	\$3990.00
501	COMM REGISTRATION-SENIOR CITIZ	4	4	\$90.00	\$360.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

515	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD	1	1	\$190.00	\$190.00
800	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-6 & UNDER	3	3	\$90.00	\$270.00
810	CLASS A FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	2	2	\$100.00	\$200.00
811	CLASS B FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
812	FISH GUIDE RECIPROCITY PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
815	STRIPED BASS CHARTER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
992	REPLACEMENT DECAL	9	1	\$1.00	\$9.00
Total King William County					\$9,082.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

King and Queen County					
Gear	Description	Licenses	Individuals	Price	Total
103	OYSTER DREDGE PUBLIC GROUND	1	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	3	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	5	5	\$50.00	\$250.00
108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	1	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
109	OYS AQUACULT HARVESTER PERMIT	1	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
208	CRAB HAND SCRAPE-SINGLE	1	1	\$26.00	\$26.00
211	CRAB POT-85 OR LESS	4	4	\$48.00	\$192.00
212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1	1	\$79.00	\$79.00
215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	2	2	\$9.00	\$18.00
216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	4	4	\$36.00	\$144.00
227	CRAB AGENT PERMIT	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
280	CRAB TRAP	32	2	\$8.00	\$256.00
302	STAKED GILL NET	2	1	\$24.00	\$48.00
303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	20	6	\$16.00	\$320.00
304	GILL NETS-1200 OR LESS	6	2	\$24.00	\$144.00
308	FISH TROT LINE	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
311	HAUL SEINE-500 YDS & OVER	1	1	\$146.00	\$146.00
320	COMMERCIAL FISH PIER	1	1	\$83.00	\$83.00
354	AM SHAD BYCATCH PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
372	CLASS B GILL NET PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
379	USER FEE OYSTER ALL GEAR	5	5	\$300.00	\$1500.00
387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE	1	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
388	FISH POT-100 OR LESS	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
391	EEL POT-100 OR LESS	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
392	EEL POT-300 OR LESS	3	3	\$24.00	\$72.00
410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1	1	\$63.00	\$63.00
411	BUYERS BUSINESS PLACE	1	1	\$126.00	\$126.00
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	8	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	19	19	\$0.00	\$0.00
475	TILEFSH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	7	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
476	BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	15	15	\$190.00	\$2850.00
711	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 100	1	1	\$48.00	\$48.00
712	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 300	1	1	\$79.00	\$79.00
820	COMMERCIAL PIER-SALTWT RECREAT	1	1	\$632.00	\$632.00
825	BOAT RENTAL	34	1	\$14.00	\$476.00
Total King and Queen County					\$7,773.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

Middlesex County					
Gear	Description	Licenses	Individuals	Price	Total
102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	9	9	\$35.00	\$315.00
103	OYSTER DREDGE PUBLIC GROUND	4	4	\$50.00	\$200.00
104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	18	18	\$10.00	\$180.00
105	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-DOUBLE	1	1	\$70.00	\$70.00
106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	47	47	\$50.00	\$2350.00
108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	13	13	\$10.00	\$130.00
109	OYS AQUACULT HARVESTER PERMIT	23	23	\$5.00	\$115.00
110	OYS AQUACULT VESSEL PERMIT	7	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	2	2	\$58.00	\$116.00
122	AQUACULTURE HUSBANDRY PERMIT	4	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
123	WARMWATER SHELLFISH GPS PRMT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
125	SHELLFISH ICING PERMIT	3	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
131	CONCH-DREDGE	1	1	\$58.00	\$58.00
132	CHANNELED WHELK POT	2	2	\$51.00	\$102.00
133	SHELLFISH BULK TAG	3	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
134	SHELLFISH HARVESTER TAG	11	10	\$10.00	\$110.00
208	CRAB HAND SCRAPE-SINGLE	2	2	\$26.00	\$52.00
210	CRAB DIP NET	1	1	\$13.00	\$13.00
211	CRAB POT-85 OR LESS	25	25	\$48.00	\$1200.00
212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	30	30	\$79.00	\$2370.00
213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	4	4	\$127.00	\$508.00
215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	16	16	\$9.00	\$144.00
216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	13	13	\$19.00	\$247.00
217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	47	47	\$36.00	\$1692.00
222	CRAB POT-86 TO 127	2	2	\$79.00	\$158.00
227	CRAB AGENT PERMIT	7	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
228	ALTERNATE HOURS PERMIT, CRABBING	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
280	CRAB TRAP	15	1	\$8.00	\$120.00
303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	99	40	\$16.00	\$1584.00
304	GILL NETS-1200 OR LESS	24	14	\$24.00	\$576.00
305	COMMERCIAL FISH CAST/THROW NET	1	1	\$13.00	\$13.00
309	COMMERCIAL FISH DIP NET	1	1	\$9.00	\$9.00
319	COMMERCIAL HOOK & LINE	7	7	\$31.00	\$217.00
331	COMM HOOK & LINE STRIPED BASS	6	6	\$31.00	\$186.00
349	SB BAY PERMIT	16	16	\$0.00	\$0.00
352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	36	17	\$0.00	\$0.00
354	AM SHAD BYCATCH PERMIT	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
365	SPINY DOGFISH LIMIT ENTRY PRMT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	40	40	\$0.00	\$0.00
372	CLASS B GILL NET PERMIT	14	14	\$0.00	\$0.00
379	USER FEE OYSTER ALL GEAR	52	52	\$300.00	\$15600.00
381	USER FEE SHUCKING < 1000 GAL	2	2	\$500.00	\$1000.00
382	USER FEE SHUCKING < 10000 GAL	3	3	\$1000.00	\$3000.00

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County

384	USER FEE SHUCKING > 25000 GAL	1	1	\$4000.00	\$4000.00
385	USER FEE OYSTER SINGLE BUYER	4	4	\$100.00	\$400.00
386	USER FEE OYSTER MULTIPLE BUYER	1	1	\$300.00	\$300.00
387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE	14	14	\$50.00	\$700.00
388	FISH POT-100 OR LESS	2	2	\$19.00	\$38.00
389	FISH POT-300 OR LESS	7	7	\$24.00	\$168.00
390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2	2	\$62.00	\$124.00
391	EEL POT-100 OR LESS	3	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
392	EEL POT-300 OR LESS	2	2	\$24.00	\$48.00
393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2	2	\$62.00	\$124.00
401	SHUCKING HOUSE-UNDER 1000	2	2	\$12.00	\$24.00
402	SHUCKING HOUSE-TO 10,000	3	3	\$33.00	\$99.00
406	SHUCKING HOUSE-TO 200,000	1	1	\$290.00	\$290.00
410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	4	2	\$63.00	\$252.00
411	BUYERS BUSINESS PLACE	5	4	\$126.00	\$630.00
412	OYSTER SINGLE BUYER LICENSE	4	4	\$50.00	\$200.00
413	OYSTER MULTIPLE BUYER LICENSE	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
414	OYSTER BUYER BOAT/TRUCK IDENTIFIER PERMIT		5	\$0.00	\$0.00
417	BLACK DRUM BUYER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
419	STRIPED BASS BUYER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	45	45	\$0.00	\$0.00
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	122	122	\$0.00	\$0.00
475	TILEFISH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	26	26	\$0.00	\$0.00
476	BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	119	119	\$190.00	\$22610.00
501	COMM REGISTRATION-SENIOR CITIZ	22	22	\$90.00	\$1980.00
502	COMM REG TRANSFD FROM DELAYED	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
510	DELAYED ENTRY-COMM REG.	2	2	\$190.00	\$380.00
515	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD	1	1	\$190.00	\$190.00
516	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD SR	3	3	\$90.00	\$270.00
711	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 100	2	2	\$48.00	\$96.00
714	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 150	1	1	\$79.00	\$79.00
717	TRANSFERRED PEELER POT	1	1	\$36.00	\$36.00
732	TRANSFERRED CHANNELED WHELK	1	1	\$51.00	\$51.00
770	TRANS CLASS A GILL NET	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
800	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-6 & UNDER	11	11	\$90.00	\$990.00
805	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-MORE THAN 6	5	5	\$160.00	\$945.00
810	CLASS A FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	13	13	\$100.00	\$1300.00
811	CLASS B FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	2	2	\$100.00	\$200.00
815	STRIPED BASS CHARTER PERMIT	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total Middlesex County \$69,146.00

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County

Mathews County					
Gear	Description	Licenses	Individuals	Price	Total
102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	10	10	\$35.00	\$350.00
103	OYSTER DREDGE PUBLIC GROUND	4	4	\$50.00	\$200.00
104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	12	12	\$10.00	\$120.00
105	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-DOUBLE	2	2	\$70.00	\$140.00
106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	31	31	\$50.00	\$1550.00
108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	33	33	\$10.00	\$330.00
109	OYS AQUACULT HARVESTER PERMIT	6	6	\$5.00	\$30.00
110	OYS AQUACULT VESSEL PERMIT	3	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	2	2	\$58.00	\$116.00
119	CLAM AQUACULT PROD OWNER PERMIT	3	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
122	AQUACULTURE HUSBANDRY PERMIT	10	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
123	WARMWATER SHELLFISH GPS PRMT	3	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
125	SHELLFISH ICING PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
131	CONCH-DREDGE	4	4	\$58.00	\$232.00
132	CHANNELED WHELK POT	3	3	\$51.00	\$153.00
133	SHELLFISH BULK TAG	13	7	\$10.00	\$130.00
134	SHELLFISH HARVESTER TAG	28	12	\$10.00	\$280.00
180	HSC GENERAL PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
182	HSC CLASS A DREDGE PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
183	HSC CLASS B DREDGE PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
205	CRAB-ORDINARY TROT LINE	1	1	\$13.00	\$13.00
208	CRAB HAND SCRAPE-SINGLE	3	3	\$26.00	\$78.00
211	CRAB POT-85 OR LESS	14	14	\$48.00	\$672.00
212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	30	30	\$79.00	\$2370.00
213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	1	1	\$127.00	\$127.00
215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	4	4	\$9.00	\$36.00
216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	18	18	\$36.00	\$648.00
222	CRAB POT-86 TO 127	5	5	\$79.00	\$395.00
223	CRAB POT-128 TO 170	1	1	\$79.00	\$79.00
227	CRAB AGENT PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
228	ALTERNATE HOURS PERMIT, CRABBING	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
280	CRAB TRAP	59	5	\$8.00	\$472.00
303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	126	41	\$16.00	\$2016.00
304	GILL NETS-1200 OR LESS	135	32	\$24.00	\$3240.00
311	HAUL SEINE-500 YDS & OVER	1	1	\$146.00	\$146.00
331	COMM HOOK & LINE STRIPED BASS	2	2	\$31.00	\$62.00
349	SB BAY PERMIT	18	18	\$0.00	\$0.00
350	SB OCEAN PERMIT	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
351	SB OCEAN TAG TRANSFER	4	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	45	19	\$0.00	\$0.00
353	BLACK DRUM HARVEST PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
365	SPINY DOGFISH LIMIT ENTRY PRMT	10	10	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2018 VMRC Commercial Licenses and Permits By County**

370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	51	51	\$0.00	\$0.00
372	CLASS B GILL NET PERMIT	20	20	\$0.00	\$0.00
379	USER FEE OYSTER ALL GEAR	37	37	\$300.00	\$11100.00
381	USER FEE SHUCKING < 1000 GAL	1	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
382	USER FEE SHUCKING < 10000 GAL	1	1	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
385	USER FEE OYSTER SINGLE BUYER	3	3	\$100.00	\$300.00
386	USER FEE OYSTER MULTIPLE BUYER	3	3	\$300.00	\$900.00
387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE	33	33	\$50.00	\$1650.00
388	FISH POT-100 OR LESS	3	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
389	FISH POT-300 OR LESS	2	2	\$24.00	\$48.00
391	EEL POT-100 OR LESS	1	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
392	EEL POT-300 OR LESS	4	4	\$24.00	\$96.00
393	EEL POT- OVER 300	1	1	\$62.00	\$62.00
401	SHUCKING HOUSE-UNDER 1000	1	1	\$12.00	\$12.00
402	SHUCKING HOUSE-TO 10,000	1	1	\$33.00	\$33.00
410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	3	2	\$63.00	\$189.00
411	BUYERS BUSINESS PLACE	4	4	\$126.00	\$504.00
412	OYSTER SINGLE BUYER LICENSE	3	3	\$50.00	\$150.00
413	OYSTER MULTIPLE BUYER LICENSE	3	3	\$100.00	\$300.00
414	OYSTER BUYER BOAT/TRUCK IDENTIFIER PERMIT	5	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
415	CHANNELED WHELK BUYERS PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
417	BLACK DRUM BUYER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
419	STRIPED BASS BUYER PERMIT	3	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
421	EEL SELF-MARKET PERMIT	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	29	29	\$0.00	\$0.00
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	96	96	\$0.00	\$0.00
475	TILEFISH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	23	23	\$0.00	\$0.00
476	BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT	7	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	101	101	\$190.00	\$19190.00
501	COMM REGISTRATION-SENIOR CITIZ	25	25	\$90.00	\$2250.00
502	COMM REG TRANSFER FROM DELAYED	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
509	DELAYED ENTRY-SENIOR CITIZEN	1	1	\$90.00	\$90.00
515	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD	4	4	\$190.00	\$760.00
516	TRANSFERRED COMM REG CARD SR	2	2	\$90.00	\$180.00
711	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 100	1	1	\$48.00	\$48.00
712	TRANSFERRED CRAB POT 300	1	1	\$79.00	\$79.00
717	TRANSFERRED PEELER POT	2	2	\$36.00	\$72.00
770	TRANS CLASS A GILL NET	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
800	CHARTER/HEAD BOAT-6 & UNDER	3	3	\$90.00	\$270.00
810	CLASS A FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	2	2	\$100.00	\$200.00
811	CLASS B FISHING GUIDE LICENSE	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
812	FISH GUIDE RECIPROCITY PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
815	STRIPED BASS CHARTER PERMIT	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
992	REPLACEMENT DECAL	5	3	\$1.00	\$5.00

Total Mathews County \$54,198.00

Robbins Maritime, Inc.
VMRC #2025-1590

1. Habitat Management Evaluation dated April 21, 2026.
(Page 1 through 2)
2. Application plan view and cross sections dated-received September 2, 2025.
(Page 3 through 4)
3. Virginia Institute of Marine Science comments received February 9, 2026.
(Page 5 through 6)
4. Virginia Department of Health comments received October 10 and October 31, 2026.
(Page 7 through 11)
5. United States Coast Guard comments received December 1, 2026.
(Page 12 through 14)

All project drawings, plans and application information are available
at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/>

HABITAT MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION

ROBBINS MARITIME, INC., VMRC #25-1590, requests authorization to construct and backfill 66 linear feet of steel bulkhead a maximum of 10 feet channelward of the existing structure, and to install 13 mooring dolphins adjacent to 914 Pearl Street, situated along the Elizabeth River in the City of Norfolk.

Narrative

Robbins Maritime, Inc. is a tugboat and barge service facility located along the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River just southwest of the Berkley Bridge. Historically, this industrial shoreline of the Elizabeth River has been highly manipulated with many areas of the river filled in and built out over the last several decades. Based on available historic aerials, the subject parcel and adjacent shoreline to the west were developed sometime between 1960 and 1982. The applicant is requesting authorization to bulkhead and backfill an additional 660 square feet of state-owned subaqueous bottom to create a continuous and flush shoreline and to install a series of mooring dolphins extending over 465 feet channelward of mean low water.

The majority of the parcel's shoreline is bulkheaded with several areas comprised of broken up concrete and other debris. The subject section of shoreline spans about 110 linear feet with 44 feet of intact steel bulkhead and 66 feet of failed bulkhead, the latter proposed to be replaced and filled 10 feet channelward of mean low water in an attempt to match the existing bulkhead immediately to the west. The total project footprint over state-owned submerged lands, including the mooring dolphins and bulkhead fill, is approximately 102,300 square feet. This encroachment over, and filling of state-owned submerged land, would typically require royalties; however, since this facility provides vessel repair services, this proposal is exempt from royalties per Virginia Code §28.2-1206 (B).

Issues

Habitat Management typically permits bulkhead replacement projects a maximum of two (2) feet channelward of existing structures – this normally allows enough space for installation materials and necessary construction activities to occur between the existing and replacement structures.

The applicant's agent, Groundwater Environmental Services, Inc., justified the proposed bulkhead's alignment and backfill, stating that the 10-foot channelward placement will provide easier and safer site access and limit the potential for dropping equipment during loading and unloading.

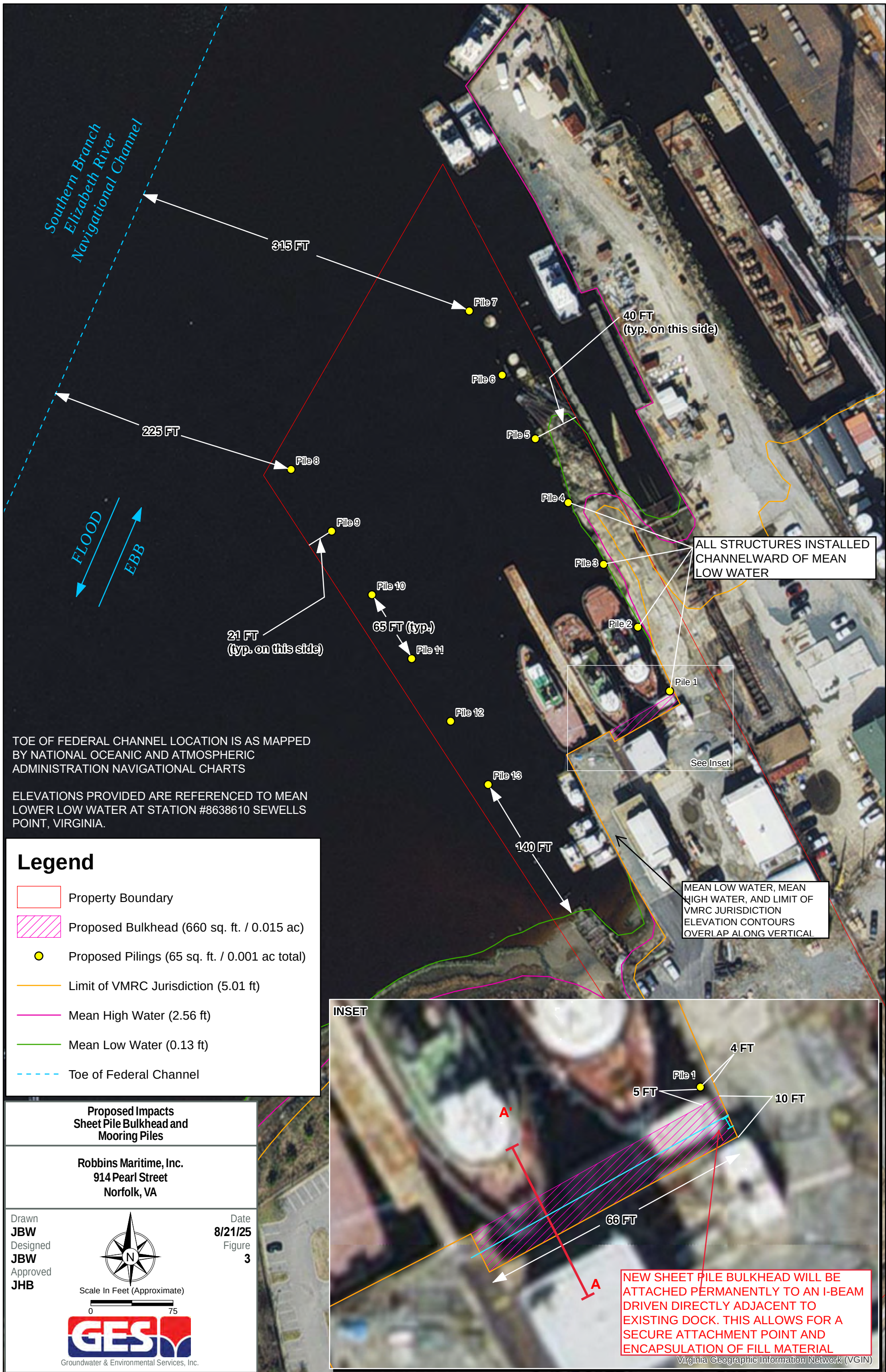
As part of our public interest review, staff notified the adjacent property owners (APOs) and advertised the proposal in the *Virginian Pilot*. No comments were received from the APOs nor the public. Staff also requested comments from the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Shellfish Sanitation, VDH Marina Program, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). The USCG did not have comments on the

Issues (cont'd)

proposal. The Virginia Department of Health issued approvals from both the Division of Shellfish Sanitation and the Marina Program. For the mooring dolphin component of the project, VIMS recommended implementation of ramp-up procedures, the use of wooden cushion blocks, and the use of a bubble curtain. VIMS also recommended a time-of-year restriction from February 15 to June 30 of any year to minimize adverse impacts on anadromous fish species.

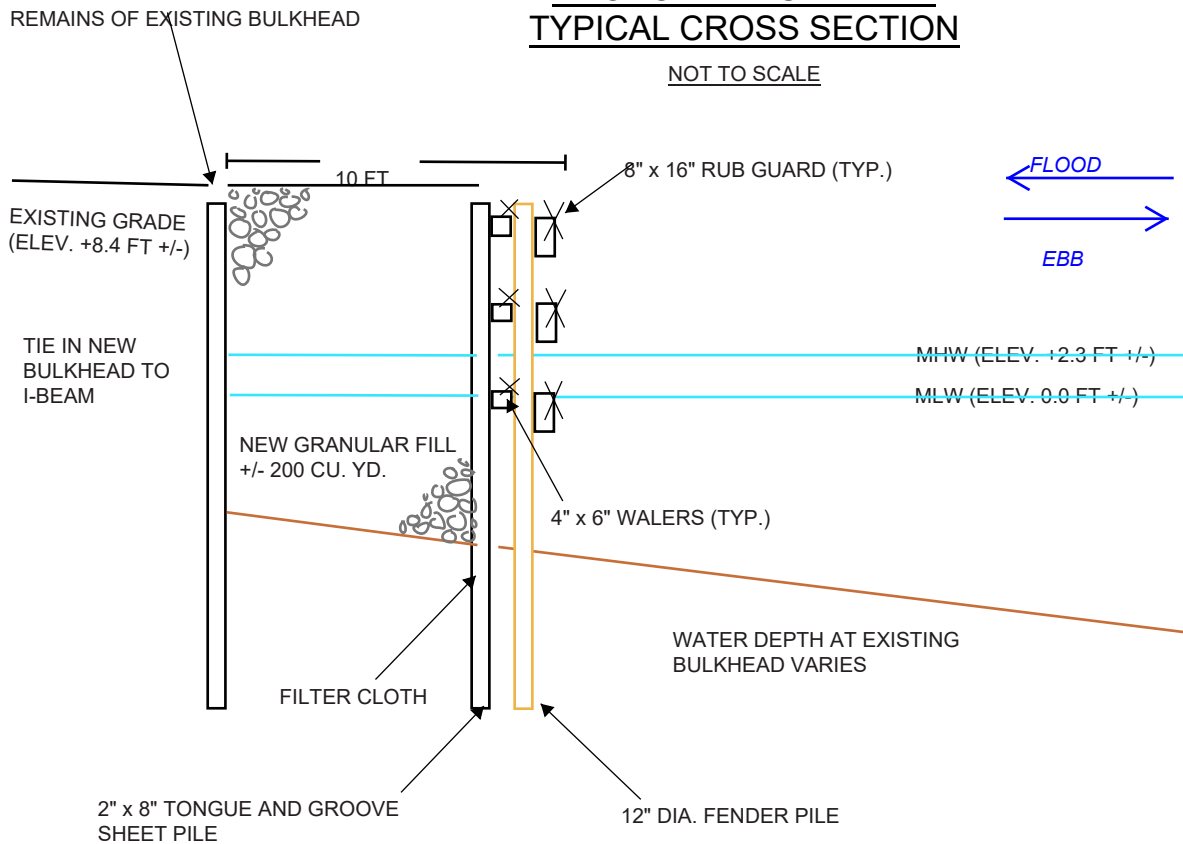
Summary/Recommendations

An important factor considered by staff is the justification for bulkhead backfill over state-owned submerged lands and the channelward extent of a structure. Had the applicant requested a two-foot channelward bulkhead replacement, staff would have administratively issued an agency permit. While sensitive to the needs and concerns of the applicant, staff is of the opinion that the construction of an open-pile industrial wharf in the proposed bulkhead alignment would also meet the needs of the facility without the filling and loss of state-owned submerged lands. Therefore, after evaluating the merits of the project and in keeping with the Commission's Subaqueous guidelines and §28.2-1205 of the Code of Virginia, staff recommends the proposed project be denied. Staff would recommend approval of a modified proposal that entails the construction of an open-pile wharf or a bulkhead replacement two feet channelward. Staff has no issues with the proposed mooring dolphins and would recommend approval with conditions including the use of ramp-up procedures, wooden cushion blocks, a bubble curtain, and a time-of-year restriction from February 15 to June 30. Should the applicant choose one of the bulkhead alternatives, this proposal could be approved administratively.



PROPOSED BULKHEAD TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

NOT TO SCALE



A **A'**

NOTE:

ALL TIMBER TREATED, ALL HARDWARE GALVANIZED. PILINGS AND I-BEAMS TO BE DRIVEN TO RESISTANCE.

NEW SHEET PILE BULKHEAD TO BE TIED INTO EXISTING SHEET PILE BULKHEAD ON THE SOUTH END IN A SECURE MANNER.

NEW SHEET PILE BULKHEAD TO BE ATTACHED PERMANENTLY TO AN I-BEAM DRIVEN DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO EXISTING PIER. THIS ALLOWS FOR SECURE ATTACHMENT TO EXISTING CONCRETE PIER ON NORTH END AND ENCAPSULATION OF FILL MATERIAL.

NO IMPACTS TO VEGETATED WETLANDS OR NON-VEGETATED TIDAL FLATS ARE PROPOSED.

ELEVATIONS PROVIDED ARE REFERENCED TO DATUMS FOR STATION #8638610 SEWELLS POINT, VIRGINIA.

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREON IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY.

Proposed Construction
Details

Robbins Maritime, Inc.
914 Pearl Street
Norfolk, Virginia

Drawn
J.W.
Designed

Date
08/21/25
Figure
5

Approved

NOT TO SCALE



Groundwater & Environmental Services, Inc.

From: [Gorman, Claire \(MRC\)](#)
To: [MRC - jpa Permits](#)
Subject: FW: JPA #2025-1590 Steel piles
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:32:20 PM
Attachments: [Outlook - 20260209143220.png](#)

VIMS comments for #2025-1590

Claire Gorman
Environmental Engineer

Habitat Management Division
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road
Fort Monroe, VA 23651
(757) 247-2285

Effective September 1, 2025, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will become the central point of receipt of all requests in the Commonwealth of Virginia (instead of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission) as the result of a federal mandate. Regulatory Request System (RRS) will be the only way to submit your application and any revisions to all 3 of the permitting agencies (USACE, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission) and to your local wetlands board. To access the RRS, visit this link:
<https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>

If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact Barry Spence at
barry.l.spence@usace.army.mil

-
Regulator of the Day (ROD) contact information: (757) 201-7652 or
CENAO.REG_ROD@usace.army.mil

From: Emily A. Hein <eahein@vims.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Gorman, Claire (MRC) <Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov>; Lyle M. Varnell <lyle@vims.edu>; Alexander B. Sabo <absabo@vims.edu>
Cc: Advisory <Advisory@vims.edu>
Subject: Re: JPA #2025-1590 Steel piles

Good afternoon, Claire,

Yes, we recommend the typical HSP permit conditions for this project during all times of year: ramp-up, wooden cushion blocks, and bubble curtains. We also recommend implementation of a TOYR for anadromous fishes.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best,

Emily

Emily Hein
Assistant Director for Advisory Services
VIMS Research and Advisory Services
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
William & Mary
www.vims.edu/oras
eahein@vims.edu
804-684-7482



[Book time to meet with me](#)

From: Gorman, Claire (MRC) <Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:57 AM
To: Lyle M. Varnell <lyle@vims.edu>; Emily A. Hein <eahein@vims.edu>; Alexander B. Sabo <absabo@vims.edu>
Cc: Advisory <Advisory@vims.edu>
Subject: RE: JPA #2025-1590 Steel piles

[EXTERNAL to VIMS received message]

Hi all,

Hope you had a nice weekend!

Just following up on this steel pile question. Appreciate your input as always.

Claire Gorman
Environmental Engineer

Habitat Management Division
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road
Fort Monroe, VA 23651
(757) 247-2285

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Devenius A. Willcox
Environmental Health Associate
Office of Environmental Health Services – Marina Program
Virginia Department of Health
830 Southhampton Ave. #200
Norfolk, VA 23510



From: Gorman, Claire (MRC) <Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:19 AM
To: Ryan.P.Doody2@uscg.mil; marinaprogram (VDH) <MarinaProgram@vdh.virginia.gov>; Wood, Adam (VDH) <Adam.wood@vdh.virginia.gov>
Subject: JPA: 20251590 in Norfolk, Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.

Joint Permit Application Request for Comments

Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, requests your review and evaluation of the following permit. Your evaluation is requested no later than October 23, 2025. By statute, we are obliged to refer an objection by any state agency to the full Commission in a public hearing. An unacceptable evaluation will be considered an agency objection. Evaluations suggesting modifications or indicating that the proposal is unacceptable should include comments in the justification of your finding.

Please click the link below for full application details.

[Application: 20251590](#)

Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.
Locality: Norfolk
Project Description: Bulkhead extension & mooring dolphins
Date Received: July 18, 2025
Engineer: Claire Gorman

After reviewing the application, please reply to this email and indicate one of the following:

I HAVE CONDUCTED A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT BASED UPON THE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS AGENCY AND MY EVALUATION IS THAT:

[☒] THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS **ACCEPTABLE.**

[] CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE OBJECTIONABLE AND UNLESS THE SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS ARE INCORPORATED, THE PROJECT IS **UNDESIRABLE**. (SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE APPLICANT EXPEDITIOUSLY FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.)

[] THERE ARE ASPECTS THAT ARE OBJECTIONABLE AND, IN OUR OPINION, NOT RECONCILABLE; THEREFORE, THE PROJECT IS **UNACCEPTABLE**. (THIS IS CONSIDERED AN **AGENCY OBJECTION** REQUIRING REVIEW BY THE FULL COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 28.2-1207(A2) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA; MUST BE FULLY JUSTIFIED AND MAY REQUIRE YOUR PRESENCE TO TESTIFY AT THE PUBLIC HEARING.)

WAS A FIELD INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSAL PERFORMED BY A MEMBER OF YOUR AGENCY? YES / NO

DATE OF INVESTIGATION: _____
NAME OF INVESTIGATOR: _____
COMMENTS: _____

Should you have any questions regarding this permit application, please do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 247-2285 or Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov

Claire Gorman
Environmental Engineer
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Phone: (757) 247-2285
Email: Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov

Viewing application and related documents requires Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Microsoft Edge.

Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.
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WAS A FIELD INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSAL PERFORMED BY A MEMBER OF YOUR AGENCY? NO

Very Respectfully

Adam Wood

Growing Area Manager
Virginia Department of Health
Division of Shellfish Safety
Cell: (804) 839-2809
Office: (804) 577-4007
www.vdh.virginia.gov/shellfish



From: Gorman, Claire (MRC) <Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:19 AM
To: Ryan.P.Doody2@uscg.mil <Ryan.P.Doody2@uscg.mil>; marinaprogram (VDH) <MarinaProgram@vdh.virginia.gov>; Wood, Adam (VDH) <Adam.wood@vdh.virginia.gov>
Subject: JPA: 20251590 in Norfolk, Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.

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DATE OF INVESTIGATION: _____
NAME OF INVESTIGATOR: _____
COMMENTS: _____

Should you have any questions regarding this permit application, please do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 247-2285 or Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov

Claire Gorman
Environmental Engineer
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Phone: (757) 247-2285
Email: Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov

Viewing application and related documents requires Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Microsoft Edge.

From: [Gorman, Claire \(MRC\)](#)
To: cenao.reg_rod@usace.army.mil (cenao.reg_rod@usace.army.mil)
Cc: [MRC - jpa Permits](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] JPA: 20251590 in Norfolk, Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 4:12:20 PM

USCG comment for #2025-1590

USACE #: NAO-2025-01616

Claire Gorman
Environmental Engineer

Habitat Management Division
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road
Fort Monroe, VA 23651
(757) 247-2285

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<https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>

If you have questions regarding this permanent change, contact Kimberly Prisco-Baggett at 757-647-3282 or Kimberly.A.Prisco-Baggett@usace.army.mil

-
Regulator of the Day (ROD) contact information: (757) 201-7652 or CENAO.REG_ROD@usace.army.mil

From: Doody, Ryan P CIV USCG D5 (USA) <Ryan.P.Doody2@uscg.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Gorman, Claire (MRC) <Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] JPA: 20251590 in Norfolk, Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.

Claire,

Good afternoon, sorry this took so long, just got back in the office on Thursday from the shutdown, digging out slowly. Its probably too late, but the Coast Guard finds this project acceptable. Thanks. Hope you have a great rest of your week.

V/r

Ryan

From: VMRC JPA <Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:19 AM

To: Doody, Ryan P CIV USCG D5 (USA) <Ryan.P.Doody2@uscg.mil>;

MarinaProgram@vdh.virginia.gov; Adam.wood@vdh.virginia.gov

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] JPA: 20251590 in Norfolk, Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.

Joint Permit Application Request for Comments

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Please click the link below for full application details.

[Application: 20251590](#)

Applicant: Robbins Maritime, Inc.

Locality: Norfolk

Project Description: Bulkhead extension & mooring dolphins

Date Received: July 18, 2025

Engineer: Claire Gorman

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WAS A FIELD INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSAL PERFORMED BY A MEMBER OF YOUR AGENCY? YES / NO

DATE OF INVESTIGATION: _____
NAME OF INVESTIGATOR: _____
COMMENTS: _____

Should you have any questions regarding this permit application, please do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 247-2285 or Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov

Claire Gorman
Environmental Engineer
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Phone: (757) 247-2285
Email: Claire.Gorman@mrc.virginia.gov

Viewing application and related documents requires Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Microsoft Edge.

JAMES MISHLER
#25-2275

1. Habitat Management Evaluation dated April 21, 2026.
(Pages 1 and 2)
2. Project drawings dated received on January 8, 2026, and January 27, 2026.
(Pages 3 through 6)
3. Online protest submissions in Habitat Public Comments from Mr. and Mrs. Manning dated January 22, 2026, January 28, 2026, February 2, 2026, and March 24, 2026, and from Mr. Keith Schumann, dated February 2, 2026.
(Pages 7 – through 17)

All project drawings, plans and application information are available at
<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/>

April 21, 2026

HABITAT MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION

JAMES MISHLER, VMRC #25-2275, requests authorization to construct a 17-foot by 36-foot open-sided boathouse adjacent to a statutorily authorized private pier situated along College Creek at 110A Archers Hope Drive in James City County. This project is protested by adjacent property owners.

Narrative

The proposal is located along College Creek, where numerous private piers including gazebos and boathouses, have been authorized and constructed. The applicant plans to purchase a 25-foot center console vessel to be stored in the proposed boathouse.

On October 8, 2025, staff received an application requesting authorization to construct two (2) new finger pier additions to an existing private pier, totaling 98 linear feet and a 612 square foot open-sided boathouse and lift. A partial no permit necessary letter was sent on January 15, 2026, advising Mr. Mishler that a VMRC would not be required for the new catwalks, but that a permit may be required for the boathouse.

James City County notified the applicant that the proposed project did not require a permit from the local wetlands board since the work was proposed outside of the board's jurisdiction.

Issues

Prior to submission of the application, staff received a call from a neighbor on July 31, 2025, regarding the unauthorized construction of the boathouse at the subject property. The contractor, Wilbur Jordan, was ordered to stop work and willingly removed all installed lumber and materials. Staff revisited the property on August 1, 2025, and confirmed that the violation had been completely removed.

Following receipt of the application in October 2025, staff notified the adjoining property owners of the proposal as part of its public interest review. The upstream adjoining property owners, Harvey and Peggy Manning, objected to the boathouse proposal in January 2026. Keith Schumann, a nearby property owner also submitted a protest. *Although Mr. Schumann is not an adjoining property owner, once the Mannings protested, a Commission permit is now required, thereby opening the proposal up to a full public interest review in which any member of the public can protest.

The Mannings' state that the proposed roof structure adversely affects their viewshed and lowers their property value. They alternatively request that Mr. Mishler build a smaller boathouse or use a boat cover over the existing boat. Mr. Shumann's stated objections include the unauthorized prior construction, material misrepresentations in the application, and the excessive scale of the proposed structure. He would also like to see the applicant use a boat cover rather than constructing a boathouse.

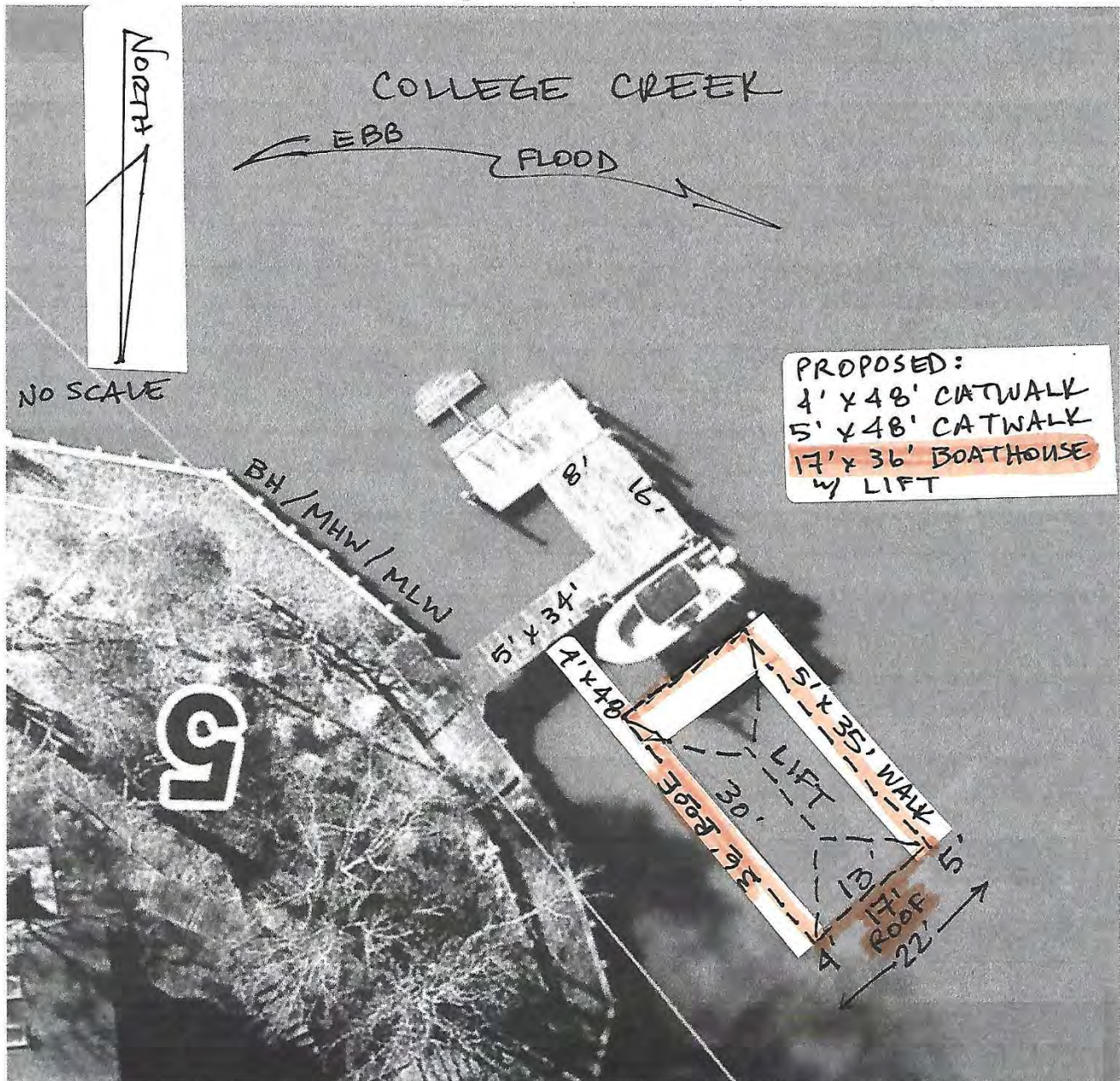
Summary and Recommendations

Had the application for the proposed open-sided boathouse not been protested, it too would have qualified for the statutory authorization provided for open-sided covered lifts pursuant to §28.2-1203A5 of the Code of Virginia. The proposed boathouse is 612 square feet, 88 square feet less than the 700 square feet maximum allowable size provided by statute.

In this case, we believe the open-sided design of the boathouse roof structure only minimally adds to the visual obstruction already presented by Mr. Mishler's statutorily authorized pier and other piers with roof structures in the area. Ultimately, staff believes that the addition of the boathouse is a reasonable use of the applicant's riparian rights for private-use encroachment over state-owned submerged lands.

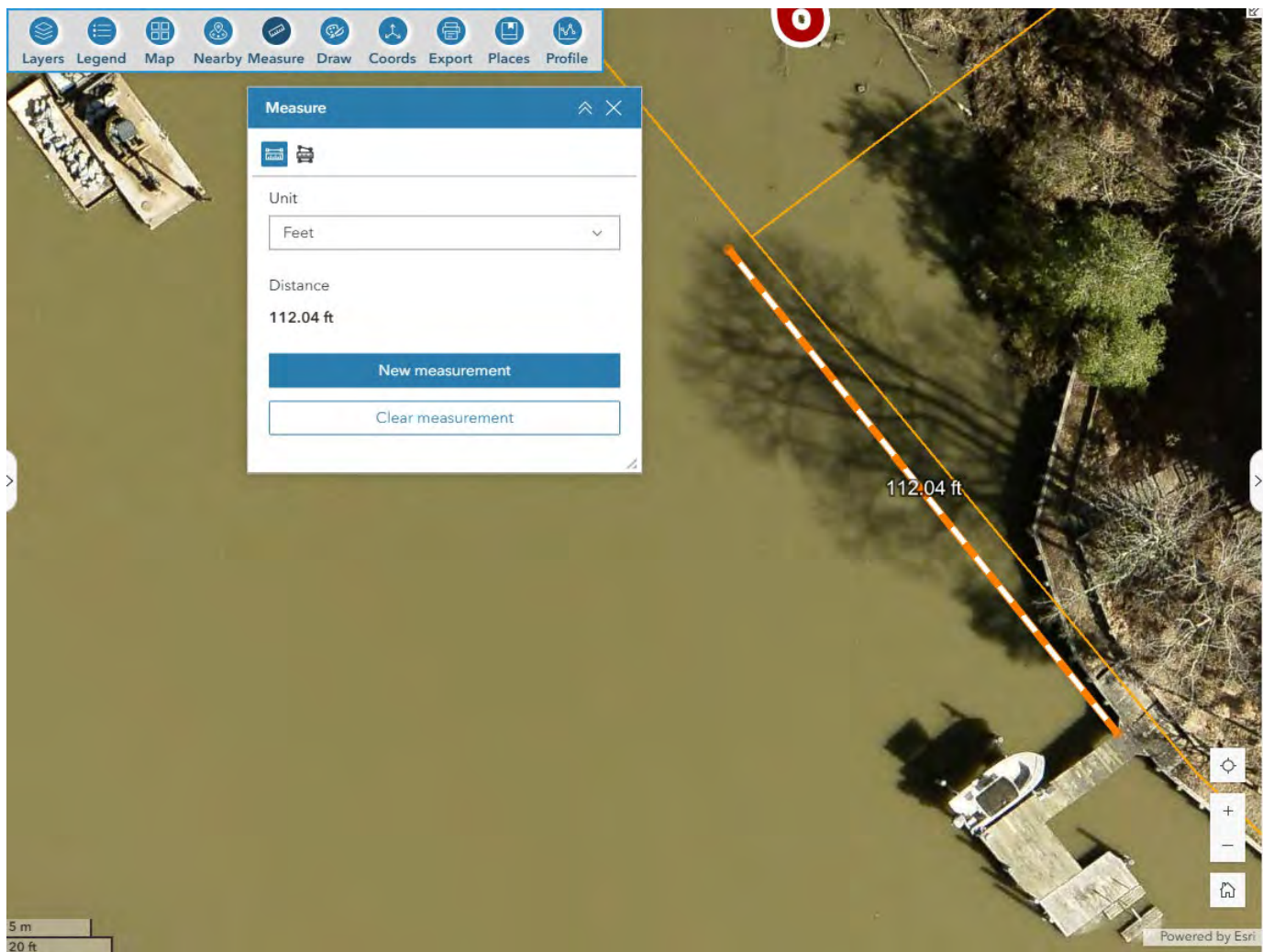
Accordingly, after evaluating the merits of the project against the concerns expressed by those in opposition to the project, and after considering all the factors contained in §28.2-1205 of the Code of Virginia, staff recommends approval of the project as proposed.

VMRC # 2025-2275 REV. DRAW.

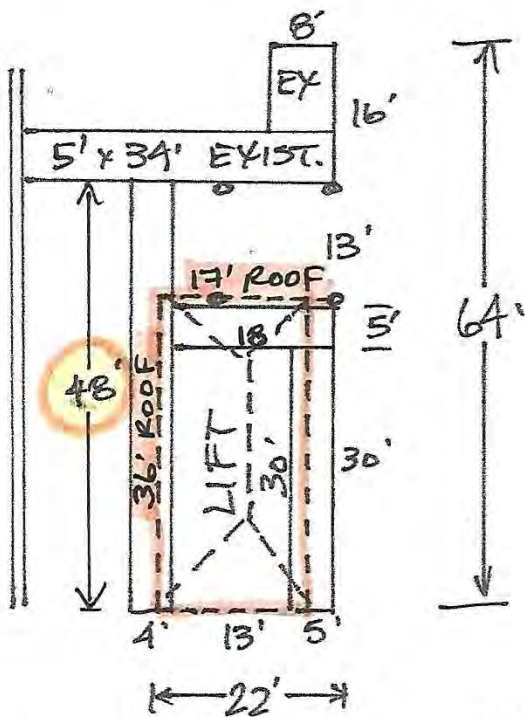
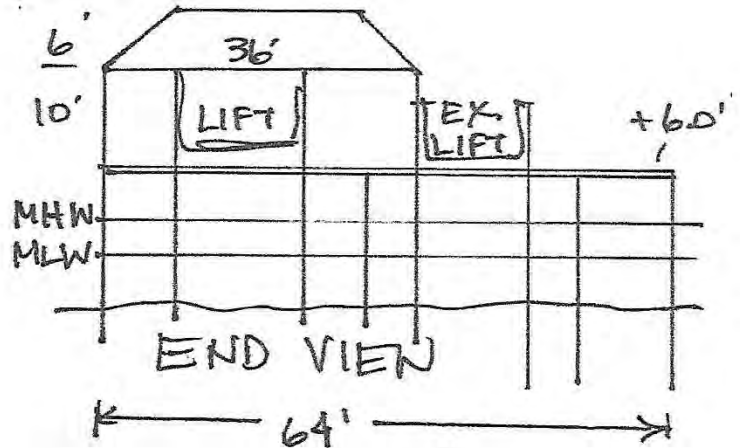
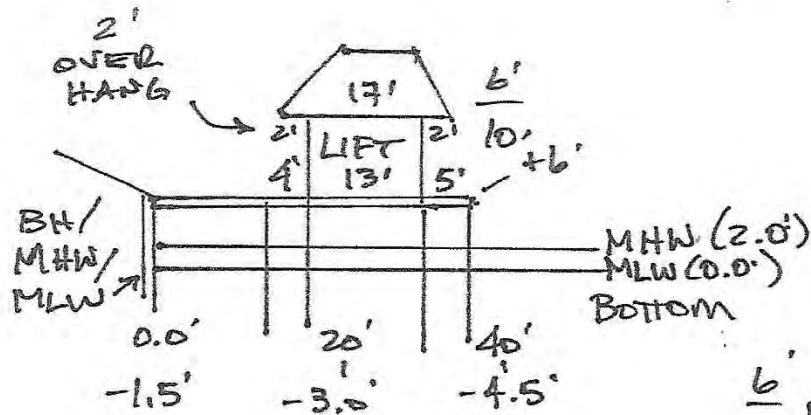


JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA GIS, 2025.

Adjacent Property Owners	SITE PLAN	JAMES L. MISHLER
1. Donald I. Pratt, Jr. & Geraldine O. Pratt Trustee	James City County	110 A Archers Hope Drive, Williamsburg
2. Harvey D. Manning, Jr. & Peggy A. Manning Trustee	LRSN = 11349	On College Creek
		Date: 8-19-25 Sheet 2 of 3



VMRC # 2025-2275 REV. DRAW.



17' x 36' (612 SF)
OPEN-SIDED BOAT HOUSE
ROOF = DASHED LINE

BULKHEAD TO MLW ~ 157'

BULKHEAD TO MARSH ~ 190'

2 x 8 DECKING AND STRINGERS, ALL LUMBER TREATED.

ALL HARDWARE H.D.G.

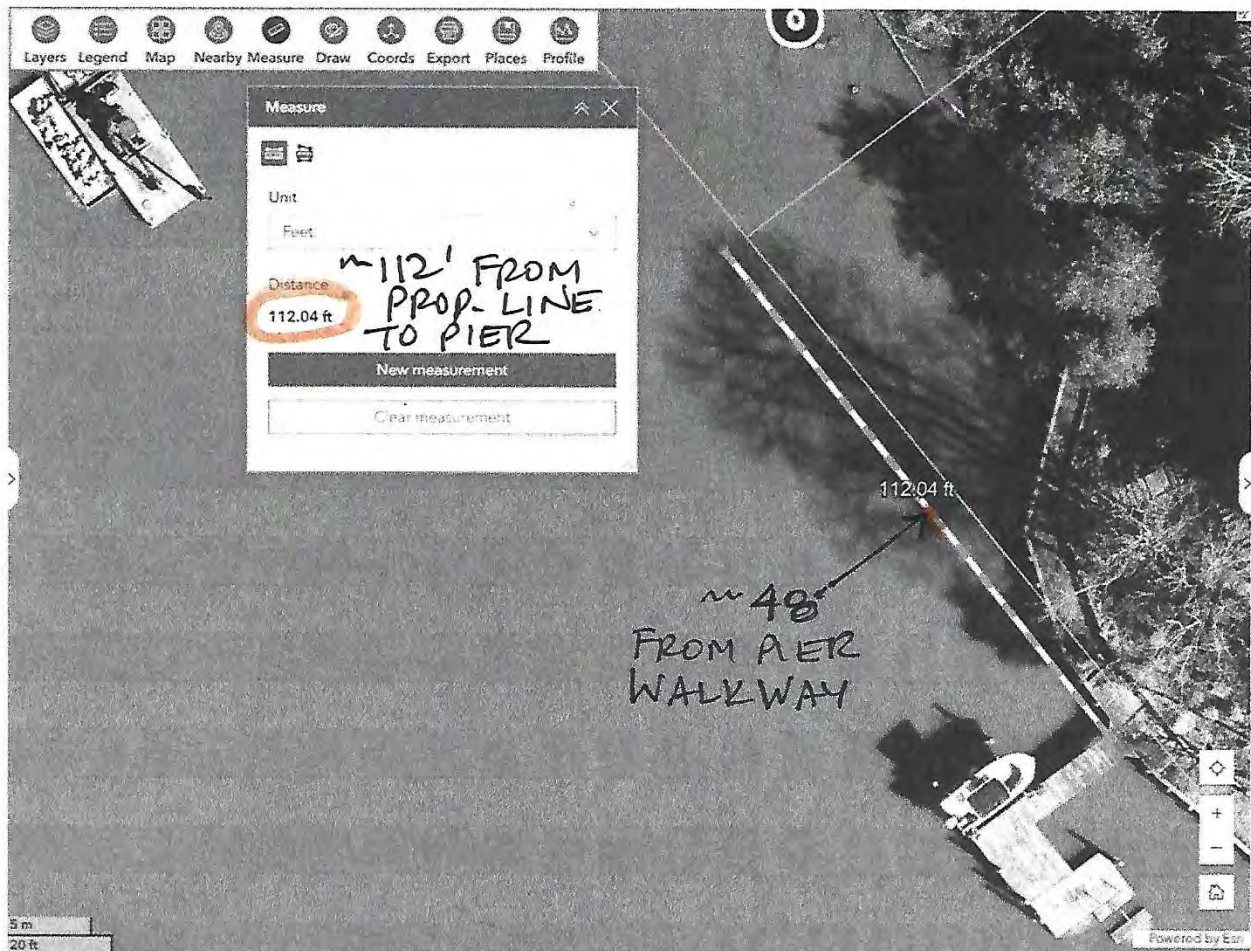
8 TIMBER PILES, 12" MAXIMUM DIAMETER, LENGTH AS REQUIRED.

PILES INSTALLED WITH VIBRATORY HAMMER.

1 TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION VESSEL.

NET INCREASE OF 1 PERMANENT, NON-COMMERCIAL VESSEL.

Adjacent Property Owners	PIER DETAIL	JAMES L. MISHLER
1. Donald I. Pratt, Jr. & Geraldine O. Pratt Trustee	James City County	110 A Archers Hope Drive, Williamsburg
2. Harvey D. Manning, Jr. & Peggy A. Manning Trustee	LRSN = 11349	On College Creek
		Date: 8-17-25 Sheet 3 of 3



JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA GIS, 2026.

Public Comments for 20252275

[<< Back](#)[Excel Export](#)[PDF Export](#)**Total Comments: 5****Favor: 0****Oppose: 5****No Position: 0****Withdrawn: 0**

Use the "Edit" buttons below to edit the name or the position of the commenter. This can be used to change a comment to "Withdrawn".

Click on column heading to sort data.

No.	Name	Email	Timestamp	Position	Comments
1	PEGGY MANNING Edit	peggymanning@cox.net	01/22/2026 09:09:56 AM	OPPOSE Edit	SEE ATTACHED Supporting Files: PDF 1

From: [Reams, Brad \(MRC\)](#)
To: [MRC - jpa Permits](#)
Subject: protest FW: boathouse application 25-2275
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 1:38:08 PM

From: Harvey Manning <peggymanning@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Reams, Brad (MRC) <Brad.Reams@mrc.virginia.gov>
Subject: Re: boathouse application 25-2275

Thank you, Mr. Reams

I also want to reiterate, as I said in our conversation that if the proposed large boathouse impacts our view, we cannot approve it. Obviously, it would definitely affect our property value.

A smaller boathouse might be acceptable to us as long as it does not impact our view. Perhaps you might share this with the agent.

Sincerely

Peggy Manning

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 10:02 AM, Reams, Brad (MRC) <Brad.Reams@mrc.virginia.gov> wrote:

Per our phone conversation, I am requesting the agent provide distances from the shared property lines.

Once I receive a revised drawing, I'll share that with you.

Sincerely



[Bradley Reams](#)

Environmental Engineer

Habitat Management

No.	Name	Email	Timestamp	Position	Comments
2	HARVEY D MANNING Edit	peggymanning@cox.net	01/28/2026 14:52:17 PM	OPPOSE Edit	AS APO WE DO NOT APPROVE THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE, WHICH WILL UNFAVORABLY AFFECT THE VIEW FROM OUR PROPERTY. THE SIZE OF THE STRUCTURE, INCLUDING THE DISTANCE FROM THE APPLICANTS PROPERTY INTO COLLEGE CREEK WILL CAUSE OUR VIEW, WHICH IS OF COURS WIDERR THAN OUR PROPERTY PROPERTY LINES.. WE ALSO FEEL THAT THE APPLICANT COULD COVER THE EXISTING LIFT ON HIS PROPERTY TO CREATE A BOAT HOUSE IN MORE SUITABLE DIMENSIONS TO COLLEGE CREEK. A LARGE BOAT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE UNDER THE PARKWAY TO THE JAMES SO THE PRESENT LIFT AND DOCS COULD BE MADE INTO AN APPROPRIATE SIZED BOATHOUSE, WHICH WOULD NOT AFFECT ANYONE'S VIEW. HARVEY AND

No.	Name	Email	Timestamp	Position	Comments
					PEGGY MANNING, APO
3	KEITH SCHUMANN Edit	keith.schumann@fittedair.com	02/02/2026 10:18:01 AM	OPPOSE Edit	SEE ATTACHED Supporting Files: PDF 1
4	PEGGY MANNING Edit	peggymanning@cox.net	02/02/2026 13:29:46 PM	OPPOSE Edit	SEE ATTACHED Supporting Files: PDF 1
5	HARVEY MANNING Edit	peggymanning@cox.net	03/24/2026 16:18:13 PM	OPPOSE Edit	SEE ATTACHED Supporting Files: PDF 1

From: [Reams, Brad \(MRC\)](#)
To: [MRC - jpa Permits](#)
Subject: Protest Fw: Application 2025-2275 — Additional Pier and Boathouse at 110A Archers Hope Road
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 11:05:55 AM
Attachments: [Image001.cmc](#)

objection

From: Keith Schumann <keith.schumann@fittedair.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:41 PM
To: Reams, Brad (MRC) <Brad.Reams@mrc.virginia.gov>
Cc: Linda Schumann <LSinVA@outlook.com>; peggymanning@cox.net <peggymanning@cox.net>
Subject: Re: Application 2025-2275 — Additional Pier and Boathouse at 110A Archers Hope Road

Re: Application 2025-2275 — Additional Pier and Boathouse at 110A Archers Hope Road

Dear Mr. Reams,

I have reviewed the application for an additional pier and boathouse at **110A Archers Hope Road (Application No. 2025-2275)**. Based on the materials submitted and prior activity at the site, I object to approval of this project.

The structure proposed appears to be the same structure that was partially constructed **without a permit in June of last year**, prior to notification of the County. Approval of this application would effectively reward noncompliance with the permitting process and set an unfortunate precedent that dock construction may proceed first and be permitted later without consequence.

The homeowner was aware that Board review was required before construction began. Their family had recently completed another dock in the same neighborhood—just several houses away—which was properly permitted. This demonstrates clear familiarity with the required process.

In addition, the application contains **multiple instances of inaccurate, misleading, or demonstrably false information**, including but not limited to the following:

- **Part 1, Section 4:** The application states that *eight (8) treated timber piles* will be installed. This is inconsistent with the work already completed in June, which included **at least twice that number of newly installed piles**. The submitted diagrams also fail to identify the number or precise locations of pilings.
- **Part 1, Section 5:** The application denies use of a contractor. However, a

contractor was present on site during construction activity in June and July and is currently listed in the application email chain. It is unclear whether the applicant is asserting that no contractor is currently selected, or denying contractor involvement altogether, which would be inaccurate.

- **Part 1, Section 8 (Project Need):** The stated need—“*There currently is no safe way to lift and store a boat on site or gain access to navigable water onsite*”—is false. An **18–20 ft center-console boat** has been safely lifted, stored, and launched from the existing lift for **over 18 years**. This boat remained on site after the property was purchased last summer and continued to be used as intended.

- **Submitted Diagrams:** Several views omit existing structures. The existing boat lift is excluded in multiple diagrams, and the end-view fails to show **two existing floating docks**. With the proposed addition, the end-view length would be approximately **80 feet**, and the total dock footprint would measure roughly **22 feet by 80 feet (1,760 square feet)**.

- **Part 3 (Appendices):** The appendices depict the **existing structure**, rather than the structure being proposed, further obscuring the true scope of the project.

If the applicant believes the existing lift is inadequate for a larger boat, the appropriate solution would be to **modify the existing lift** and add a **boathouse cover** to that structure. A 25-foot boat is rarely, if ever, observed on College Creek due to shallow depths and the height limitations of the Parkway bridge. The combined size of the existing and proposed structures is disproportionate for a private residence and appears **commercial in scale**.

For these reasons—unauthorized prior construction, material misrepresentations in the application, and the excessive scale of the proposed structure—I respectfully request that this application be denied.

Please confirm receipt and addition of this public comment by an adjacent land owner. Will you also notify me by email when a date is set for the board to review this project?

Sincerely,

Keith Schumann
Homeowner, 114 Archers Hope Rd

Prior dock with lift as seen from our living room.

Construction last summer before removal. This is what is proposed and is massive and unneeded for access.



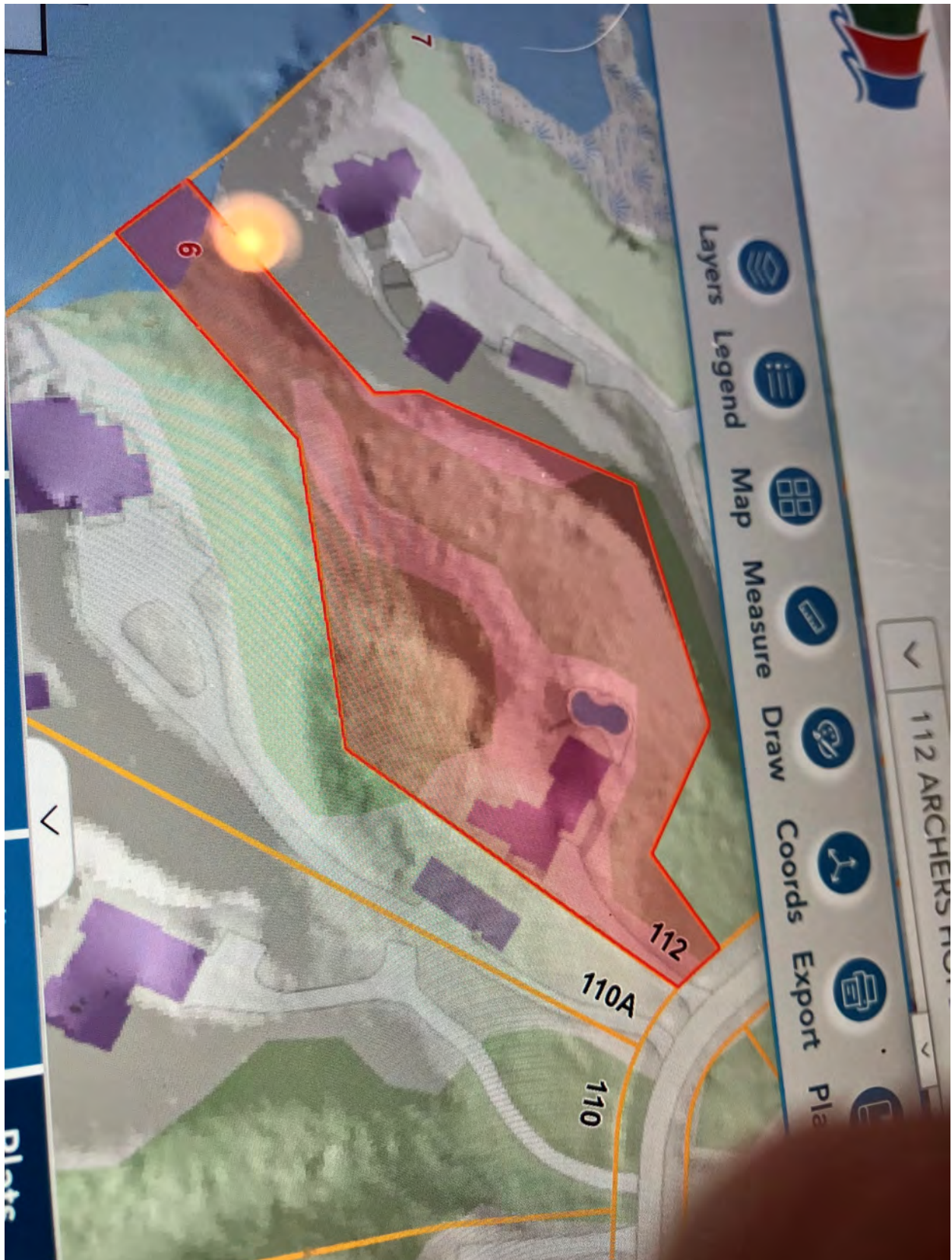
Sent from my iPad



From: Harvey.Manning@engr.com
To: Harvey.Manning@engr.com
Subject: Application 2025-2275

Protestant comments

From: Harvey Manning <Harvey.Manning@engr.com>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Harvey, David <David.Manning@engr.com>
Subject: Application 2025-2275





I am attaching a photo of our view and a photo of our Property plan taken from the JCC website. You will notice that our house is closer to the street and on a hill leading to the water. The view from our house obviously extends way past the side property line at the water, and is more in line with the side property line where our house is built.

From: [Reams, Brad \(MRC\)](#)
To: [MRC - jpa Permits](#)
Subject: 25-2275 FW: Application 2025 for a boathouse
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 12:42:24 PM

Apo

From: Harvey Manning <peggymanning@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Reams, Brad (MRC) <brad.reams@mrc.virginia.gov>
Subject: Application 2025 for a boathouse

Mr. Reams,

We received notice of the hearing for application 2025. Unfortunately, due to our ages(83 and 90) and health issues we are unable to attend the hearing.

Basically, we are opposed to this application because we don't see a demonstrated need for such a large boathouse when a large boat would not be able to navigate under the Colonial Parkway. We feel that a large boathouse would intrude into our view and also would interfere with the ability for future owners of our property to build a simple dock, thus reducing the value of our property. We do not want to interfere with the right of our neighbors to build a boat house, but feel that a smaller one or one that utilizes the present boatlift on the premise would be sufficient.

We had previously submitted our opposition to the application in writing as requested.

Peggy and Harvey Manning
110 Archers Hope Drive
Williamsburg, Virginia [Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION, 4/21/2026

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC 20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass," to establish the recreational management measures for black sea bass, including a minimum size limit of no less than 12.5 inches, and amend the annual commercial quota determination.

ISSUES: *Recreational Harvest Measures*
In December 2025, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board (Board) approved coastwide liberalization for black sea bass regulations. The Board has approved two potential options for a regular season for Virginia.

Special February Recreational Season
The Board also granted Virginia approval to conduct a 2026 February recreational fishery on the condition that any additional landings occurring during that season would result in a deduction of fishing days from the regular open season. During the February 2025 recreational black sea bass season, Virginia anglers landed an estimated 33,532 pounds of black sea bass. The National Marine Fisheries Service requires any February landings to be paid back, so the 2026 regular recreational season will need to be shortened accordingly.

Commercial Quota
Staff proposes updating language for the annual quota determination for Virginia to reflect the current process and avoid needing to update the regulation each year.

BACKGROUND: *Recreational Harvest Measures*
In December 2025, the Board and Council voted to allow a 20% liberalization to the coastwide recreational black sea bass fishery. The Board later clarified liberalizations by region to address perceived inequity in regulations and the southern region (Delaware to North Carolina, north of Cape Hatteras) was granted a 16.5% liberalization.

The states within the southern region worked together to identify a combination of management measures which would increase recreational harvest across the region by no more than 16.5%. Using the Recreational Demand Model, which models fish availability, catch rates, and angler decisions based on selected regulations, two options were identified for the southern region that would achieve this harvest increase. One option, which Delaware and Maryland chose, is an open season from May 1 through December 31, a minimum size limit of 12.5 inches, and a 15 fish bag limit. Another option, chosen by North

Carolina, is an open season from April 1 through December 31, a minimum size limit of 13 inches, and a 15 fish bag limit. The current season is May 15 through July 15 and July 27 through December 31 with a minimum size limit of 13 inches and a 15 fish bag limit.

Staff presented both options to the Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) at their March 10, 2026, meeting. The committee voted 8-1-2 to support the May 1 through December 31 option with the 12.5" minimum size limit. Committee members were in favor of the lower size limit and having matching regulations with Maryland, while one member noted that the regulations would be amended too late to take advantage of an April 1 start this year, though the season would then start April 1 in 2027.

Special February Recreational Season

Since 2018, the National Marine Fisheries Service has agreed to open federal waters for a February recreational black sea bass season for any state with an approved fishery. A condition of this approval is an agreement for the state to pay back any February landings during the regular open season, which takes place between May and December.

Virginia participated in this special February recreational season from 2018 through 2021 and from 2023 to 2026. Permit holders (the captain or operator of the vessel) were required to report to the commission the number of trips they took, the number of anglers on board, and the number of black sea bass they landed and released. Permit holders were also required to call the Marine Police Operations Station before each trip so VMRC staff could arrange to sample a subset of trips for fish lengths and weights. From these reports, staff were able to calculate total landings in February and close as many days as necessary from the regular season to account for the February landings.

In February 2026, 284 recreational black sea bass permits were issued to anglers and for-hire captains. Of those, 76 permittees took 151 trips and landing 14,883 black sea bass. Using the average weight of 2.25 pounds per fish sampled by MRIP staff in 2026, staff calculated that 33,532 pounds of black sea bass were landed during the 2026 February fishery.

Season adjustments to the 2026 season are based on average daily landings rates by wave from the most recent two years (2024-2025) of MRIP landings. The average daily landings rate for each wave (a two month period) was calculated using 2024-25 MRIP harvest data, by dividing the total weight by wave by the number of days the wave was open. This methodology has previously been approved by the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee. A closure of ten days in May-June, nine days in July-August, or five days

in September-October are all expected to result in savings of at least 33,532 pounds. In 2024-2025, the February payback was added to the July midseason closure of the regular season. Prior to that, payback was usually taken starting June 1 at the recommendation of FMAC.

Once a payback option is selected, Virginia will notify ASMFC and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the chosen option and certify that the intended closure will fully account for all February landings.

At their March 10, 2026, meeting, FMAC unanimously approved a motion that Virginia should start payback May 1. Committee members expressed support for an earlier closure, lack of mid-season closure, and closing black sea bass at a time when blueline tilefish, which is often caught with it, is also closed.

Commercial Quota

Annual commercial quotas used to be established in regulation as an exact weight of fish that Virginia can legally land. These quotas had to be updated in regulation when the coastwide quotas changed, often on an annual basis. To avoid having to open regulation each year the state quota changed, regulations were amended to refer to a percentage of the annual quota as determined by ASMFC and/or the Council, as states are often allocated a constant percentage of the annual quota.

In 2021, the Board and Council voted on a new allocation procedure for black sea bass where the coastwide quota is distributed to states by a formula which incorporates the annual coastwide quota determined by the specifications process, historical allocations amongst the states, and what proportion of the coastwide biomass is in the northern and southern regions. Under this formula, state allocations (by weight and by percentage of the coastwide quota) can change as often as every year, based on the stock assessment schedule and specifications cycles. For 2026, Virginia has been allocated 18.76% of the coastwide quota.

Chapter 4VAC 20-450, “Pertaining to Bluefish”, and Chapter 4VAC 20-620, “Pertaining to Summer Flounder”, both define Virginia’s annual quota by referring to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for those species. Staff propose mirroring that language for black sea bass so the commercial quota will be accessible through the establishing bodies (ASMFC and MAFMC) and Virginia’s regulation does not need to be opened each year the quota is changed. Matching language is also proposed to amend Virginia’s annual quota when quota transfers take place between states.

No public comments have been received.

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Commission amend Chapter 4VAC 20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass," to establish the recreational management measures for black sea bass, including a minimum size limit of no less than 12.5 inches, and amend the annual commercial quota determination.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Joseph D. Grist
Acting Commissioner

NOTICE

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission invites public comments on proposed amendments to regulations, as shown below. By April 2, 2026, the proposed draft regulations may be viewed on the VMRC web calendar at <https://mrc.virginia.gov/calendar.shtm>.

In accordance with Section 28.2-209 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing on the proposed amendments to these regulations will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Written public comments on the proposals below or on items not on the agenda must be provided by 12:00 noon, Thursday, April 16, 2026. Comments should be made at the following link: https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/fisheries/search_publiccomments.php or addressed to Public Comments, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651.

The Commission may hold these following public hearings as early as 9:30 a.m.

I. Chapter 4VAC20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass"

The Commission proposes to amend Chapter 4VAC20-950, "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass" to establish the recreational management measures for black sea bass, including a minimum size limit of no less than 12.5 inches, and amend the annual commercial quota determination.

The purpose of this amendment is to comply with the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for this species and to reflect the annual commercial quota determined by the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan.

VMRC DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES; THEREFORE, IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS BECAUSE OF DISABILITY, PLEASE ADVISE MICHELE GUILFORD (757-247-2206) NO LATER THAN FIVE WORKDAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE AND IDENTIFY YOUR NEEDS.

An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.****PREAMBLE**

This chapter establishes minimum size limits, gear restrictions, and quotas for the harvest of black sea bass. This chapter authorizes the aquaculture of black sea bass and sets forth the conditions required for black sea bass culture. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to the authority contained in §§28.2-201 and 28.2-204.1 of the Code of Virginia. This chapter amends and re-adopts, as amended, Chapter 4VAC20-950-10 et seq., which was adopted ~~April 23, 2024~~ May 27, 2025, and made effective ~~May 1, 2024~~ June 1, 2025. The effective date of this chapter, as amended, is ~~June 1, 2025~~ May 1, 2026.

4VAC20-950-10. Purpose.

The purposes of this chapter are to (i) reduce fishing mortality in the black sea bass fishery to ensure that overfishing does not occur, (ii) promote the health of the spawning stock biomass, (iii) improve the yield from the fishery, (iv) distribute shares of the black sea bass quota to those fishermen who demonstrate a previous history of participation in the fishery, and (v) encourage safe black sea bass aquaculture practices.

4VAC20-950-20. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

~~“Annual quota” means Virginia’s 15.88% share of the annual coastwide commercial black sea bass quota managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.~~

"Black sea bass" means any fish of the species *Centropristis striata*.

“Land” or “landing” means to (i) enter port with finfish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other marine seafood on board any boat or vessel; (ii) begin offloading finfish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other marine seafood; or (iii) offload finfish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other marine seafood.

“Recreational vessel” means any vessel, kayak, charter vessel, or headboat fishing

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.**

recreationally.

“Snout” means the most forward projection from a fish’s head that includes the upper and lower jaw.

“Total length” means the length of a fish measured from the most forward projection of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the tip of the longer lobe of the tail (caudal) fin, excluding the caudal fin filament, measured with the tail compressed along the midline, using a straight-line measure, not measured over the curve of the body.

4VAC20-950-30. Minimum size limit.

A. The minimum size for black sea bass harvested by commercial fishing gear shall be 11 inches in total length. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, trade, or barter, or offer to sell, trade, or barter any black sea bass less than 11 inches in total length, except as described in 4VAC20-950-70.

B. The minimum size of black sea bass harvested by recreational gear, including hook and line, rod and reel, spear and gig, shall be ~~13~~ 12.5 inches in total length.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any black sea bass smaller than the minimum size limit, as designated respectively, in subsections A and B of this section, except as described in 4VAC20-950-70.

4VAC20-950-40. Gear restrictions.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place, set, or fish any fish pot in Virginia tidal waters for the purposes of harvesting black sea bass or to possess or to land in Virginia black sea bass harvested by fish pots which are not constructed as follows:

1. With two escape vents of 2-1/2 inches diameter circular dimension, or 2 inches square dimension, or 1-3/8 inches by 5-3/4 inches rectangular dimension.

2. With hinges or fasteners on one side panel or door, which measures at least 3 inches by 6 inches, made of the following materials:

a. Untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string of 3/16 inches or less diameter;

b. Magnesium alloy, timed float releases (pop-up devices), or similar magnesium alloy fasteners; or

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.**

c. Ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.094 inches or less in diameter.

4VAC20-950-45. Recreational possession limits and seasons.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing with hook-and-line, rod and reel, spear, gig, or other recreational gear to possess more than 15 black sea bass. When fishing from a recreational vessel where the entire catch is held in a common hold or container, the possession limit shall be for that vessel and shall be equal to the number of persons on board legally licensed to fish, multiplied by 15. The captain or operator of the vessel shall be responsible for that vessel possession limit. Any black sea bass taken after the possession limit has been reached shall be returned to the water immediately.

B. Possession of any quantity of black sea bass that exceeds the possession limit described in subsection A of this section shall be presumed to be for commercial purposes.

C. The open recreational fishing season shall be from May ~~15~~ 11 through ~~July 15 and August 5~~ through December 31.

D. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing recreationally to take, catch, or possess any black sea bass, except during an open recreational season.

E. From February 1 through the last day of February, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or land any black sea bass harvested from a recreational vessel, unless the captain or operator of that recreational vessel has obtained a Recreational Black Sea Bass Permit from the Marine Resources Commission (commission).

1. The captain or operator shall be responsible for reporting for all anglers on the recreational vessel and shall provide that captain's or that operator's Marine Resources Commission identification (MRC ID) number, the date of fishing, the number of persons on board, the mode of fishing, and the number of black sea bass kept or released. That report shall be submitted to the commission on forms provided by the commission or through the Virginia Saltwater Fisherman's Journal.

a. It shall be unlawful for any permittee to fail to report each trip where black sea bass were targeted, whether black sea bass were harvested, released, or not caught, by March 15 of the current calendar year.

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b. It shall be unlawful for any permittee who did not take any fishing trips to target black sea bass in the February recreational black sea bass season to fail to report lack of participation by March 15 of the current calendar year.

2. It shall be unlawful for any permittee to fail to contact the Law Enforcement Operations at 1-800-541-4646 before or immediately after the start of each fishing trip. The permittee shall provide the Law Enforcement Operations with the permittee's name, MRC ID number, the point of landing, a description of the vessel, estimated return to shore time, and a contact phone number.

3. Any permittee shall allow the commission to sample the vessel's catch to obtain biological information for scientific and management purposes.

4VAC20-950-46. Directed fishery and bycatch fishery permits.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to participate in the commercial black sea bass fishery or to possess, harvest, or sell black sea bass, except as described in 4VAC20-950-60 and 4VAC20-950-70, without first qualifying for and obtaining either a directed fishery permit or a bycatch fishery permit from the commission, as described, respectively, in subsections B, C, and D of this section, unless that person meets the requirements described in 4VAC20-950-48.2.

B. Any person who qualified for a directed commercial black sea bass fishery permit, as of January 1, 2003, by satisfying all the eligibility criteria listed in this subsection shall remain eligible for that permit, unless that person permanently transferred all that person's shares of the directed fishery quota.

1. That person shall hold either a Commercial Fisherman Registration License or a Seafood Landing License in addition to a federal Black Sea Bass Moratorium Permit; and

2. That person shall have landed and sold in Virginia at least 10,000 pounds of black sea bass from July 1, 1997, through December 31, 2001.

C. Any person who meets the eligibility criteria of subsection B of this section but no longer meets the requirements of subdivision B 1 of this section shall remain eligible to transfer shares of that person's directed fishery quota in accordance with 4VAC20-950-48.1.

D. A person shall be considered eligible for a bycatch commercial black sea bass fishery permit by satisfying all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. That person shall hold either a Commercial Fisherman Registration License or a Seafood Landing License, in addition to a federal Black Sea Bass Moratorium Permit; and

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2. That person shall have landed and sold in Virginia at least one pound of black sea bass from July 1, 1997, through December 31, 2001.

4VAC20-950-47. Commercial harvest quotas.

A. The commercial landings of black sea bass shall be limited to the annual quota pursuant to the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, except as specified in subsection B of this section.

B. If a quota transfer occurs between Virginia and another state participating in the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for black sea bass, Virginia's annual quota for the current calendar year shall be limited to the annual quota amount as adjusted for transfers.

AC. The commercial black sea bass directed fishery quota shall be allocated 100% of the annual quota each year except the commercial directed fishery quota shall not include the amount of annual quota allocated to the commercial black sea bass bycatch fishery specified in subsection B of this section. When it has been announced by the commission that the directed fishery quota has been projected as reached and the directed fishery has been closed, it shall be unlawful for any commercial black sea bass directed fishery permittee to possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia any black sea bass.

BD. The commercial black sea bass bycatch fishery shall be allocated 40,000 pounds of the annual quota each calendar year. When it has been announced that the bycatch fishery quota has

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.**

been projected as reached and the bycatch fishery has been closed, it shall be unlawful for any commercial black sea bass bycatch fishery permittee to possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia any black sea bass. In the event the bycatch fishery quota is exceeded, the amount of the bycatch fishery quota overage shall be deducted from the following year's bycatch fishing quota.

4VAC20-950-48. Individual fishery quotas; bycatch limit; at sea harvesters; exceptions.

A. Each person possessing a directed fishery permit shall be assigned an individual fishery quota, in pounds, for each calendar year. A person's individual fishery quota shall be equal to that person's percentage of the total landings of black sea bass in Virginia from July 1, 1997, through December 31, 2001, multiplied by the commercial black sea bass directed fishery quota for the current calendar year. Any directed fishery permittee shall be limited to landings in Virginia in the amount of the permittee's individual fishery quota, in pounds, in any calendar year and it shall be unlawful for any permittee to exceed the permittee's individual fishery quota. In addition to the penalties prescribed by law, any overages of a permittee's individual fishery quota shall be deducted from that permittee's individual fishery quota for the following year.

B. In the determination of a person's percentage of total landings, the commission shall use the greater amount of landings from either the National Marine Fisheries Service Dealer Weigh-out Reports or National Marine Fisheries Service Vessel Trip Reports that have been reported and filed as of November 26, 2002. If a person's percentage of the total landings of black sea bass is determined by using the Vessel Trip Reports as the greater amount, then the person shall provide documentation to the Marine Resources Commission to verify the Vessel Trip Reports as accurate. This documentation may include dealer receipts of sales or other pertinent documentation, and such documentation shall be submitted to the commission by December 1, 2004. In the event the commission is not able to verify the full amount of the person's Vessel Trip Reports for the qualifying period, the commission shall use the greater amount of landings, from either the Dealer Weigh-Out Reports or the verified portion of the Vessel Trip Reports to establish that person's share of the directed fishery quota.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person harvesting black sea bass to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of black sea bass that exceeds the combined total of any portion of the Virginia permitted landing limit, as described in subsection A of this section, and the North Carolina legal landing limit.

D. It shall be unlawful for any person permitted for the bycatch fishery to do any of the following:

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1. Possess aboard a vessel or land in Virginia more than 200 pounds of black sea bass in addition to the North Carolina legal landing limit or trip limit, in any one day, except as provided in subdivision 2 of this subsection;

2. Possess aboard a vessel or land in Virginia more than 1,500 pounds of black sea bass in addition to the North Carolina legal landing limit or trip limit, in any one day, provided that the total weight of black sea bass on board the vessel does not exceed 10%, by weight, of the total weight of summer flounder, scup, Longfin squid, and Atlantic mackerel on board the vessel; or

3. Possess aboard a vessel or land in Virginia more than 100 pounds of black sea bass in addition to the North Carolina legal landing limit or trip limit, when it is projected and announced that 75% of the bycatch fishery quota has been taken.

E. It shall be unlawful for any person to transfer black sea bass from one vessel to another while at sea.

F. An individual fishery quota, as described in subsection A of this section, shall be equal to a person's current percentage share of the directed fishery quota, as described in 4VAC20-950-47 A.

4VAC20-950-48.1. Individual transferable quotas.

A. Shares of the directed fishery quota, in pounds, held by any permitted fisherman in the directed fishery may be transferred to another person, and such transfer shall allow the transferee to harvest, possess and land black sea bass in Virginia in a quantity equal to the shares of the directed fishery quota transferred, provided that transferee satisfies the eligibility requirements described in 4VAC20-950-46 B 1.

B. Any transfer of black sea bass shall be limited by the following conditions.

1. Commercial black sea bass shares of the directed fishery quota shall not be transferred in any quantity less than 200 pounds.

2. No person permitted for the directed fishery may hold more than 20% of the annual directed fishery quota.

3. No transfer of shares of the black sea bass directed fishery quota shall be authorized unless such transfer is documented on a form provided by the commission and approved by the commissioner.

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.**

4. Any person who receives a permanent transfer of directed fishery quota but does not satisfy the eligibility requirements described in 4VAC20-950-46 B 1 shall remain eligible to transfer shares of that person's directed fishery quota in accordance with this section.

C. Transfers of all or a portion of any person's share of the directed fishery quota may be permanent or temporary. Transferred directed fishery quota shall only be used by the transferee for black sea bass landed in Virginia. Permanent transfers of shares of directed fishery quota shall grant to the transferee that transferred share of the directed fishery quota for future years, and the transferor loses that same transferred share of the directed fishery quota in future years. Temporary transfers of shares of the directed fishery quota shall allow the transferee to harvest that transferred share of the directed fishery quota during the year in which the transfer is approved. Thereafter, any transferred share of the directed fishery quota reverts back to the transferor.

4VAC20-950-48.2. Alternate vessel authorization requirements.

A. Any person possessing a directed fishery permit may authorize an alternate vessel to harvest, possess, and land any portion of that person's individual directed fishery quota, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The directed fishery permit holder has submitted a completed and notarized alternate vessel authorization form to the commission.
2. The alternate vessel named on the authorization form holds a federal Black Sea Bass Moratorium Permit and that alternate vessel either holds a Virginia Seafood Landing License or that alternate vessel's owner and operator holds a Commercial Fisherman Registration License.
3. The alternate vessel authorization has been accepted and approved by the commissioner.
4. The alternate vessel maintains copies of the alternate vessel authorization form and the permit of the directed fishery quota owner at all times while serving as the alternate vessel.

B. No authorization for an alternate vessel to land black sea bass shall extend for more than 60 days from the date the commissioner approves the authorization. After 60 days, any unused portion of directed fishery quota authorized for the alternate vessel shall revert to its directed fishery permit holder.

4VAC20-950-49. Reporting requirements.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person permitted for the directed fishery, the bycatch fishery, or for an authorized alternate landing vessel to fail to contact, within one hour of landing, Law Enforcement Operations to report that person's name and the name of the vessel, that person's

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.**

permit number, the location where catch will be offloaded, and the estimated weight of the landing of black sea bass.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person permitted for the directed fishery, the bycatch fishery, or for an authorized alternate landing vessel to fail to contact, within 24 hours of landing, the Marine Resources Commission's Interactive Voice Recording System to report the name of the permit holder and the name of the vessel that landed the black sea bass, date of landing, the permit number and the weight of black sea bass landed.

C. Any buyer of black sea bass from a directed fishery permittee, a bycatch fishery permittee, or an authorized alternate landing vessel shall maintain records of all purchases for the current year and prior year and make those records available to the Marine Resources Commission upon request.

4VAC20-950-50. (Repealed.)**4VAC20-950-60. Black sea bass aquaculture facility permit.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an aquaculture facility in which any black sea bass will be cultured, possessed, offered for sale, or sold without first obtaining from the Marine Resources Commission (commission) a black sea bass aquaculture facility permit for that facility. Any person in violation of any permit condition issued under this section, may have the permit revoked at any time upon review by the commission. If the commission revokes any person's permit for an aquaculture facility, then that person shall not be eligible to apply for a like permit for a period of two years from the date of revocation.

4 VAC20-950-70. (Repealed.)**4VAC20-950-80. Penalty.**

As set forth in §28.2-903 of the Code of Virginia, any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent violation of any provision of this chapter committed by the same person within 12 months of a prior violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the chapter passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by §28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia, duly advertised according to statute, and recorded in the Commission's minute book, at meeting held in Hampton, Virginia on April 21, 2026.

“PERTAINING TO BLACK SEA BASS”

CHAPTER 4VAC20-950-10 ET SEQ.

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

BY: _____

**Joseph D. Grist
Acting Commissioner**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Notary Public

LICENSE STATUS REQUEST, 4/21/2026

Discussion:

Mrs. Jennifer Hume (008997) requests the Commission grant exception to the two-year delay to obtain a Commercial Fisherman Registration License and reinstate her Commercial Striped Bass Bay Permit and allocated quota.

Issues:

Mrs. Hume does not meet any of the requirements for exception to the two-year delay as stated in regulation 610. Possession of a Commercial Fisherman Registration License is a prerequisite for purchasing a Commercial Striped Bass Bay Permit. There is no regulation that specifically addresses reinstatement of the Commercial Striped Bass Bay Permit at this time.

4VAC20-610-30. Commercial Fisherman Registration License; exceptions and requirements of authorized agents.

G. Exceptions to the two-year delay described in 4 VAC 20-610-30 F may be granted by the commissioner or his designee, if any of the following criteria are met:

- 1. The applicant is purchasing another fisherman's Commercial Fisherman Registration License, and the seller holds a valid, current Commercial Fisherman Registration License and surrenders that license to the commission at the time the license is sold.*
- 2. An immediate member of the applicant's family, who holds a current Commercial Fisherman Registration License, has died or is*

retiring from the commercial fishery and the applicant intends to participate in the fishery.

3. The applicant purchased a valid Commercial Fisherman Registration License during the preceding year, did not transfer that Commercial Fisherman Registration License, and can demonstrate a significant hardship, on the basis of health or active military duty, as described in 4 VAC 20-610-30 G.4.

4. Any exceptions based on a health condition shall only be granted by the Commissioner or his designee only after receipt of an attending physician's description of the medical condition. Any exception based on active military duty shall only be granted by the Commissioner or his designee after receipt of those military orders.

Background:

- License history – Attachment 1
- Exception Form – Attachment 2
- Exception Letters – Attachment 3
- Summons History – No Summons History

Attachment 1

Jennifer Hume

License History

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



JENNIFER W HUME
7401 LONG POINT ROAD
EXMORE, VA 23350
MRC ID: 008997

Phone: 757-442-7460
Eyes: BROWN
Hair: BROWN
Weight: 200
Birth: 6/28/57

License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL926772-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2025-12-29	2025	JRAMS	SOLD
OL926544-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2025-11-05	2026	JRAMS	SOLD
OL794999-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2024-12-26	2024	JRAMS	SOLD
OL794940-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2024-12-17	2025	SSMOTS	SOLD
OL792959-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2023-12-14	2024	SSMOTS	SOLD
OL791715-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2023-04-19	2023	JMCGI	SOLD
OL790905-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2022-12-02	2022	JRAMS	SOLD
OL790861-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2022-11-22	2023	AKENY	SOLD
OL624575-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2021-12-03	2021	JRAMS	SOLD
OL624533-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2021-11-19	2022	AKENY	SOLD
OL381815-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2021-04-15	2021	50050	SOLD
OL623136-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2020-12-15	2021	AKENY	SOLD
OL622064-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2020-03-05	2020	JRAMS	SOLD
OL369445-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2020-03-03	2020	50050	SOLD
OL622049-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2020-03-03	2019	JRAMS	SOLD
OL621375-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2019-12-02	2020	AKENY	SOLD
OL189217-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2019-03-04	2019	JRAMS	SOLD
OL189227-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2019-03-04	2019	JRAMS	SOLD
OL189229-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2019-03-04	2019	JRAMS	SOLD
OL357926-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2019-02-19	2019	LVEDD	SOLD
OL188653-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2018-12-12	2018	JRAMS	SOLD
OL188560-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2018-11-26	2019	AKENY	SOLD
OL186647-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2018-03-22	2018	JRAMS	SOLD
OL186649-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2018-03-22	2018	JRAMS	SOLD
OL186645-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2018-03-21	2018	JRAMS	SOLD
OL291898-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2018-03-21	2018	50050	SOLD
OL186052-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2018-01-08	2017	JRAMS	SOLD
OL185755-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2017-11-06	2018	JRAMS	SOLD
OL218029-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2016-12-07	2017	LVEDD	SOLD

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL183983-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2016-11-10	2017	JRAMS	SOLD
OL118565-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2016-02-22	2016	dspar	SOLD
OL183087-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2016-02-22	2016	JRAMS	SOLD
OL182401-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2015-11-12	2016	JRAMS	SOLD
OL107439-001	17448	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2015-05-16	2015	29A04	SOLD
OL107439-002	17449	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2015-05-16	2015	29A04	SOLD
OL107439-003		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2015-05-16	2015	29A04	SOLD
OL181567-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2015-03-25	2015	AEHLE	SOLD
OL113318-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2015-03-23	2015	50050	SOLD
OL180786-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2014-12-12	2015	AEHLE	SOLD
OL106203-001	GN1836	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2014-05-02	2014	29A04	SOLD
OL106203-002	GN1837	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2014-05-02	2014	29A04	SOLD
OL106203-003		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2014-05-02	2014	29A04	SOLD
OL098896-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2014-03-10	2014	AEHLE	SOLD
OL104006-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2014-02-19	2014	50050	SOLD
OL098289-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2013-12-11	2013	AEHLE	SOLD
OL098162-001		349	SB BAY PERMIT	2013-11-19	2014	AKENY	SOLD
OL097685-001		352	SB BAY TAG TRANSFER	2013-06-10	2013	SROMAS	SOLD
OL105043-001	GN1699	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2013-03-28	2013	29A04	SOLD
OL105043-002	GN1700	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2013-03-28	2013	29A04	SOLD
OL105043-003		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2013-03-28	2013	29A04	SOLD
OL099875-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2013-01-09	2013	50050	SOLD

Exception Form

Rev: 02/19

Attachment 3

Jennifer Hume, Hannah Darby
Exception Letters

My name is Jennifer Hume and I was born and raised on Virginia's Eastern Shore and returned to live here after college. I became the first female patrol officer in the history of the VMRC and worked there from 1980-1992. My family has lived here since the 1920s my daughter and sons still live here with their families.

I accidentally missed the deadline to renew my commercial fishing license in 2022. I was out of town during the deadline and didn't see the information until well after I was home. Before the time frame I didn't have anyone interested in fishing my rockfish tags early in the season and wasn't ready to set gill nets. I was trying to be conscious of bay resources and never fish unnecessarily so had not completed the paperwork necessary.

As soon as I returned home from my out of state trip I personally drove to the office in early May to see if there was any possibility of a grace time period that I could renew the expired license. The front desk staff told me no, my only hope was to re-enter the system and apply for delayed entry. They told me it was a very long wait and all gear and rockfish tags would be surrendered and the situation seemed hopeless. I also spoke with Jill Ramsey later that year and my understanding from that was there was nothing further to be done to help the situation. I truly did not understand what to do to fix the situation, even after reading the outside information I could find. My daughter and I have spoken with her recently and she sent us this paperwork which was also in my 2022 notes.

I truly do not remember her sharing it with me and I really thought the situation was hopeless at the time. If the past few years I've had both a number and email change and have lost access to a large amount of pertinent information. I thought I had accidentally delayed so much all the gear and rockfish tags would still be lost. The shame and embarrassment over the situation have kept me from sharing that I no longer had my Dad's license, gear and rockfish tags. My daughter and the rest of my family have only just found out and are helping me to try and find a solution if there is one to be found.

If I had thought there was any way it could be fixed at the time I would have. This license has been in my family for generations and has helped feed and clothe them. I am so very sorry. I can only ask you to please consider reinstating my license. I know so much time has past but this is a generational gift I would love to leave for my children to have along with the legacy of responsible and sustainable fishing and caring for the bay where we were all raised and continue to live.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Hannah H Darby, daughter of Jennifer Hume and I live on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. I had a pretty wonderful childhood, my grandfather and uncle were commercial watermen. Their hard work not only put food on the table and clothes in my closet but also laid a foundation of integrity, hard work and joy of the water. My grandfather picked me up every day after school and we would go work the water. From pound netting, crab potting, eels, gill nets and rockfish I spent hours on the water learning and experiencing the deep satisfaction that working the Chesapeake Bay offers.

My grandfather- Charles "Pete" West was a WWII veteran. While in Europe, in a cold fox hole he prayed that if he made it home to the Shore, there he'd stay and work hard to make a good life. He kept his word, and I and my family reaped the benefits.

The commercial fishing licenses that my family have held for generations is not only just a financial security, it's a source of pride and an ode to family who came before me and dedicated their lives to the water. People like my grandfather who worked hard so that I had a safe childhood and a solid start in life as a young adult. Crabs? They paid for my college education, rockfish? They helped me buy my first house right out of college.

I fully understand there has been a lapse in my Family's commercial license, this has only just now come to my attention and I'm doing everything in my power to rectify this immediately. There has been some confusion about renewals and deadlines not met. I apologize on behalf of my family and hope that you'll reconsider reinstating the license. It would be an honor for it be passed on to me one day.

Sincerely,
Hannah Darby

LICENSE STATUS REQUEST, 4/21/2026

Discussion:

Mr. David Bleeker (0990) requests the Commission to grant him a 2026 Oyster User Fee. Mr. Bleeker has completed and returned an exception form to obtain his Oyster User Fee.

Issues:

Mr. Bleeker has never purchased an Oyster User Fee. Regulation 720 requires the purchase of the Oyster User Fee the previous calendar year to be eligible for the current year's license.

4VAC20-720-15. Control Date, license moratorium, transferability, and agents.

B. Only individuals who have paid the oyster resource user fee described in clause (ii) of subsection A of § 28.2-541 of the Code of Virginia in any year from 2013 through 2016 may pay that fee in 2017 for harvest of oysters from public ground in that year. In any year following 2017, eligibility to pay the oyster resource user fee described in clause (ii) of subsection A of § 28.2-541 of the Code of Virginia shall be limited to those individuals who paid the oyster resource user fee for harvest of oysters from public ground in the previous year.

Background:

- License history – Attachment 1
- Exception Form – Attachment 2
- Summons History – Attachment 3

Attachment 1

David Bleeker

License History

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



DAVID BLEEKER
1448 LOCUST GROVE ROAD
TOPPING, VA 23169
MRC ID: 0990

Phone: 804-761-1509
Eyes: BROWN
Hair: BROWN
Weight: 200
Birth: 7/19/69

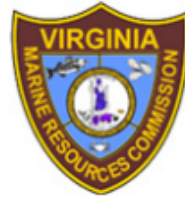
License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL324531-001	12886	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-002	12897	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-003	13142	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-004	13143	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-005		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-006	13566	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-007	13535	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL324531-008	12859	213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	2026-02-25	2026	08A10	SOLD
OL635099-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2025-12-19	2026	KGUIL	SOLD
OL324204-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-003	15487	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-004	15505	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-005	15751	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-006	15752	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-008	16109	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-009	16079	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL324204-010	15467	213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	2025-02-28	2025	08A10	SOLD
OL631165-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2024-12-09	2025	50050	SOLD
OL323822-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-003	11282	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-004	11303	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-005	11555	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-006	11556	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-008	11974	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL323822-009	11943	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL323822-010	11251	213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	2024-03-13	2024	08A10	SOLD
OL628369-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2023-12-18	2024	KGUIL	SOLD
OL323372-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-003	16524	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-004	16537	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-005	16812	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-006	16813	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-008	17469	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-009	17438	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL323372-010	16491	213	CRAB POT-256 TO 425	2023-01-25	2023	08A10	SOLD
OL625857-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2023-01-25	2023	JWASS	SOLD
OL323001-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-003	15801	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-004	15967	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-005	15998	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-006	16396	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-007	16397	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-008		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-009	17054	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL323001-010	17016	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2022-03-15	2022	08A10	SOLD
OL389086-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2021-12-16	2022	GHATC	SOLD
OL322478-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-003	15663	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-004	15752	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-005	15784	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-006	16183	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-007	16184	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-008		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-009	16625	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL322478-010	16594	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2021-03-16	2021	08A10	SOLD
OL379139-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2021-01-06	2021	SCROCS	SOLD
OL321694-001	16351	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL321694-002	16474	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL321694-003	16492	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL321694-004	16859	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL321694-005	16860	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL321694-006		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL321694-007	17431	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL321694-008	17400	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2020-01-28	2020	08A10	SOLD
OL368135-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2020-01-08	2020	50050	SOLD
OL368136-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2020-01-08	2020	50050	SOLD
OL368136-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2020-01-08	2020	50050	SOLD
OL321253-001	20858	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-002	20972	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-003	20993	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-004	21362	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-005	21363	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-006		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-007	21870	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-008	21839	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-009		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL321253-010		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2019-02-05	2019	08A10	SOLD
OL356993-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2019-01-08	2019	50050	SOLD
OL320941-001	17085	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-002	17174	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-003	17219	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-004	17653	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-005	17654	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-006		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-007	18048	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-008	18017	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-009		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL320941-010		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2018-03-28	2018	08A10	SOLD
OL288705-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2017-12-11	2018	LVEDD	SOLD
OL320470-001	25118	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL320470-002	25182	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL320470-003	25146	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL320470-004	24317	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL320470-005	24318	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL320470-006		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL320470-007	17967	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL320470-008	17934	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2017-03-24	2017	08A10	SOLD
OL218021-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2016-12-07	2017	LVEDD	SOLD
OL142044-001	15578	390	FISH POT- OVER 300	2016-08-15	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-001	14279	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-002	14462	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-003	14521	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-004	15026	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-005	15027	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-006		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL141764-007	15588	393	EEL POT- OVER 300	2016-03-16	2016	14A01	SOLD
OL117076-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2015-12-23	2016	50050	SOLD
OL190470-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2015-12-16	2016	01002	SOLD
OL190470-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2015-12-16	2016	01002	SOLD
OL190471-001		108	OYS AQUACULT PROD OWNER PER	2015-12-16	2015	01002	SOLD
OL190471-002		387	USER FEE PRIVATE OYSTER AQU	2015-12-16	2015	01002	SOLD
OL190472-001	SB1008	133	SHELLFISH BULK TAG	2015-12-16	2015	01002	SOLD
OL190473-001	SB1076	133	SHELLFISH BULK TAG	2015-12-16	2015	01002	SOLD
OL141078-001	11191	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL141078-002	11297	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL141078-003	11355	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL141078-004	11859	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL141078-005	11860	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL141078-006	12264	342	FISH/EEL POT-OVER 300	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL141078-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2015-04-03	2015	14A01	SOLD
OL110467-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2014-12-10	2015	50050	SOLD
OL140419-001	14286	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL140419-002	14378	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL140419-003	14434	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL140419-004	GN1668	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL140419-005	GN1669	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL140419-006	14690	342	FISH/EEL POT-OVER 300	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL140419-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2014-04-07	2014	14A01	SOLD
OL101699-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2013-12-05	2014	50050	SOLD
OL089376-001	CB0276	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD
OL089376-002	SO0056	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD
OL089376-003	PP0299	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD

Virginia Marine Resources Commission License History Report



License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL089376-004	GN0802	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD
OL089376-005	GN0803	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD
OL089376-006	FP0025	342	FISH/EEL POT-OVER 300	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD
OL089376-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2013-03-15	2013	11A02	SOLD
OL099834-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2013-01-08	2013	dspar	SOLD
OL081261-001	CB0141	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL081261-002	SO0026	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL081261-003	PP0196	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL081261-004	GN0340	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL081261-005	GN0341	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL081261-006	FP0014	342	FISH/EEL POT-OVER 300	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL081261-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2012-03-15	2012	14A01	SOLD
OL077782-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2012-01-09	2012	dspar	SOLD
OL050850-001	CB0457	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL050850-002	SO0071	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL050850-003	PP0407	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL050850-004	GN1320	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL050850-005	GN1321	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL050850-006	FP0020	342	FISH/EEL POT-OVER 300	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL050850-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2011-03-19	2011	14A01	SOLD
OL074113-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2010-12-15	2011	50050	SOLD
OL050421-001	CB0233	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL050421-002	SO0032	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL050421-003	PP0148	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL050421-004	GN0634	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL050421-005	GN0635	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL050421-006	FP0012	342	FISH/EEL POT-OVER 300	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL050421-007		370	CLASS A GILL NET PERMIT	2010-04-03	2010	14A01	SOLD
OL015681-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2009-12-11	2010	50050	SOLD
OL050046-001	SO0044	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2009-04-29	2009	14A01	SOLD
OL050046-002	PP0210	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2009-04-29	2009	14A01	SOLD
OL010000-001	FB0026	341	FISH/EEL POT-300 OR LESS	2009-04-10	2009	14A01	SOLD
OL017767-001	CB0385	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2009-03-17	2009	11A02	SOLD
OL017767-002	GN0693	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2009-03-17	2009	11A02	SOLD
OL009851-001		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2009-02-10	2009	14A01	SOLD
OL009780-001		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2008-12-16	2008	14A01	SOLD
OL047195-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2008-12-16	2009	dspar	SOLD

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License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
OL009496-001	CB0292	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2008-03-17	2008	14A01	SOLD
OL009496-002	FB0043	341	FISH/EEL POT-300 OR LESS	2008-03-17	2008	14A01	SOLD
OL009496-003	GN0813	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2008-03-17	2008	14A01	SOLD
OL009496-004	SO0037	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2008-03-17	2008	14A01	SOLD
OL009496-005	PP0246	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2008-03-17	2008	14A01	SOLD
OL024718-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2007-12-04	2008	dspar	SOLD
OL009240-001	So0095	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2007-04-28	2007	14A01	SOLD
OL009240-002	PP0263	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2007-04-28	2007	14A01	SOLD
OL009125-001	CB0280	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2007-03-17	2007	14A01	SOLD
OL009125-002	FB0048	341	FISH/EEL POT-300 OR LESS	2007-03-17	2007	14A01	SOLD
OL009125-003	GN0726	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2007-03-17	2007	14A01	SOLD
OL009125-004	GN0727	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2007-03-17	2007	14A01	SOLD
OL020920-001		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2007-01-31	2007	dspar	SOLD
AB5182-001		101	OYSTER BY HAND	2006-11-29	2006	14A01	SOLD
AB5148A	FB0115	341	FISH/EEL POT-300 OR LESS	2006-08-12	2006	14A01	SOLD
AB5109A	PP0538	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2006-05-02	2006	14A01	SOLD
AB5109B	SO0110	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2006-05-02	2006	14A01	SOLD
AB4746A	CB0529	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2006-03-31	2006	14A01	SOLD
AB1866A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2005-12-31	2006	14A01	SOLD
060990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2005-12-07	2006	50050	SOLD
WW6309A	PP0293	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2005-03-31	2005	14A01	SOLD
WW6309B	CB0347	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2005-03-31	2005	14A01	SOLD
WW6309C	GN0783	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2005-03-31	2005	14A01	SOLD
WW8168A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2005-01-03	2005	14A01	SOLD
050990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2004-12-03	2005	50050	SOLD
YY0493A	PP0703	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2004-04-28	2004	14A01	SOLD
YY0422A	CB0659	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2004-04-01	2004	14A01	SOLD
WW3850A	CD0079	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	2004-03-06	2004	14A01	SOLD
WW3826A		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	2004-01-12	2004	14A01	SOLD
WW3812A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2003-12-31	2004	14A01	SOLD
040990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2003-12-22	2004	50050	SOLD
CC2326A		998	REPLACEMENT LICENSE	2003-12-01	2003	14A01	SOLD
CC2241A	SO0068	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2003-05-02	2003	14A01	SOLD
CC2241B	PP0686	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2003-05-02	2003	14A01	SOLD
CC0386A	CB0561	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2003-04-01	2003	14A01	SOLD
AA5457A		102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	2003-02-06	2003	11A02	SOLD
AA5457B		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	2003-02-06	2003	11A02	SOLD

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License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
AA5545A	CD0066	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	2003-01-25	2003	11A02	SOLD
AA5370A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2002-12-31	2003	14A01	SOLD
030990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2002-12-10	2003	50050	SOLD
BB6450A	PP0168	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2002-04-19	2002	14A01	SOLD
BB6450B	SO0074	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2002-04-19	2002	14A01	SOLD
BB6406A	CB0064	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2002-03-30	2002	14A01	SOLD
AA9030A	CD0027	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	2002-03-11	2002	14A01	SOLD
AA4764A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2001-12-28	2002	14A01	SOLD
020990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2001-12-13	2002	50050	SOLD
AA4698A		101	OYSTER BY HAND	2001-11-23	2001	14A01	SOLD
AA4694A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2001-10-22	2001	14A01	SOLD
AA4628A	PP0337	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2001-04-24	2001	14A01	SOLD
AA4628B	SO0100	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	2001-04-24	2001	14A01	SOLD
AA4737A	CB0302	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2001-03-31	2001	14A01	SOLD
010990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	2000-12-19	2001	50050	SOLD
UU7071A	PP0982	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	2000-04-20	2000	14A01	SOLD
AA2507A	CB0410	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	2000-03-23	2000	06A01	SOLD
UU6991A	CD0100	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	2000-03-17	2000	14A01	SOLD
UU6968A	GN0870	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2000-02-22	2000	14A01	SOLD
UU6968B	GN0871	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	2000-02-22	2000	14A01	SOLD
TT3473A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	2000-01-02	2000	10A02	SOLD
000990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1999-12-13	2000	50050	SOLD
TT9380A		106	OYSTERS BY HAND SCRAPE	1999-10-28	1999	14A01	SOLD
TT3928A	FB0033	341	FISH/EEL POT-300 OR LESS	1999-05-01	1999	14A01	SOLD
TT3907A	PP0215	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	1999-04-16	1999	14A01	SOLD
TT3907B	SL0091	215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	1999-04-16	1999	14A01	SOLD
TT3907C	GN0540	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	1999-04-16	1999	14A01	SOLD
UU8557A	CB0637	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1999-03-31	1999	06A01	SOLD
TT9321A	CD0076	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	1999-03-16	1999	14A01	SOLD
UU3602A		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1999-01-03	1999	10A02	SOLD
UU3602B		101	OYSTER BY HAND	1999-01-03	1999	10A02	SOLD
990990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1998-12-14	1999	50050	SOLD
TT9260A		101	OYSTER BY HAND	1998-10-29	1998	14A01	SOLD
TT9194A	PP0366	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	1998-04-21	1998	14A01	SOLD
TT9194B	SO0174	216	CRAB SHED TANK-OVER 20	1998-04-21	1998	14A01	SOLD
UU0507A	CB0128	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1998-03-26	1998	06006	SOLD
TT9121A	CD0300	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	1998-03-18	1998	14A01	SOLD

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License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
UU2963A		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1997-12-27	1998	14A01	SOLD
980990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1997-12-18	1998	50050	SOLD
UU1560A	PP0766	217	CRAB PEELER POT-210 OR LESS	1997-05-27	1997	14A01	SOLD
UU1560B	SL0080	215	CRAB SHED TANK-20 OR LESS	1997-05-27	1997	14A01	SOLD
UU1560C	FB0160	341	FISH/EEL POT-300 OR LESS	1997-05-27	1997	14A01	SOLD
SS0877A	CB0588	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1997-03-31	1997	06006	SOLD
TT0881A	CD0154	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	1997-03-25	1997	14A01	SOLD
PP7960A		102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1996-12-28	1997	14A01	SOLD
970990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1996-12-26	1997	50050	SOLD
PP2818A	CB0832	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1996-04-04	1996	06006	SOLD
SS1324A	CD0093	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	1996-03-16	1996	14A01	SOLD
NN7116A		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1995-12-30	1996	14A01	SOLD
960990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1995-12-28	1996	50050	SOLD
PP2669A	CB0152	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1995-04-01	1995	06006	SOLD
NN4469A	CD0362	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	1995-03-27	1995	14A01	SOLD
PP4590A		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1994-12-27	1995	10A02	SOLD
950990A		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1994-12-20	1995	50050	SOLD
PP5321	FA0242	340	FISH/EEL POT-100 OR LESS	1994-10-03	1994	14A01	SOLD
NN4044	GN0475	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	1994-09-23	1994	30030	SOLD
NN4045	GN0476	303	GILL NETS-600 OR LESS	1994-09-23	1994	30030	SOLD
PP2418	CB0913	212	CRAB POT-170 TO 255	1994-04-13	1994	06006	SOLD
MM6335	CD0393	207	CRAB POWER DREDGE	1994-02-28	1994	12A01	SOLD
MM6334	BB0171	410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1994-02-22	1994	12A01	SOLD
940990		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1993-12-29	1994	50050	SOLD
NN0165		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1993-12-29	1994	30030	SOLD
JJ3703	CP0072	202	CRAB POT WITH ASSISTANT	1993-03-31	1993	06006	SOLD
KK3556		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1992-12-31	1993	12A01	SOLD
KK3557	BB0213	410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1992-12-31	1993	12A01	SOLD
KK3558	BB0214	410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1992-12-31	1993	12A01	SOLD
930990		500	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION	1992-12-22	1993	50050	SOLD
JJ0526	BB0110	410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1992-06-04	1992	12A01	SOLD
JJ0515	FP0424	318	EEL POT INDIVIDUAL	1992-05-21	1992	12A01	SOLD
FF4016	CP0602	202	CRAB POT WITH ASSISTANT	1992-03-27	1992	06006	SOLD
A11320	BB0109	410	SEAFOOD BUYERS TRUCK	1992-02-28	1992	12A01	SOLD
AA6641	GN1399	314	ANCHOR GILL NET TO 600	1992-02-03	1992	12A01	SOLD
AA6642	GN1400	314	ANCHOR GILL NET TO 600	1992-02-03	1992	12A01	SOLD
AA6617		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1992-01-01	1992	12A01	SOLD

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License	Tag No.	Gear	Description	Date Sold	Year	Agent	Status
AA6603		102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1991-11-13	1991	12A01	SOLD
X01857	CP1085	201	CRAB POT INDIVIDUAL	1991-03-19	1991	06006	SOLD
V02802		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1991-01-01	1991	12A01	SOLD
V03331		102	OYSTER PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1990-10-30	1990	12A01	SOLD
R01145	CP0534	201	CRAB POT INDIVIDUAL	1990-04-11	1990	06006	SOLD
S00092		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1989-12-30	1990	12A01	SOLD
V02263		112	CLAM PATENT TONGS-SINGLE	1989-05-16	1989	16A02	SOLD
J03152		104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	1989-01-02	1989	18018	SOLD
K04243	CP0439	201	CRAB POT INDIVIDUAL	1988-04-04	1988	06006	SOLD
K04391		104	OYSTERS BY HAND TONGS	1987-12-31	1988	18018	SOLD
EE8618		101	OYSTER BY HAND	1987-02-06	1987	06006	SOLD

Attachment 2

David Bleeker

Exception Form



VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT DIVISION
380 FENWICK ROAD, BLDG. 96
FORT MONROE, VA 23651-1064

EXCEPTION FORM COMMERCIAL OYSTER RESOURCE USER FEE

Exceptions shall be documented on this form and additional supporting documentation should be submitted at the time the form is submitted. All documents are subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

Type of exception: ☐ Transfer ☒ Pay previous year(s)
Name of licensee: David Bleeker
Address of licensee: 1448 LOCUST GROVE RD. Topping VA 23169
Phone Number: 804-761-1509 VMRC ID: 19168930990
☐ Medical ☒ Hardship ☐ Military

REASON FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN EXCEPTION: (SEE EXCERPT FROM REGULATION 4 VAC 28-72A-11 ON BACK OF FORM)

Due to the constant changes in the seafood industry,
I am finding it more and more evident, that to maintain
my livelihood, I will be needing to enter back into the
Winter oyster fishery
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER

ADDITIONAL ROOM ON THE BACK OF THE DOCUMENT IF NEEDED.
PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS.

INITIAL

DB

BY SIGNING BELOW, YOU CONFIRM THE ABOVE STATEMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE.

David Bleeker

SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE

March 23, 2021

DATE

OFFICE USE ONLY

☐ APPROVED

☐ DENIED

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSIONER OR DESIGNEE

DATE

I am 56 years of age and have made my living entirely off the water over the years in one or the other many fisheries.

I got my first oyster licence when I was 14 years old and spent my Christmas Vacation from school that year working my father's side of the double patent tong rig on my older brother's boat while my father was in Holland visiting his family.

Like many other watermen, I have shaft tanged, patent tanged, dredged oyster seed and crab dredged as well until that fishery was terminated.

I was one of the first few to start power hand scraping up the Rappahannock when oysters started recovering from MSX and Dermo.

At that time, we would work all day and be lucky to catch 41 Bushel on a good day.

Over the years I did less oystering in 2015-2016 because I started eeling in the fall.

The eel market was strong. There were several bulk eel markets and the striped bass bait eel market was very good.

Sadly over the past years, due to the tighter regulations on the striped bass, the bait eel markets are rapidly disappearing. Especially due to the termination of the trophy striped bass season and the 1 Fish limit.

In 2019, the last eel buyer, Chesapeake Star Seafood, owned and operated by Leon and Matt Pruitt went out of business. The years after that I was able to sell a few here and there but nothing like the past years. I then relied more on crabbing than I had before. That, like everything else, is getting more difficult. Everything we have to buy to stay in the business has skyrocketed such as bait, traps, zinc anodes and fuel to name a few, and with the decline of the crab population and closings of so many picking houses, crabbing is nowhere near as lucrative as it once was.

I hope you understand. I am not looking to supplement my income with oystering ~~but~~ rather to sustain it.

Thank you for your consideration on the matter

Attachment 3

David Bleeker

Summons History

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Summons History by Name

Print Date: Thursday April 09 2026



This report identifies summons based on first initial and last name. It is possible that all summons listed are not for the same individual. Please check birth date and middle initial where available.

DBleeker

Summons	Issued	Name	Address	D.O.B.
058978	1998-05-24	Bleeker, David -	PO BOX 413, DELTAVILLE, VA, 23043	1969-07-19
Category: Crabs		Statute: 28.2-710	Reg No.: Ruling: Guilty	Fine: \$60
Detail: PLACE CRAB POT IN MARKED NAVIGABLE CHANNEL				

Summons	Issued	Name	Address	D.O.B.
012759	1992-08-06	Bleeker, David	, , ,	
Category: Crabs		Statute: 28.1-167	Reg No.: Ruling: Guilty	Fine: \$100
Detail:				

Summons	Issued	Name	Address	D.O.B.
002372	1991-05-24	Bleeker, David	, , ,	
Category: Crabs		Statute: 28.1-167	Reg No.: Ruling: Guilty	Fine: \$100
Detail:				