

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

July 22, 2025

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:

- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jamie L. Green   | Commissioner                |
| Patrick Hand     |                             |
| Lynn Kellum      |                             |
| A.J. Erskine     | Associate Members           |
| William Bransom  |                             |
| Jeremy Headley   |                             |
| Jeanette Edwards |                             |
| Thomas Preston   |                             |
| Preston White    |                             |
| Kelci Block      | Assistant Attorney General  |
| Joseph Grist     | Deputy Commissioner         |
| Randy Owen       | Chief, Habitat Management   |
| Adam Kenyon      | Chief, Shellfish Management |
| Pat Geer         | Chief, Fisheries Management |

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS):

- |              |            |           |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Lyle Varnell | Emily Hein | Alex Sabo |
|--------------|------------|-----------|

Others present:

- |                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Andy Anderson   | Myles Cockrell    | Rusty West   |
| Mitchell Smiley | Charles DeMarino  | Emily Foster |
| Margaret Kelly  | E. Stanley Murphy | Kim Huskey   |
| Mark West       | Lisa Barnes       | and others.  |

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** – Commissioner Jamie Green asked if there were any changes from the Board members or staff.

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

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**MINUTES:** Commissioner Green asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the June 24, 2025, Commission Meeting minutes.

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

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

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Col. Matt Rogers acknowledged 1<sup>st</sup>. Sgt. Jeff Copperthite in his retirement from Virginia Marine Resources Commission. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

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2. **PERMITS** (Projects over \$1,000,000.00 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval).

Randy Owen, Chief, Habitat Management, reviewed the Page 2 item 2A for the Associate Members. Mr. Owen's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

- 2A. **KINDER MORGAN TRANSMIX COMPANY LLC, #25-0870**, requests authorization to install a 50-foot by 54-inch diameter steel mooring monopile with a 66-inch diameter rock socket situated along the James River, serving 3302 Deepwater Road in the City of Richmond.

No one spoke in support or opposition of the projects.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

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

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

Randy Owen, Chief, Habitat Management, reviewed the Page 3 item for the Associate Members. Mr. Owen’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

**3A. LARRY SHORES, JR., #25-0687,** requests after-the-fact authorization to retain seven (7) 4-foot by 8-foot crab shedding trays attached to an existing pier, and to utilize the pier for both private and commercial purposes, adjacent to tax parcel 20B-65, situated along Urbanna Creek in Middlesex County.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

**Associate Member Erskine requested the item be postponed until the August meeting Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.**

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

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**5. COCKRELL FARMS LLC, #25-0358,** requests authorization to construct and backfill a 387-foot vinyl replacement bulkhead, mechanically dredge 280 cubic yards of state-owned submerged lands with upland disposal and construct a 3,420 square-foot concrete commercial wharf, adjacent to the commercial marina

situated along the Little Wicomico River at 309 Railway Drive in Northumberland County. The project is protested by two adjacent property owners.

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

Craig Palibinski, agent for the applicant, Miles Cockrell, spoke in support of the project. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Earl Stanley Murphy, representative of John Morgan and Olivia Cockrell, spoke in opposition to the project. 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 project as presented. Associate Member White seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.**

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- 6. URBANNA BOATYARD AND MARINA, #24-1864**, requests authorization to retain an 8-foot by 10-foot open-sided fuel dock roof and a 143 square-foot enclosed storage area and install 12 (twelve) new boat lifts in existing boat slips at Urbanna Boatyard and Marina adjacent to 15 Watling Street situated along Urbanna Creek in Middlesex County.

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

Earl Stanley Murphy, representing the applicant, spoke in support of the project. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

**Associate Member Erskine moved to approve the project with triple permit fees as**

**presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.**

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- 7. MARK JOHNSON, OYSTER PLANTING GROUND APPLICATION, 2021-016,** request authorization to lease approximately 250 acres of oyster planting ground in the Chesapeake Bay in the City of Norfolk.

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

The applicant was not present.

Rusty West spoke in opposition to the application. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Lisa Barnes, Chief of Staff for Senator Angela Graves, spoke on behalf of Senator Angela Graves, Representative for Norfolk, in opposition to the application. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Margaret Kelly, assistant city attorney for the City of Norfolk, spoke in opposition to the application. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

**Associate Member White moved to deny the lease application as presented. Associate Member Hand seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.**

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- 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one spoke during public comment.**

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- 9. PUBLIC HEARING:**  
Proposal to amend Chapter VAC20-490, "Pertaining to Sharks" to clarify

language regarding the prohibition of overnight soaks for Virginia spiny dogfish permit holders using gill net mesh size equal to or greater than 5.25 inches and less than 10-inches in the Delaware and Maryland Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Area or the Virginia Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Area between 8:00pm through 5am the following day from Novem 1 through March 31.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Management, gave a briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. for the Associate Members. Mr. Geer's 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 regulation as presented. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.**

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**10. PUBLIC HEARING:**

Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC20-1390-10, "Pertaining to Shrimp," to 1) Expand the number of limited entry shrimp trawl licenses; 2) Establish an Eastern Shore Shrimp Trawl Harvest Area; 3) Extend the start of the season into September; 4) Modify the maximum dimensions of the shrimp trawl gear; and 5) Amend methods for reporting bycatch.

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

Mark West, a resident of Norfolk, Virginia, was sworn in and spoke about his background of shrimping from Eastern Shore, VA. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

George Trice was sworn in and spoke. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Charles DeMarino 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 Preston made a motion to increase the number of shrimp licenses by a maximum of five, with eligibility requirements of having any reported landings by shrimp trawl during the period of 2022-2024 and having had their shrimp trawl gear inspected by staff as of July 22, 2025, to approve the project as modified. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.**

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There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned. The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, August 26, 2025.

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Jamie L. Green, Commissioner

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Jamie Hogge, Recording Secretary