



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Virginia Marine Resources Commission passes guidelines to ensure protection of shorelines and improve coastal resilience”

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) today voted to approve the Tidal Wetlands Guidelines Update (the Guidelines) at its monthly Commission meeting. The updated Guidelines include additional standards that will ensure protection of shorelines and sensitive coastal habitats from sea level rise and coastal hazards.

“The Commission’s adoption of the updated Tidal Wetlands Guidelines is an important step in achieving Governor Northam’s goals to increase the resilience of Virginia’s coast,” said **Secretary of Natural Resources, Matthew J Strickler**. “The new Guidelines promote the conservation of tidal wetlands and acknowledge their critical role in helping coastal communities respond to the challenges of sea level rise and a changing climate.”

The Guidelines will help managers and property owners in making on-site jurisdictional determinations, explaining the risks and benefits provided by various shoreline treatments, and identifying shoreline management options based on the best available science.

“The updated Guidelines are key to applying the latest science to the Commonwealth’s Tidal Wetlands program, which aims to effectively balance wetlands preservation with protection and use of private property,” said **VMRC Commissioner Steven G. Bowman**.

Local Wetlands Boards, who have enacted the Wetlands Ordinance, administer the Guidelines on behalf of the Commission and are a critical partner in protecting the Commonwealth’s tidal wetlands.

The Commonwealth’s tidal wetlands support our recreational and commercial fisheries by providing critical habitat and vital ecological services required for a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

The approved guidelines can be found [here](#).

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