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# Middle Peninsula Habitat Focus Area

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

# Overview



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# NOAA Habitat Focus Areas

**Targeted places where NOAA focuses its programs and investments to address a high priority habitat issue by working with partners and communities.**

**Each HFA works in a unique, local context to address a specific habitat challenge.**

## HFA Value:

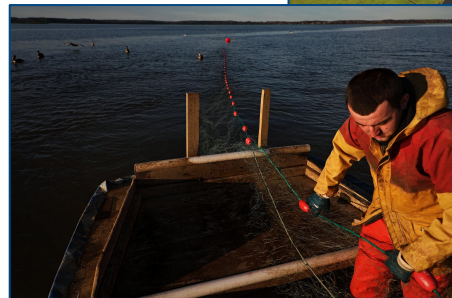
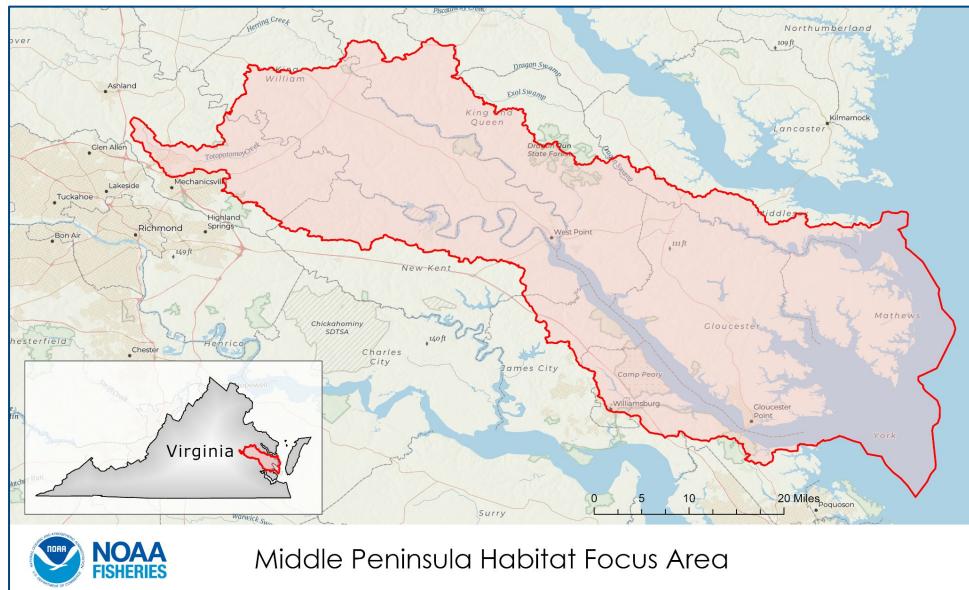
- Raises visibility, attracts more resources
- Intensive focus to make change in minimal time
- More strategic coordination, collaboration
- Supports existing priorities at the local scale





# Middle Peninsula of Virginia

York River | Mobjack Bay | Piankatank River



# At a Glance: Middle Peninsula HFA



**Challenges:** Historic decline of oyster reefs | Changing shorelines impacting habitat and climate resilience | Lack of regional capacity for restoration | Economic struggles of a rural coastal region.

**Goal:** Restore & conserve fish habitat and enhance coastal community resilience to climate change.

## Investment Snapshot:

- **3 NOAA Line Offices** working together
- **5 Years** of intensive focus
- **more than \$1M** in FY 2022 (approx.)

**Key Partners:** VA CZM, VA DCR, VMRC, VIMS, NFWF, USACE, Navy, USFWS, National Estuarine Research Reserve VA, Planning District Commissions (local governments)



# Projects



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# Enhance Fish & Shellfish Productivity

## Oysters | Research | Satellites

- Oyster reef restoration
  - NOAA, working with VMRC is supporting:
    - construction of 150 acres of reef in Lower York rivers (includes state funding)
    - future Mobjack Bay oyster restoration - subtidal and nearshore
- Modeling to quantify the economic benefits of oyster reefs & SAV to region

## Key Partners:

- VA Marine Resource Commission
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Morgan State University
- VA Department of Health





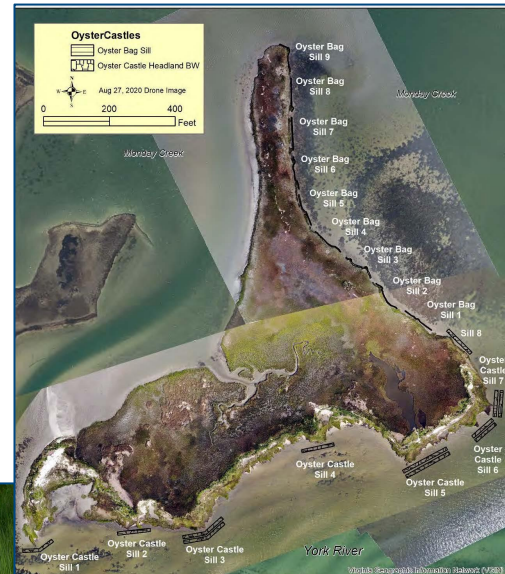
# Support Resilient Shorelines

## Nearshore Habitat Projects & Planning

- Technical assistance & planning funding for nearshore habitat projects
  - Yorktown Naval Weapons Station nearshore & shoreline project
  - Hog Island living shoreline project
  - Machicomico State Park shoreline restoration project
- Research on the socio-economic benefits of natural & restored shorelines
- **Wetlands Conservation & Restoration Plan**

## Key Partners:

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
- Navy
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Wetlands Watch





# Engage Coastal Communities

## Education & Community Outreach

- Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Grants
- Engage recreational angler groups
- **Prioritize Diversity Equity Inclusion & Justice**
  - Engage marginalized communities
  - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
  - Determining how best to engage with, assist Tribes

## Key Partners:

- BWET partners
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- VIMS Marine Advisory Program
- Mattaponi Tribe
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Pamunkey Tribe



# Build Local Capacity

## York River and Small Coastal Basins Roundtable

- Partnership network development and coalition-building
- Habitat Restoration Committee
- State of the York report
  - Status & trends report for York, Mobjack, & Piankatank



## Key Partners:

- Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Virginia
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Green Fin Studio



# Collaborate with us!

## Thanks!



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