

June 2017 Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Meeting
Virginia Marine Resources Commission Member Update

Biodegradable Panel Study

VMRC purchased 2,500 biodegradable panels from Mobjack Binnacle Products. Eight volunteers received 110 panels each at the beginning of the 2017 hard pot season to install in 50 pots (2 panels per pot with a few extra panels in case there are issues during the season). Each volunteer will be surveyed twice in 2017, once in late July or early August and again in December, to gauge interest in larger scale use of biodegradable panels in the commercial blue crab fishery and to solicit ways to incentivize voluntary biodegradable panel use in the fishery. Ten panels were also given to Chesapeake Bay Foundation.