



## Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Agenda

January 11, 2023 1:00am – 3:00pm

**Meeting Link:** [meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xnq](https://meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xnq)

**Join us by phone:** (US)+1 478-324-0063 PIN: 729 387 070#

### Notes

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- Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting.
- Full winter Fish GIT meeting- March 1-2 (one day will likely focus on oysters; part of the other day may also have some oyster presentations/ discussion)
  - Andrew Button and Stephanie will present on progress towards oyster restoration goal
- Review draft VA info for the 2022 annual oyster update document
  - Discussion and revisions related to how to describe the ongoing restoration enhancement work in the Pianktank and Great Wicomico beyond the blueprint goals
  - Discussion of where the remaining acres to be completed are located (Lynnhaven + Lower York)
  - Lafayette - Rom will review new monitoring language for accuracy
  - Lynnhaven - adjusted USACE permit request acreage to 25 acres (from 27). Check Virginia remaining acreage #, total seems off by 1 acre if Lynnhaven needs 38 acres and Lower York 7.
  - Piankatank - no changes needed
  - Great Wicomico - no changes needed.
  - Lower York - discussion of whether to reference the reason for the delay in completing the Lower York (weather).
  - Fixed typo on # of acres restored in Lower York bar graph. Recommended removing most of the gray from the Lower York map.
  - Update the update's side banner to 2022 instead of 2021.
  - Factors influencing the success - Rom recommends language referencing unpredictable environmental disturbances can affect reef building success.
  - Highlights – added language related to VA natural spat set being high, especially since 2019.
  - Discussion of poaching as a potential challenge

- Updates on reef construction/ planning
  - USACE Piankatank prep work is happening - construction to begin Feb. 7, demob in July (after post construction survey, etc.).
  - USACE Lynnhaven - permit application submitted, March hearing on the permit,
  - Lower York - remaining 7 acres to start in the spring, completed in June
  - Yorktown Naval Weapons station/Cheatham Annex (Penniman Spit)- shoreline work at both to get underway soon or has started. Subtidal reefs -  $\frac{1}{3}$  constructed at Yorktown NWS in fall 2022, remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$  will go in spring - reef structures at both locations totalling about 1 acre.
  - Corps, w VMRC, is planning a large tangier oyster effort. Rom is consulting, ex: hydrodynamic and larval transport info. Project will be a combination of subtidal and intertidal reefs. One objective is to build non-harvest reefs where they will seed harvest reefs.
  
- General Updates
  - VMRC Feb meeting will be on their oyster replenishment project. Streamed on YouTube.
  - VA oyster shell recycling  
bill: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=231&typ=bil&val=SB997>
  - CBF article about waterwoman working 2000 acres of oysters in the Nansemond (I think) <https://www.cbf.org/blogs/save-the-bay/2022/12/a-fight-for-history-in-hobson.html>
  - CBF is holding an oyster popup during legislative session
  
- Next meeting is March 8