



Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

RESCHEDULED: February 21 2024, 1-3pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zae-uvfd-dso>

Or dial: (US) +1 225-443-9018 PIN: 905 195 418#

Agenda

- Review the Virginia portion of the draft 2023 annual update document
- Bay Program Strategy Review System time! Each outcome (oysters included) goes through this process every two years. We've already completed the 'looking back' portion; now it is time for the 'looking forward' portion, i.e. the 2-year workplan. Review, discuss, and edit draft as needed.
- Restore America's Estuaries conference is in Arlington in October; abstracts due March 15th. There is a Chesapeake session. Anyone planning anything?
- Reef construction and planning updates
- General updates
- Other

Notes

2023 Ches. Bay oyster restoration update document discussion

- Lafayette
 - need to update monitoring info? Q to Russ B (Rom not present)
- Lynnhaven
 - USACE updated construction material to stone
 - LRNOW did not build 1-2 acres of shell reef on leases they own in 2023
 - Should we include new VIMS monitoring data on USACE 8 acre reef in the
- Piankatank - agreement to include USACE recent work
- Great Wicomico - some edits suggested by Andrew B./VMRC and Heather/USACE; some changes
- Lower York - accounting \$ discussed with Andrew B./VMRC and agreed to

- Virginia highlights
 - support for keeping the higher recent spat set wording for VA
 - David Norman/VCU commented on this text "As targets are almost reached, the last remaining acreage may become more difficult and/or expensive per acre of restoration on some tributaries." He asked for clarification. A: "Final mile delivery concept" provides some explanation as to why you have to restore in less optimal areas, after public process narrows down the available bottom to build reefs. Some modified language was added to the
 - Jackie Shannon/Brent James says "Highlight for Lynnhaven: CBF surveys of Pleasure House Creek Reef in May 2023 found over 13 million oysters on the 11 acre reef"
 - discussion about potential for including information on record 2023 commercial harvest
 - Stephanie will revise entire document and send back out to the group

Chesapeake Bay Program Oyster Work Plan 2024-2025 discussion

- Discussion of modifying 1.5 monitoring provision to include Virginia
- Stephanie will make changes in the next couple of days and send back out

Announcements

- Russ Burke - Lynnhaven reef ball (8 acre USACE site)) sampling recently concluded - great results. Fish surveys at the site by Rom/Rochelle may reveal a black sea bass nursery.
 - additional monitoring in the Elizabeth River sites is revealing good results as well
- Andrew B/VMRC - oyster restoration/replenishment plan will be reviewed by Commission and voted on this coming Tuesday (Great Wicomico work and other work will be included)
- Oyster alternative substrate conference coming up <https://www.umces.edu/alternative-substrate-for-oysters>