



## VA Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting

May 14, 2025

Meet info:

[meet.google.com/qny-rivd-dih](https://meet.google.com/qny-rivd-dih)

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### Meeting Notes

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-Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting

-Reminder that, as always, all of the workgroup products (Blueprints, past Annual Updates, etc) and public meeting notifications are [here](#). Note: the 2024 Annual Update is now also live at the link- thanks everyone for your work on this!

-For awareness: Morgan study and infographic:

<https://www.morgan.edu/news/pearl-examines-economic-and-ecological-impacts> (also on NOAA website,

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-funded-research-highlights-economic-effects-oyster-reef-restoration> )

-Andrew Larkin's departure

-Completion of Lynnhaven... hence completion of VA's six oyster restoration tributaries!

-Bay Program updated oyster outcome language-- as presented at the CBP Management Board Retreat May 8-9:

- Restore or conserve at least 1800 additional acres of oyster reef habitat managed as non-harvest reefs, concentrated primarily in restoration focus areas
- Maintain sustainable oyster abundance and enhance their capacity to improve water quality through the oyster fishery and aquaculture practices
- Maintain reefs established under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement to achieve restoration success metrics
- Next steps: Management Board members lead negotiation of revisions. June 5: Deadline for revised Outcome language.; June 12: MB finalizes all remaining draft Outcome language recommendations.

-Field reports-how do things look out there?

- LRN: pulled oyster cages in Lynnhaven; there are a lot of very small oysters- looks like there are 2025 spat set already- and a heavy set; also a heavy ribbed mussel set, and some blue mussels; may be able to use divers or Rapid Assessment Protocol or underwater drones to survey.
- Lafayette: CBF monitored there, and in Lynnhaven; all reefs are meeting Oyster Metrics;

-Project updates:

- VMRC NOAA-funded reefs in York- on stone reefs completed in 2024 and 2023 looks like they meet Oyster Metrics, even with patent tongs unable to gather full samples re: larger stone. In Mobjack: VMRC will be constructing remaining 10 acres of the planned 60-acre project, with NOAA funding; going in the water next week.
- Hampton River: CBF will be mobilizing this week; granite; 5 acres- phase 1; there will be a phase 2 of about the same size; right across from Hampton University- will use it as a classroom;
- CBF has scheduled VA Rod and Reef Slam; will be in Hampton River; will focus mostly on kids; will be September 13; rain date Sept 27;

<https://www.cbf.org/events/virginia/virginia-rod-and-reef-slam.html>

-Future meeting dates/ times will need to change- group preferences? Wednesdays, 1-3, every other month.

-Other discussion:

-CBF: pay-for-performance \$20 million VA fund; this recently 57 acres of reefs in VA's Severn River for nitrogen reduction on leased bottom owned by a company; project guidelines say it needs to be there for at least 5 years; TBD whether these then get harvested.