



## Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

December 13, 2023 1:00pm – 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#

### Agenda

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- Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting
- Reminder: [NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#) applications are due Dec 19.
  - Transformational Habitat Restoration/Coastal Resilience grant applications were due last month
- Data call for 2023 Annual Update document
  - USACE Piankatank construction completed on Dec. 1; post construction surveys underway; when complete will provide shape files. Request for \$ amount for this work if haven't already been provided.
  - York River/VMRC -still need to provide shapefiles for the final acreage built in the lower York River; David Bruce should have everything else up to that point. Request for \$ amount for this work if haven't already been provided
  - Need info from Rom on acreage and \$ for VIMS/Navy Yorktown Naval Weapons station oyster restoration work.
  - Will review draft of Update at January meeting
- Anything in particular we want to mention in the Annual update-- ex: in the narratives about each trib?
- Bay Program update:
  - the oyster outcome climate-change-related research need we put forward to STAR was: *Determining feasibility of using shallow subtidal reefs as shoreline protection. (This is particularly important in the mid-to-upper Bay, where intertidal oyster populations are ephemeral; in the very lower Bay, we already use intertidal reefs for shoreline protection).* Note that we may want to update the STAR [science needs list](#) for oysters as part of the 'looking forward' piece of the biennial oyster outcome Strategy Review System (SRS).

- Request to consult with additional coastal engineers/shoreline experts on feasibility of using shallow subtidal reefs as shoreline protection
  - Note there was also a lot of interest in how OA might affect oysters. One resource of interest is Mark Brush's oysters/ SAV/ OA presentation at the September Fish GIT meeting ([here](#), listed as #22),
- Bay Program update: reminder that oyster outcome progress over the past two years will be presented to the Bay Program Management Board Thursday as part of the 'looking backward' portion of the biennial Strategy Review System (SRS).
  - We have success stories to talk about, should be good news
- Other updates and news
  - LRNOW - will finish NFWF grant funding using shell to build reefs in the spring (7 acres) on the same lease as the Mary Lou Gale reef (currently 1 acre) will be the anchor site for the larger reef that will be built there.
  - USACE Lynnhaven Broad Bay reef - hope to officially award the contract for that 23 acres construction soon; construction expected to start in March/April, stopping during the high recreational season.
  - Beyonds '10 tribes':
    - CBF:
      - Hampton River - looking at submitting 2nd permit to VMRC soon (first already submitted), total of 5 acres. Hope to have both permits in hand in Spring 2024, to start construction of all 5 acres at once in 2025. Will use granite for construction.
      - CBF-Break the Cycle (community group) collaboration in support of recreational fishing for underserved community in downtown Newport News - looking at a proposal to add some reef balls near an existing SAV bed near James River shoreline. Will be applying to the NOAA Underserved/Tribal habitat restoration grant.
      - Working on a GIS product (incorporating climate vulnerability, EJ tools, etc.) which could work as a screening tool for future site selection for restoration projects