



Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

March 19, 2025, 10:30am-12:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rdd-madc-xxd>

Or dial: (US) +1 413-829-2052 PIN: 739 515 042#

Agenda & Notes:

- 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](#).
- FYI: Two recent analyses of non-harvest reef restoration economic impact : [here](#) and [here](#).
- Update on USACE Lynnhaven River reef construction
 - USACE - phase 2 reef construction of 23 acres completed in January - Rom & Russ will start monitoring in fall/winter 2025; reaching oyster reef restoration goal in the river
 - initial monitoring results are promising for spat set and fish usage of reefs
 - discussion of additional acreage - there is a leased area that LRNOW owns that could be restored or is planned to be restored to make up for any loss of acreage that had previously been restored. (4 acres approximately - consensus that should be counted as some restoration has already occurred, but more is planned)
 - discussion of the success of the USACE reef balls and how that relates to the 30% coverage part of the metrics
 - how do we want to describe or commemorate reaching the goal - interest in shared talking point like:

“Working together, partners have completed the planned oyster reef restoration acres as called for in the Lynnhaven oyster restoration blueprint; Therefore, the initial oyster reef restoration

phase is complete under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement oyster outcome ('10 Tributaries' goal).

Ongoing shoreline reef restoration to reduce erosion and enhance oyster habitat as well as shell restoration on aquaculture leases for fish habitat and water quality improvements is expected to continue"

-above language is draft, deliberate not final and subject to review by the respective organizations's chain of command

-discussion of an event to commemorate the reaching of the Lynnhaven goal (maybe modeled on the York River event)

-Rom - initial results of Piankatank monitoring is also showing promising results on the granite reefs

-CBF - Hampton River reef construction of 4 acres is expected to start soon (Phase 1) at Pine Cone Harbor- granite construction - this part expected to be completed in May and then SOS application on top of that later in the summer; living shoreline also planned - looking for volunteers.

-----high spat on constructed reefs at Pleasure House Point in the Lynnhaven observed as well

Piankatank - any data on Burton Point reefs (the ones that were opened to harvest)? - CBF hearing anecdotally from some watermen that harvest yields were OK, not great; but no monitoring data discussed

- Review draft Virginia section of the 2024 Annual Update on '10 Tributaries' progress. The 2023 Annual Update is [here](#), for reference.

-----discussion of overall VA spat set - VA wide maybe above average, but in some areas (i.e. Lynnhaven) more typical spat set observed

-----finding large quantities of shell is still a limiting factor in VA

-----re: factors influencing success in VA - VMRC and other partners provided some comments relating to revising language around poaching

-----heavy rainfall not a significant factor, could be removed

- Review draft slides for the Fish GIT presentation next week (presentation is Tues Mar 25; meeting is Tues-Wed Mar 25-26)