

“ESTABLISHMENT OF OYSTER SANCTUARY AREAS”**CHAPTER 4VAC20-650-10 ET SEQ.****PREAMBLE**

This chapter establishes Oyster Sanctuary Areas in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, Potomac tributaries of Virginia, and on the Seaside of Eastern Shore. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to authority contained in §§28.2-201 and 28.2-507 of the Code of Virginia. This chapter amends and re-adopts, as amended, previous Chapter 4VAC20-650-10 et seq., which was adopted September 27, 2016, and made effective on October 1, 2016. The effective date of this chapter, as amended, is October 31, 2025.

4VAC20-650-10. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect and promote the oyster resources within the designated sanctuary areas and to protect oyster replenishment efforts.

4VAC20-650-20. Oyster sanctuary areas.**The following oyster sanctuary areas are established:**

1. The Wreck Shoals-James River Oyster Sanctuary Area - Consisting of all public oyster grounds, with a boundary defined as: beginning at James River Channel Marker 6; thence westerly to James River Channel Marker 10A; thence northeasterly to a point at latitude 37° 04.4000000' N. longitude 76° 34.6500000' W.; thence southeasterly to a point at latitude 37° 04.0333333' N., longitude 76° 34.1000000' W.; thence southeasterly to James River Channel Marker 6, the point of beginning.
2. Smith Island Sanctuary – Beginning at a point in Smith Island Bay near the western shore of Smith Island, said point being approximately 9,900 feet north-northwest of the Cape Charles Light House and the northern most point on Ballard Fish and Oyster Co., Inc. oyster lease, plat 16613, said point being corner 85, having NAD 83 Geographic Coordinates of 37° 08.3987390' N., 75° 54.0094551' W.; thence in a northeasterly direction along the inshore oyster lease line of Thomas J. O'Conner, III, plat 17720, to corner 106, 37° 08.5079488' N., 75° 53.9121013' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 107, 37° 08.5406502' N., 75° 53.8494541' W.; thence east-northeasterly to corner 207, 37° 08.5420829' N., 75° 53.8281776' W.; thence east-northeasterly along the inshore oyster lease line of Mark R. Heath, plat 17721, to corner 108, 37° 08.5446005' N., 75° 53.7907806' W.; thence north-northeasterly to corner 109, 37° 08.5895883' N., 75° 53.7864524' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 110, 37° 08.6921483' N., 75° 53.6226465' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 111, 37° 08.7546771' N., 75° 53.4568175' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 112, 37° 08.7754748' N., 75° 53.3619827' W.; thence southeasterly along the inshore oyster lease line of H. M. Terry Co., Inc. to corner 18, 37° 08.7544364' N., 75° 53.3207742' W.; thence southeasterly to corner 17, 37° 08.7306590' N., 75° 53.2980718' W.; thence southeasterly to corner 16, 37° 08.6251318' N., 75° 53.1579039' W.; thence easterly to corner 15, 37° 08.6225028' N., 75° 53.1025432' W.; thence north-northeasterly to corner 14,

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18.7500009' N., 75° 46.5019997' W.; thence northeasterly to the western most point of the oyster lease of J. Steve McCready, plat 16371, corner 90, 37° 18.8870550' N., 75° 46.1567968' W.; thence southeasterly along the lease line to corner 89, 37° 18.8653681' N., 75° 46.1241425' W.; thence southeasterly along the oyster lease line of R&C Seafood, plat 16986 to corner 374, 37° 18.7448511' N., 75° 46.0512077' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 373, 37° 18.9339657' N., 75° 45.7191531' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 372, 37° 18.9858220' N., 75° 45.6864128' W.; thence northwesterly to corner 355, 37° 19.3528688' N., 75° 45.9182774' W., said point being the point of beginning.


4. Boxtree Oyster Sanctuary - Beginning at a point in Boxtree Creek, said point being the eastern most point on the oyster lease of Edwin E. Brady and Marion Brady, Jr., plat 16344, corner 7, said corner having NAD 83 Geographic Coordinates of 37° 23.7990757' N., 75° 51.5561984' W.; thence southeasterly to corner 2, 37° 23.6849997' N., 75° 51.4280006' W.; thence southerly to a point in Ramshorn Bay, corner 3, 37° 23.5570008' N., 75° 51.4309991' W.; thence southeasterly to corner 4, 37° 23.5009994' N., 75° 51.3100008' W.; thence southeasterly to corner 5, 37° 23.4050000' N., 75° 51.2529994' W.; thence southwesterly to corner 6, 37° 22.8749994' N., 75° 51.5500012' W.; thence westerly to a point on shore, corner 8, 37° 22.9039994' N., 75° 52.3000000' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 7, 37° 23.7990757' N., 75° 51.5561984' W., said point being the point of beginning.

5. Parramore Island Sanctuary - Beginning at a point, corner 1, in Swash Bay, near the western shore of Parramore Island, being approximately 1,550 feet northeast of the northern most point of the oyster lease of John Barr, plat 19331, said corner having NAD 83 Geographic Coordinates of 37° 32.7759991' N., 75° 39.1639995' W.; thence in a east-southeasterly direction, onto Parramore Island, to corner 2, 37° 32.7529993' N., 75° 39.0129998' W.; thence south-southeasterly to, a point on shore, corner 3, 37° 32.2970002' N., 75° 39.0090007' W.; thence northwesterly, off shore, to corner 4, 37° 32.3579996' N., 75° 39.1610007' W.; thence north-northwesterly to corner 1, 37° 32.7759991' N., 75° 39.1639995' W., said point being the point of beginning.

6. Hillcrest Oyster Sanctuary - Beginning at a point in Brockenberry Bay, on the south side of the entrance channel to Oyster Slip and approximately 139 feet south-southwest of Day Marker 14, said point being corner 1, having NAD 83 Geographic Coordinates of 37° 17.3320003' N., 75° 55.1269999' W.; thence southeasterly to corner 2, 37° 17.2680001' N., 75° 54.8050006' W.; thence east-northeasterly to corner 3, 37° 17.3050000' N., 75° 54.5899996' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 4, 37° 17.4090006' N., 75° 54.5039998' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 5, 37° 17.5909997' N., 75° 54.4389995' W.; thence northeasterly to corner 6, 37° 17.7330004' N., 75° 54.2999997' W.; thence south-southeasterly to corner 7, 37° 17.5039998' N., 75° 54.0680001' W.; thence south-southeasterly to corner 8, 37° 17.3660002' N., 75° 53.9980006' W.; thence south-southeasterly to corner 9, 37° 16.8299992' N., 75° 53.9940006' W.; thence south-southwesterly to corner 10, 37° 16.4400007' N., 75° 54.0729995' W.; thence northwesterly to corner 11, 37° 16.6400008' N., 75° 54.3490009' W.; thence west-northwesterly

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This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the chapter passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by §§28.2-201 and 28.2-507 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, duly advertised according to statute, recorded in the Commission minutes book, at its meeting held in Newport News, Virginia, on October 28, 2025.

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**BY: **Jamie L. Green
Commissioner**Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 28 day of October, 2025.
Notary Public