

MINUTES
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)
MEETING

May 16, 2019

Members Present

Wayne France
Tommy Kellum
Ernest George
John DeMaria
Don Porter Sr.

Members Present

Dan Dise (On phone)
Cody Metcalf
J. C. Hudgins
Beverly Ludford
Lake Cowart

VMRC/VIMS Staff

Andrew Button
Pat Geer
Missy Southworth
Roger Mann
Ryan Carnegie
Ben Stagg
Jamie Hogge

Wayne France, Chairman, opened the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Andrew Button, Head Conservation and Replenishment, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the history of oyster planting, restoration and an update of shell planting which included a short video of an actual shell plant. Mr. Button's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Roger Mann, VIMS provided a brief history of the early years of the Stock Assessment Program. Mr. Mann explained the Virginia Oyster Stock Assessment and Replenishment Archive (VOSARA) website and the various options for obtaining oyster stock assessment and replenishment information on reefs and shell plants. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Roger Mann also presented a PowerPoint presentation and explained the sampling process used to conduct the annual VMRC/VIMS patent tong survey. His explanation included details on the data gathered as part of this survey. This included oyster growth curves, shell distributions throughout the years, and the bushels of market and sub-market oysters in various areas that show evidence of long-term stability.

Ryan Carnegie, VIMS pathologist, provided a PowerPoint presentation to explain the status of oyster diseases and the causes of oyster diseases. His research suggests that oyster diseases are still prevalent, but that oysters are developing disease resistance and tolerance. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Andrew Button discussed the Hand Scrape and Dredge areas set to open in the current rotation plan for upcoming harvest:

Areas 2 & 4 - Rappahannock River
Area 2 York River – Timberneck Area
Area 1 Pocomoke/Tangier
Area 1 Great Wicomico

The date of a future SMAC meeting was discussed and may be later in June.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p. m..