

MINUTES
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)
MEETING

July 17, 2019

Members Present

Wayne France
Tommy Kellum
Ernest George
Beverly Ludford
Charles Johnson
Don Porter Sr.

Members Present

Dan Dise (On phone)
Cody Metcalf
J. C. Hudgins
Lake Cowart
John DeMaria

VMRC/VIMS Staff

Andrew Button
Missy Southworth
Ben Stagg
Jamie Hogge
Adam Kenyon

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

Adam Kenyon, Fisheries Program Manager, discussed the future transition to mandatory online harvest reporting for the oyster fishery.

Adam Kenyon, Fisheries Program Manager, provided a briefing on mandatory reporting and the importance of moving forward to online harvest mandatory reporting. He also explained the expense and process that is involved with the paper version of the reporting. Mr. Kenyon proposed that the online harvest mandatory reporting is projected to begin October 2020 with the assistance staff at various location that will be available to assist. Mr. Kenyon's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Andrew Button, Head Conservation and Replenishment, provided an update on the progress and status of the 2019 Oyster Replenishment Projects which included a short video of hydraulic shell dredging operations in the James River. Mr. Button's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Restoration:

The deployment of 15,000 tons of crushed stone will be completed in the Piankatank. This will add 60 acres of restored reefs towards the goal of restoring an additional 160 acres of oyster habitat as part of the 2014 Bay agreement.

Restoration/Replenishment:

Over 650,000 bushels of shells, on over 600 acres of submerged bottom, have been planted by the CRD in June and July as part of the 2019 Oyster Restoration and Replenishment Plan (ORP)

This included plantings on both harvest areas and areas closed to harvest.

This was a combination of both fossil (reef/dredged shell) and house shell (shell purchased from oyster shucking houses)

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Mr. Button discussed the proposed establishment of the 2019-2020 areas of public harvest, public oyster harvest seasons, and management measures. After much discussion from the members, it was decided that another SMAC meeting will be held in August which will allow members to review the information that was presented and provide suggestions for the 2019-2020 oyster harvest season.

The next SMAC meeting will possibly be the week of August 19, 2019 to further discuss the upcoming Oyster Harvest seasons.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

DRAFT