

MINUTES

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 13, 2026
4:00 to 6:00 pm

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Members Present

Jackie Shannon
Tommy Kellum
Ben Johnson
Michael Shackelford
Lee Deihl
Richard Harding

Members Present

J. C. Hudgins
Cory Rice
Dan Dize, Tangier via Teams
Beverly Ludford
Monica Schenemann

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button
Adam Kenyon
Jamie Hogge
Roger Mann, VIMS
Melissa Southworth, VIMS
Sarah Goode, VDH/DSS
Heather Lockwood, USACE

Prior to the start of the meeting, all members that attended in person received a packet which included the agenda items that were up for discussion. The information that was provided to the members was also available on VMRC website for the public and committee members that could not attend to view for the exception of the personal contact information for the SMAC Members.

Jackie Shannon, Chairwoman, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Introductions:

The meeting began with introductions of those SMAC members present in person as well as those attending via Teams.

Approval of Agenda:

A Committee Member made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Committee Member Deihl seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of July 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes:

Committee Member Deihl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Committee Member Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

Overview: USACE and VMRC Tangier Pocomoke Sound Phase One Oyster Restoration plan

Heather Lockwood, USACE provided an update on Phase One of the Oyster Restoration plan for the Tangier and Pocomoke Sound. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

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Jackie Shannon, Chairwoman, asked about the possibility of planting substrate. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Lee Deihl requests to see a map that designates the historical oyster rocks and where they are, adjacent to these new proposed sites at the next meeting. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Dan Dise requests that the USACE provides written documentation that the USACE will completely turn over the reefs after construction to VMRC. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

William Saunder had concerns about the USACE project and the planting of unharvestable material on closed reefs to be harvested 10 years after completion of the project. In his opinion, the areas will be permanently no good. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Discussion: Proposed changes to Shellfish Tagging Regulations

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management provided an overview of the information pertaining to the proposed changes to the shellfish tagging regulations. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Sarah Goode, VDH/DSS, was present and answered questions for the committee. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Discussion: To amend to expand the amount of Shellstockpile

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management explained to the Committee the request to a revision of the 2026/2027 ORP to expand the Shell Stockpile to 85,000 bushels in fall/winter 2027. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Committee Member Kellum requested to include the purchase of out of state house shell as part of the amendment. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

There was no motion by the committee.

Discussion: 2026-2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management provided a background of the harvest and recruitment through the years, and an overview of the recommended 2026-2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season based on feedback from the Committee. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

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Attachment 1: SMAC V 2.0 Draft 2026-2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season as discussed and adopted by the Shellfish Management Advisory Committee.

During the discussion, Committee Member Shackelford asked for clarification on harvest end times for HT. He also raised concerns about buyers requesting more than a level-full basket from harvesters. Captain Berryman provided clarification on how the Marine Police Officer's enforce the regulation. Baskets should be level full across the top. Comments were stated whether the buyer should be held accountable for such violation. Captain Berryman explained that it would be difficult to enforce. Committee Member Shackelford also stated that White Shoal will not produce a full day's work because it has been worked all year long, even after the area was closed for public harvest. He stated that approximately 100 bushels continue to come off the area every day. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Committee Member Deihl made a motion to adopt the 2026-2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season as presented with modification. Member Deihl added a contingency of revisiting in December/January to review survey results and discuss the possibility of opening areas in March. Committee Member Schenemann seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0-1. Committee Member Kellum abstained.

Other Business

Committee Member Deihl recommended contacting local Marine Contractors to find a contractor to continue the fossil shell dredge, sort, and plant. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Public Comments:

William Saunders stated that the focus needs to be put on what works and what doesn't work on replenishment. Planting seed in Rappahannock Areas 7 & 8 worked. He stated that the bottom was expanded and the seed produced more live shell. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Committee Member Schenemann made to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Deihl seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

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SMAC V 2.0Draft 2026 - 2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season									
PLEASE CONSULT VMRC REGULATION 4VAC 20-720 PRIOR TO HARVESTING									
Area	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
James									
Clean Cull	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	
Area 1,2,3	HT	HS*	HS*	HS*	HS*	HS*	HT	HT	HT
White Shoal	HT	HT*	HT*	HT*	HT*	HT*	HT	HT	HT
Seed Oysters	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
York HTA	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
York 1 and 2	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Mobjack/Piankatank	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Milford Haven	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
CBPT Area		PT*	PT*	PT*	PT*	PT*			
Deep Rk		PT*	PT*	PT*	PT*	PT*			
Rappahannock									
Area 1			PT*	PT*	HS*				
Area 6		HS*	HS*			HS*			
Area 7		PT*		HS*	HS*		HT	HT	HT
Area 8			HS*	HS*			HT	HT	HT
Area 9	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Corrotoman HTA	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Great Wicomico 1			HS*	HS*					
Great Wicomico 2			HS*	HS*					
Blackberry Hangs				HS*	HS*				
Little Wicomico	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Nomini River	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Yeocomico River	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Indian Creek	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Poco Area 2			DR*	DR*	DR*				
Tangier Area 2			DR*	DR*	DR*				
Johnsons			DR*						
Nassawadox	HT	HT	HT						
Poco Area 11	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HS*	HT	HT	HT
Poco Sound HTAs	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
Seaside ES		By Hand	By Hand	By Hand	By Hand	By Hand	By Hand	By Hand	By Hand
		HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT	HT
HT	HS		DR			PT		By Hand	
Hand Tong	Hand Scrape		Dredge			Patent Tong			
* harvest ends at noon/ 11am in October						Online Mandatory Reporting Codes			
Bushel Limits						HT = OT			
8 bushel limit HS/DR/PT - 16 BU. Vessel limit						HS = OSCR			
14 bushel limit HT/By Hand - 28 BU. Vessel limit						DR = OYDRD			
https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/						PT = PTOYS			
						BY HAND = OYHND			