



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

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February 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Virginia Public Oyster Fishery

SUBJECT: Two-Week Season Extension for Areas Impacted by Ice and Depressed Market Conditions

This memorandum serves to notify all stakeholders of the Virginia public oyster fishery that the Commission has adopted **emergency regulatory actions** to provide relief following recent ice cover and challenging market conditions.

At the February 24th VMRC Commission meeting, the following adjustments to the oyster season were approved to allow harvesters additional time to recover lost opportunities:

Key Schedule Changes

- **Pocomoke and Tangier Sound Rotation Area 1:** The current season has been granted a **two-week extension**, now remaining open through **March 15th**.
- **Rappahannock River Area 8:** This area will officially **reopen** for a two-week period, effective **March 1st through March 15th**.

Purpose of Action

These emergency measures were implemented specifically to address the economic hardships caused by significant ice accumulation, which prevented safe harvest, and the current depressed market conditions affecting the industry.

All other regulatory requirements, including gear restrictions and daily harvest limits, remain in full effect.

An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat

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