

# Update on the Oyster BMP Expert Panel Charge and Panel Membership Recommendations

September 14, 2015

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OYSTER RECOVERY  
PARTNERSHIP | ORP

# Oyster BMP Expert Panel Progress

WQGIT approved convening an Oyster BMP Expert panel to be coordinated by the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP)

4/13/15

Comment period on draft charge and panel membership recommendations closed

8/5/15

ORP sent draft charge and panel membership recommendations to the Partnership for review

8/28/15

ORP, proposed panel chair, and WQGIT representative reviewed and responded to reviewers' comments

9/3/15

# Summary of Reviewer Comments and Responses

Comments Summarized	Responses Summarized
<p><b>Diversify the Panel:</b> There were no objections to the proposed panel members, but reviewers felt that the panel needed more members who work in Virginia.</p>	<p>ORP will recruit two more panel members who have or are working on oyster-related projects in Virginia.</p>
<p><b>VMRC Representation:</b> Reviewer suggested that the panel also include a representative from VMRC (Virginia Marine Resources Commission).</p>	<p>During panel recruiting efforts, VMRC informed ORP that they didn't have staff to recommend, but instead recommended people from VIMS. The panel currently includes a person they recommended.</p>
<p><b>GIT Coordination:</b> Review suggested that the Fisheries GIT consulted during development of recommendation report.</p>	<p>Added language in the charge to reflect that the Panel will work with the CBP partnership during the development of the recommendation report and that the WQGIT will coordinate with Habitat and Fisheries GITs.</p>
<p><b>Deliverable Language:</b> Reviewer felt that the statement, "panel recommendations are final and will be represented in the final CBP modeling tools" was beyond the scope of work.</p>	<p>Modified language in charge to, "panel recommendations are final and their application will be considered in the CBP modeling tools."</p>

# Summary of Reviewer Comments and Responses Cont.

Comments Summarized	Responses Summarized
<p><b>Include Additional Considerations that could Affect Oyster-related BMPs:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Other oyster reef functions and associated ecosystem services.</li><li>2. Future scenarios where disease, climate change, and ocean acidification impacts could harm oysters and/or oyster production.</li></ol>	<p>The Partnership's BMP Expert Panel Protocol focuses on examining the potential nutrient and sediment reduction effectiveness of an associated BMP. This protocol also includes identifying any ancillary benefits or unintended consequences and describing conditions where the practice will vary or not perform as intended/designed, which will likely involve these additional considerations. However, per the protocol, the panel will not be charged to provide detailed analyses of these benefits, consequences, and/or conditions. The appropriate GIT can develop and provide such information for inclusion as an appendix in the report if so desired.</p>

# Oyster BMP Expert Panel Next Steps

