

Citizens Advisory Committee to the
Chesapeake Executive Council
RESOLUTION



To support the designation of the Mallows Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary (MPNMS) and the preferred 52 square mile (39 NM) alternative identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan.

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2014 the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council adopted the attached Resolution expressing strong support for the nomination and designation of the Mallows Bay area of the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland as a new National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Charles County, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Department of Defense as a cooperating agency has recently completed and is soliciting public comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Management Plan for the proposed Mallows Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the DEIS evaluated four alternatives identified through the public scoping process and recommended a 52 square mile (39 Nautical Mile) section of the Potomac River as the area best suited to achieve the goals of protecting and promoting the historic shipwrecks and associated maritime heritage resources in the area and facilitating additional public recreational and educational access to the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, designating this section of the Potomac as a National Marine Sanctuary offers outstanding opportunities to educate and engage the public, and particularly our youth, in the Chesapeake's rich maritime and cultural history and the ongoing efforts to restore the Chesapeake and its second largest tributary – the Potomac River, and

WHEREAS, this designation would address a huge gap in the existing system of National Marine Sanctuaries by being the first sanctuary designated in our Nation's largest estuary and the first on a river;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Citizens Advisory Committee hereby strongly supports the designation of the Mallows Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary and the preferred alternative identified in the DEIS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to the Chesapeake Executive Council and the Director of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries,

WITNESS the signature of the undersigned as of this 23rd day of February, 2017.



Paula Jasinski
Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee