



Joint Hampton Roads and Western Shore VA Oyster Team

Meeting Notes

September 14, 2022 1:00 - 3:00pm

Agenda and Notes

Google Meet Link:

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xnq

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 478-324-0063 PIN: 729 387 070#

-Welcome, and note that this meeting is open to the public

-Update on Naval Weapons Station/ Penniman Spit reef construction on lower York River: Permits took some time, but all are in hand. Construction started last week. Subtidal and intertidal reefs; 4 different subtidal reef structures; gravel, 'X' reefs, diamond reefs, domes (like reef balls). 12 polygons; 2 reef types in each. Putting out 1/3 of the polygons this fall; the rest will be deployed spring/ early summer 2023. Will look at ecological and economic tradeoffs of building these reefs. The diamond, dome, and X reefs all have shell embedded in the surface. Intertidal: also using oyster castles, diamond reefs, some with shell or granite interspersed. Trying to get intertidal reefs build this fall. 1 ft- 2+ ft tall reefs. To see permitted plans, go to VMRC website, and search for permit number: 20220405

-Lower York River reef construction update: VMRC- 2-4" size stone at volumetric 6" reef height; should be done by mid-October- approx. Oct 9. Approx. 8,000 k of larger, R4 rip rap will be placed on top of these reefs in the spring re: harvest protection. We could logically consider this river done in October, as all the acreage will be complete; or we could wait until spring, when the remaining larger stone will be placed on top. Note that spring event might favor weather, and could watch the final construction.

-Question: has VMRC seen a difference between areas planted with substrate in fall vs spring (re: can both catch spat from the following year?). Should be able to look for differences this year, re: substrate going in May- October in lower York. So far it looks like a good natural set this year, based on a few samples taken here and there.

-General updates:

- CBF's Chesapeake Oyster Science Symposium- still have room for online registrations; hybrid event; at Tide's Inn; Sept 29 10:30- 4:00 pm. Will cover: aquaculture, emerging scientists rapid fire presentations; monitoring; and cooperation across sectors/ what is next in oyster restoration. Register here: <https://www.cbf.org/events/chesapeake-oyster-science-symposium.html>
- Corps update—Lynnhaven permit should be submitted to VMRC very soon.
- Note that DoD/ Corps has an Engineering with Nature program—they are having an event at Langley in October to discuss shoreline, etc.; hoping to incorporate oyster restoration for security.
- VMRC- looking to determine the extent of shell deposits around Craney Island for public fishery and restoration use; could switch VMRC's dredging operation to this site; the site might otherwise be covered with dredge spoil by planned Craney Island east expansion- the idea is to get the shell out beforehand.
- Heads up that Kevin Dubois will be filling in as DOD Acting Regional Environmental Coordinator for the next 4 months so my participation in the Inter-agency Oyster Team will drop off until the first quarter of 2023. However, if there's a need to coordinate with DoD, please feel free to contact me directly at kevin.r.dubois.civ@us.navy.mil Thank you!