



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Agenda

May 10, 2023 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Meeting Link: meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xng

Join us by phone: (US)+1 478-324-0063 PIN: 729 387 070#

Agenda

- Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting.
- 2022 Annual Oyster Restoration Update is now available! Thanks to the group for all your work. Reminder that all blueprints, annual updates, etc, are also available at that link.
 - Note that the link to the document from the workgroup page is now broken- need to fixed. Link directly to the document works, <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2022-Chesapeake-Bay-Oyster-Restoration-Update.pdf>
- Update on Lynnhaven: USACE oyster project (23 acres) permit approval by VMRC!
 - project will be in Broad Bay.
 - Award contract in early next calendar year - best case scenario - construct reef early next spring, prior to May. Finish in spring 2024.
 - Otherwise wait until the Fall 2024 to avoid the river's high recreational use window in May - September.
 - The recent VA Beach tornado passed over the project site so USACE will be doing a re-check to make sure everything is fine.
- Update on York River - construction wrapping up by early June (per VMRC)
 - MRC now has moorings in place for barges to show up this week,
 - 16,000 tons of material left to deploy, deployments should start in the next few days.
 - Weather delays mean that completion date estimate now mid-to-late June 2023.
 - MRC will be using a "material handler" which may speed up the work

- Other updates from the team
 - CBF: hoping to do a scaled-down Rod and Reef Tournament focused in Hampton River; targeting September.
 - Yorktown Naval Weapons Station Project: shallow subtidal reefs will go in sometime around June, re: timed to catch recruitment. Most of the intertidal living shorelines are done. Different types of subtidal reefs (diamond, rip rap, domes, X-shaped, not oyster castles), 12x12' in area. 2 areas constructed in the Fall and the other 4 will be finished this year. 1-2 meters water depth, on muddy sand flats.

- Piankatank construction of 53 acres of reef by USACE, scheduled for completion August-September 2023. Andy Lactell - TNC got some underwater video of the USACE reef construction there. Ask TNC to share at next meeting.
- VIMS study comparing different oyster structures to shell - diamond-shaped didn't do well, but all the other structure types did well. Some recruiting 10,000 oysters/sq. Meter. Maybe present on year 1 data at an upcoming workgroup meeting or Corps Interagency meeting.
- STAC report on bay restoration was released yesterday, <https://www.chesapeake.org/stac/cesr/> May have implications for the 'what's next is oyster restoration' question.