

OYSTER/CLAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

March 8, 2005

PRFC Office, Colonial Beach, VA

Members Present

John F. Tucker Brown - St. Mary's Co. Clammers
Craig Kelly - St. Mary's Co. Tonger's Committee
Nealy Little - Commercial Oysterman
Paul M. Springer Jr., - Charles Co. Tongers
Joseph F. Stine, Jr. - Commercial Oysterman
Wayne France - Commercial Oysterman

Members Absent

John W. Allen, Jr.- Oyster Buyer
James Ficklin - Commercial Oysterman

Commissioners

Bob Bowes

Support Staff Present

Chris Judy – MdDNR
Capt. M. Ray Jewell - VMRC Law Enf.
Ofc. Russell Phillips - VMRC Law Enf.
Becky Butler - PRFC Staff

Jim Wesson - VMRC
Ofc. William Franklin - VMRC Law Enf.
AC Carpenter - PRFC Staff
Claudette Okrasinski - PRFC Staff

Others Present: Dr. Mark Gares – Finfish Advisory Committee; Larry Thrift – Crab Advisory Committee; Doug Jenkins, Sr. – Twin River Waterman's Assoc.; and Donnie Thrift.

Chairman Tucker Brown called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. with a quorum present.

Review of 2004-2005 Oyster Harvest Report

The Committee reviewed the oyster harvest report noting that 188 bushels to date have been harvested compared to 153 bushels for the same period last year with the majority being harvested from Cornfield and Kitts Point.

Update of the 2004 Fall Oyster Survey

Chris Judy from Maryland DNR gave a brief presentation on the survey noting that disease in the river has dropped which is a good sign for the remaining oysters that are still alive. He stressed the fact that this is the second year with no spat set.

Discussion on Jones Shore

There was a brief discussion between the audience and the committee members on the decision of opening Jones Shore. **A motion was made by Craig Kelly, seconded by Paul Springer and passed to open Jones Shore permanently to power hand scraping.**

Reclassification of Heron Island

The Committee discussed the idea of a "reserve" versus a "sanctuary". Chris Judy explained the Maryland "Reserve Program" currently being tested in Maryland. **A motion was made by Wayne France, seconded by Paul Springer and passed to make Heron Island an "oyster reserve" and Huggins an "oyster sanctuary".**

Develop Recommendation for Oyster Seed

Mr. Carpenter explained with the difficulty of purchasing seed, staff would recommend that the committee ask St. Mary's County Watermen's Association to put the \$3,000 donation toward the research need to complete the EIS. The Committee agreed. **A motion was made by Craig Kelley, seconded by Paul Springer and passed to request the funds go toward the EIS Program.**

Mr. Carpenter asked if the St. Mary's County Watermen's Association would not agree to do so, where would the Committee recommend planting seed if it were to become available. **A motion was made by Paul Springer, seconded by Wayne France and passed with one opposed to plant seed on Ragged Point.**

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Tucker Brown
Chairman