

MINUTES

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 29, 2026
4:00 to 6:00 pm

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Members Present

Jackie Shannon
Richard Harding via Teams
Cody Metcalf via Teams
Tommy Kellum
Lee Deihl
Don Porter via Teams

Members Present

J. C. Hudgins
Beverly Ludford
Ben Johnson
Dan Dize via Teams
Cory Rice
Michael Shackelford

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button
Adam Kenyon
Jamie Hogge
Vernon Rowe
Andy Shinn
William Murray
Melissa Southworth, VIMS
Ellen Rowe
Roger Mann, VIMS

Prior to the start of the meeting, all members that attended in person received a packet which included the agenda items that were up for discussion. The information that was provided to the members was also available on VMRC website for the public and committee members that could not attend to view.

Jackie Shannon, Chairwoman, opened the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Introductions:

The meeting began with introductions of those SMAC members present in person as well as those attending via Teams.

Approval of Agenda:

Committee Member Deihl made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A Committee Member seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0. Committee Member Ludford was not present during the vote.

Approval of August 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes:

A Committee Member made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Committee Member Deihl seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0. Committee Member Ludford was not present during the vote.

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Discussion of 2026 Oyster Restoration and Replenishment Plan (ORP):

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, explained the oyster restoration overview and the proposed 2026 Oyster Restoration and Replenishment Plan. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The Committee Members focused the discussion to plant seed and shell on new areas. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Recommended replenishment in the following areas

Shell summary:

Great Wicomico:

- Mill Creek
- Fleeton Pt.
- Ingram Bay

Pocomoke:

- Muddy Marsh
- Dogfish
- Byrds
- Area 10

Rappahannock River:

- Smokey Point and areas upriver
- Areas 2 and 4

Mobjack Bay:

- Pultz
- Towe Stake

Seaside Eastern Shore

Seed summary: (Seed removed from Jail Island)

Coan:

- Big Bar
- Honest Pt.

Alternative Substrate summary:

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Stone would likely be planted in larger, previously approved and permitted areas such as the Mobjack Bay. If shell is not available, a larger portion of the planned replenishment effort could be shifted to stone.

Committee Member Ludford made a motion to accept the 2026 Replenishment plan as presented and discussed. Committee Member Hudgins seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0-1. Committee Member Kellum abstained.

Other Business:

Committee Member T. Kellum was concerned about oyster buyers buying oysters from harvesters that bring over their limit of oysters to the dock. He suggested that the buyers that purchase over the limit oysters from harvest be held accountable instead of the harvesters. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

There was also discussion on the current oyster season and possible extensions. A motion was made to request that an Emergency Hearing be held at the February Commission meeting to consider extensions to the public oyster season.

Committee Member Kellum made a motion to request an Emergency Hearing for the upcoming February Commission Meeting for a season extension in the Eastern Shore. A Committee Member seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

Public Comments:

No one spoke during public comment.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. A Committee Member seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

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