

MINUTES

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 28, 2026
4:00 to 6:00 pm

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Members Present

Lee Deihl
Tommy Kellum
Don Portor, Saxis via Teams
Michael Shackelford
Monica Schenemann

Members Present

J. C. Hudgins
Cory Rice
Ben Johnson
Beverly Ludford

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button
Adam Kenyon
Jamie Hogge
Andy Shinn
Roger Mann, VIMS
Melissa Southworth, 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.

Lee Deihl, Acting Chairman, opened the meeting at 4:00 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:

A Committee Member made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Committee Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Approval of March 24, 2026, Meeting Minutes:

Committee Member Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. A Committee Member seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Update on 2026 Replenishment Program

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, began by providing some background on the status of the 2026 Replenishment season, to include the projects that have been completed. Mr.

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Button also provided a cost breakdown for the projects and a long-term replenishment overview. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Overview of Proposed Changes to Shellfish Tagging Regulations:

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management provided detailed information pertaining to the proposed changes to update the language to the current shellfish tagging regulations. Proposed changes included: Virginia Department of Health (VDH) changing water bodies to the specific growing areas and using the same tag for both public and private oyster harvest. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Preliminary Discussion: 2026-2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season

Mr. Button presented the proposed 2026-2027 Public Oyster Harvest Season to the Committee Members for discussion and their input. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Other Business

Public Comments:

A couple of Committee Members had concerns about Daylight savings time having a negative impact on harvest time. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Committee Member Kellum made to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member J. C. Hudgins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:47 p.m.

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