



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission*  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull  
Commissioner

December 12, 2017

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

**THROUGH:** The Honorable Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

**FROM:** John M.R. Bull  
Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund

On behalf of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, I am providing this report on the projects and expenditures funded from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund during the 2017 fiscal year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee. This report is being submitted in compliance with Item 381.D of the Appropriation Act.

In July 1992, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation authorizing the implementation of a saltwater recreational fishing license. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 28.2-302.3 § 28.2-302.3, Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund (the Fund) was established as a special, non-reverting fund in the State Treasury. The interest earned on the principal of the Fund does not revert to the General Fund.

The Fund consists of moneys collected pursuant to §§ 28.2-302, 28.2-302.2, and 28.2-302.6 through 28.2-302.9. Funds collected by the Commonwealth of Virginia for the sale of those license are deposited in a special non-reverting fund and used to improve recreational fisheries in Virginia. These provisions include; conserving and enhancing finfish species taken by recreational anglers, fishing access and facilities, law enforcement, education, administration of the Virginia Saltwater Sport Fishing Tournament, fisheries research and data collection, and habitat improvement. The Recreational Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB) of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission is charged with advising the Commission on the management of the

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

Fund. The RFAB reviews projects thoroughly before reporting their recommendations to the Commission for action.

The information below includes all programs and projects approved during 2017 or those projects approved prior to 2017 with expenditures occurring in 2017. Please note that some projects occur over multiple fiscal years, and expenditures on subsequent project years may overlap.

Funds for all projects, other than those noted with an asterisk “\*”, revert back to the fund if unspent during that project cycle. All project funds are delivered on a reimbursement basis with the exception of fishing events.

Revenue collected during fiscal year 2017 totaled \$2,600,736. Ongoing obligations to the Fund, including ongoing agency support costs, annual operation costs, Sportfish Restoration program match, and ongoing research programs and fishing clinics totaled \$2,633,819 in 2017. The Fund has maintained a cautiously budgeted surplus through careful and judicious review of each project and expenditure. Once surplus funds are spent, there will not be enough annual revenue to support the ongoing obligations, and funds will not be available to support any new projects. The balance available for project allocation as of June 30, 2017 was \$736,911. Based on current projects, all surplus funds will be spent in 2018. The Marine Resources Commission is happy to provide any additional information.

**2017 Projects and Expenditures from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund**

Expenditure Title	Project Total	2017 Expenditures	Obligations remaining to be spent on projects
<b>Ongoing Obligations</b>			
Artificial Reef Program FY2016 *	\$ 69,520	\$ 37,011	\$ 1,061
Artificial Reef Program FY2017 *	\$ 69,520	\$ -	\$ 69,520
Law Enforcement Support (Budget Reduction FY2016) *	\$ 1,163,703	\$ 72,591	\$ -
Law Enforcement Support (Budget Reduction FY2017) *	\$ 1,163,703	\$ 1,163,703	\$ -
Law Enforcement Support (Additional Budget Reduction FY17) *	\$ 356,000	\$ 137,547	\$ 218,453
Sportfish Restoration State Match *	\$ 3,786,936	\$ 298,491	\$ 177,744
Recreational Advisory Board Travel *	\$ 46,000	\$ 1,471	\$ 1,886
Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament FY17	\$ 214,000	\$ 189,107	\$ 24,893
Fisheries Management Support (Budget Reduction FY17)	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Administrative DGIF Operating/Support Costs FY17	\$ 152,754	\$ 152,754	\$ -
Administrative Costs FY17	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,168	\$ 14,832
Administration of Recreat. Project Grants & Contracts FY16-17	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -
Administrative DOA NGF Central Service Costs through FY17	\$ 30,900	\$ 30,900	\$ -
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs, Yr 17 (16-17)	\$ 88,240	\$ 73,222	\$ 15,018
Stock Assessment Support Cost (Budget Reduction FY17)	\$ 37,356	\$ 37,356	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 7,263,632	\$ 2,264,321	\$ 523,407
<b>Projects apportioned or expended during FY 2017</b>			
Boat Scarring effects on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in VA Yr 16	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -
Brief Guide to Ecology and Management of Striped Bass	\$ 39,060	\$ 19,481	\$ 19,579
Children's Fishing Clinic 2017	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Enhancing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Habitat in Chesapeake Bay & VA Rivers	\$ 148,286	\$ 4,837	\$ 56,666
Fishermen Identification Program Data FY17	\$ 25,000	\$ 18,800	\$ 6,200
Fort Monroe Finger Pier Renovations	\$ 195,675	\$ -	\$ 195,675
Fox Hill Boat Landing and Parking Lot Improvement	\$ 137,500	\$ 137,500	\$ -
Genetic Analysis of the Distinctiveness of Cobia from Chesapeake Bay	\$ 135,931	\$ -	\$ 135,931
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic 2017 Yr 10	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,825	\$ -
King & Queen County Recreational Fishing Pier	\$ 121,647	\$ 107,362	\$ 14,285
Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic 2017 Yr 16	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day Yr 6 2017	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Monitoring Relative Abundance of Young of Year American Eel, Yr 15	\$ 26,579	\$ 25,517	\$ -
Monitoring Relative Abundance of Young of Year American Eel, Yr 16	\$ 13,480	\$ -	\$ 13,480
Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip 2017 Yr 6	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -
Northumberland County Dredging Lodge Landing Public Boat Ramp	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia	\$ 85,928	\$ -	\$ 85,928
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2015, Yr 21	\$ 78,536	\$ 27,084	\$ 23,490
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2016 Yr 22	\$ 80,893	\$ 59,412	\$ 20,327
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2017 Yr 23	\$ 82,931	\$ 55	\$ 81,876
Saxis/Morley's Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing 2017 Yr 16	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ -
Smithfield Clontz Park Boat Ramp	\$ 253,815	\$ -	\$ 253,815
Speckled Trout in Virginia, Are Genetic Differences Temporally Stable	\$ 62,791	\$ 46,686	\$ -
Speckled Trout in Virginia, Temperature Selectivity and Movement Patterns	\$ 61,208	\$ 7,621	\$ -
Striped Bass Recruitment: Tracking Decadal Changes	\$ 78,022	\$ 49,586	\$ -
Sunshine Children's Fishing Program 2017 Yr 15	\$ 11,550	\$ 11,550	\$ -
Town Point Boat Landing Renovation	\$ 61,265	\$ 61,265	\$ -
Understanding the Va Cobia Stock through analysis of Trophy Fish	\$ 63,249	\$ -	\$ 63,249
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Program Yr 7	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,584	\$ 6,067
West Point Landing Renovation and Expansion	\$ 120,545	\$ 120,545	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 1,966,516	\$ 742,510	\$ 1,006,568
<b>Total</b>	\$ 9,230,149	\$ 3,006,830	\$ 1,529,975

\* Funds for all projects, other than those noted "\*\*", revert back to the VSRFDF if unspent during that project cycle.

All project funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis with the exception of fishing events

All figures are based on funds expended as of June 30, 2017