



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
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Newport News, Virginia 23607

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

December 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: The Honorable Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

FROM: Steven G. Bowman
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 2018 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 Fund. The RFAB reviews projects thoroughly before reporting their recommendations to the Commission for action.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

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The information below includes all programs and projects approved during 2018 or those projects approved prior to 2018 with expenditures occurring in 2018. 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 2018 totaled \$2,582,048. 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 \$2,621,964 in 2018. 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, 2018 was \$762,509. On September 25, 2018, \$616,454 was approved for project expenditures for the 2018 funding cycle. Based on current projections, all surplus funds will be spent in 2019. The Marine Resources Commission is happy to provide any additional information.

2018 Projects and Expenditures from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund

Expenditure Title	Project Total	2018 Expenditures	Obligations remaining to be spent on projects
Ongoing Obligations			
Artificial Reef Program FY2016 *	\$ 69,520	\$ 1,061	\$ -
Artificial Reef Program FY2017 *	\$ 69,520	\$ 36,879	\$ 32,641
Artificial Reef Program FY2018*	\$ 69,520	\$ -	\$ 69,520
Law Enforcement Support (Budget Reduction FY2017) *	\$ 1,539,703	\$ 218,453	\$ -
Law Enforcement Support (Budget Reduction FY2018) *	\$ 1,539,703	\$ 1,265,762	\$ 273,941
Sportfish Restoration State Match *	\$ 4,023,764	\$ 237,905	\$ 176,666
Recreational Advisory Board Travel *	\$ 46,000	\$ 466	\$ 1,420
Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament FY18	\$ 214,000	\$ 192,746	\$ 21,254
Fisheries Management Support (Budget Reduction FY18)	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Administrative Costs FY18	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,770	\$ 13,230
Administration of Recreat. Project Grants & Contracts FY17-18	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -
Administrative DOA NGF Central Service Costs through FY18	\$ 28,796	\$ 28,796	\$ -
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs, Yr 18 (17-18)	\$ 88,240	\$ 74,529	\$ 13,711
Stock Assessment Support Cost (Budget Reduction FY18)	\$ 37,356	\$ 18,678	\$ 18,678
Subtotal	\$ 7,811,122	\$ 2,122,045	\$ 646,061
Projects apportioned or expended during FY 2018			
Artificial Reef Monitoring Equipment for VMRC Fisheries Mgt Div	\$ 72,964	\$ 3,145	\$ 3,469
Boat Scarring effects on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in VA Yr 17	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -
Brief Guide to Ecology and Management of Striped Bass	\$ 39,060	\$ 19,579	\$ -
Children's Fishing Clinic 2018	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Enhancing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Habitat in Chesapeake Bay & VA Rivers	\$ 148,286	\$ 56,666	\$ -
Fort Monroe Finger Pier Renovations	\$ 195,675	\$ -	\$ 195,675
Genetic Analysis of the Distinctiveness of Cobia from Chesapeake Bay	\$ 135,931	\$ 86,985	\$ 48,946
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic 2018 Yr 11	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,825	\$ -
Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic 2018 Yr 17	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day Yr 7 2018	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Monitoring Relative Abundance of Young of Year American Eel, Yr 16	\$ 13,480	\$ 13,480	\$ -
Monitoring Relative Abundance of Young of Year American Eel, Yr 17	\$ 13,480	\$ 602	\$ 12,878
Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip 2018 Yr 7	\$ 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	\$ 103,986	\$ 38,559	\$ 65,427
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia	\$ 44,864	\$ -	\$ 44,864
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2017 Yr 23	\$ 82,931	\$ 61,592	\$ -
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2018 Yr 24	\$ 82,971	\$ -	\$ 82,971
Saxis/Morley's Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing 2018 Yr 17	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ -
Smithfield Clontz Park Boat Ramp	\$ 253,815	\$ -	\$ 253,815
Smithfield Clontz Park Boat Ramp - Additional Funding	\$ 156,185	\$ -	\$ 156,185
Sunshine Children's Fishing Program 2018 Yr 16	\$ 9,904	\$ 9,904	\$ -
Understanding the Va Cobia Stock through analysis of Trophy Fish	\$ 63,249	\$ 30,861	\$ 32,388
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Childrens Fishing Trip 2017	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Childrens Fishing Trip 2018	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Program Yr 7	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,785	\$ 1,282
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Program Yr 8	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
York County Wormley Creek Kayak Launch	\$ 95,830	\$ -	\$ 95,830
Subtotal	\$ 1,612,336	\$ 371,883	\$ 1,035,730
Total	\$ 9,423,458	\$ 2,493,928	\$ 1,681,791

* 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, 2018