



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
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Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources


Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

December 10, 2019

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 

SUBJECT: 2019 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 2019 fiscal year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee. This report is being submitted in compliance with Item 379.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 2019 or those projects approved prior to 2019 with expenditures occurring in 2019. 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 2019 totaled \$2,700,266. 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 \$2,484,793 in 2019. 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, 2019 was \$1,207,407. On October 22, 2019, \$529,426 was approved for project expenditures for the 2019 funding cycle. The Marine Resources Commission is happy to provide any additional information.

2019 Projects and Expenditures from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund

Expenditure Title	Project Total	2019 Expenditures	Obligations remaining to be spent on projects
Ongoing Obligations			
Artificial Reef Program FY2017	\$ 69,520	\$ 32,641	\$ -
Artificial Reef Program FY2018	\$ 69,520	\$ 4,542	\$ 69,520
Artificial Reef Program FY2019	\$ 69,520	\$ -	\$ 64,978
Law Enforcement (Budget Reduction FY18)	\$ 1,539,703	\$ 273,941	\$ -
Law Enforcement (Budget Reduction FY19)	\$ 1,539,703	\$ 1,339,582	\$ 200,121
Sportfish Restoration State Match *	\$ 4,200,098	\$ 294,494	\$ 58,506
Recreational Advisory Board Travel *	\$ 46,000	\$ 1,433	\$ -
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY19	\$ 214,000	\$ 196,981	\$ 17,019
Fisheries Management Support (Budget Reduction FY19)	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Administrative Costs FY2019	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,614	\$ 17,386
Administration of Recreat. Project Grants & Contracts FY18-19	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -
Administrative DOA NGF Central Service Costs	\$ 27,593	\$ 27,593	\$ -
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs FY2019	\$ 88,240	\$ 71,970	\$ 16,270
Stock Assessment Support Cost (Budget Reduction FY19)	\$ 37,356	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 7,986,253	\$ 2,285,790	\$ 468,800
Projects apportioned or expended during FY 2019			
Artificial Reef Development FY 2019	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Boat Scarring effects on SAV in VA Yr 18	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -
Children's Fishing Clinic 2019	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ -
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	\$ 28,019	\$ 20,927
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic 2019 Yr 12	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,825	\$ -
Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic 2019 Yr 18	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day Yr 8 2019	\$ 7,510	\$ 7,510	\$ -
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel, Yr 18	\$ 13,480	\$ -	\$ 3,576
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel, Yr 17	\$ 13,480	\$ 12,878	\$ 602
Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip 2019 Yr 8	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -
Northumberland County Dredging Lodge Landing Public Boat Ramp	\$ 11,245	\$ 11,245	\$ -
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia	\$ 103,986	\$ 41,060	\$ 24,367
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia Yr 2	\$ 44,864	\$ 23,777	\$ 21,087
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2018 Yr 24	\$ 82,971	\$ 56,843	\$ 26,128
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2019 Yr 25	\$ 53,069	\$ 2,699	\$ 50,370
Restoration of SAV Habitat in Chesapeake Bay	\$ 102,368	\$ -	\$ 102,368
Saxis/Morley's Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing 2019 Yr 18	\$ 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 2019 Yr 17	\$ 9,904	\$ 9,904	\$ -
Understanding the Va Cobia Stock through analysis of Trophy Fish	\$ 63,249	\$ 30,426	\$ 1,962
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip 2019	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Yr 8	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,659	\$ 9,341
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection, Yr 7	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,282	\$ -
York County Wormley Creek Kayak Launch	\$ 95,830	\$ 95,830	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 1,748,773	\$ 609,397	\$ 870,728
Total	\$ 9,735,026	\$ 2,895,187	\$ 1,339,528

* 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, 2019