



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

December 9, 2020

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: 2020 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 2020 fiscal year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee. This report is being submitted in compliance with Item 390 C 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
www.mrc.virginia.gov

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

The information below includes all programs and projects approved during 2020 or those projects approved prior to 2019 with expenditures occurring in 2020. Please note that some projects occur over multiple fiscal years, and expenditures on subsequent project years may overlap.

The beginning cash balance of the fund at the end of fiscal year 2019 was \$4,288,113. Revenue collected during fiscal year 2020 totaled \$2,755,062. Expenditures from the fund during fiscal year 2020 were \$2,841,931 leaving a cash balance of \$4,201,244. 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. Ongoing obligations to the Fund, including ongoing agency support costs, and annual operating/support is \$2,169,844. At the end of fiscal year 2020 there was \$914,848 obligated for project that have been approved but not yet completed. Funds for all projects are delivered on a reimbursement basis with the exception of the fishing events.

Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund Report - July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund Projects Approved but not completed as of June 30, 2020			
Title	Project Total	Project to Date Expenditures	Obligation remaining on Project
DOA NGF Central Service Costs	\$ 25,000	\$ 9,304	\$ 15,696
Administrative Costs VMRC FY2020	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,277	\$ 13,723
Advisory Board Travel *	\$ 86,000	\$ 46,581	\$ 39,419
Artificial Reef Deployment FY2019 *	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Artificial Reef Program FY2018 *	\$ 69,520	\$ 47,273	\$ 22,247
Artificial Reef Program FY2019 *	\$ 69,520	\$ -	\$ 69,520
Artificial Reef Program FY2020 *	\$ 69,520	\$ -	\$ 69,520
Artificial Reef, Reef Maintenance & Development Project 2015 *	\$ 350,000	\$ 239,374	\$ 110,626
ASMFC Kids Fishing Events	\$ -	\$ (2,440)	\$ 2,440
Boat Scarring effects on SAV in VA Yr 18	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000
Catch Assessment Yr 27 (FY20)	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Fisheries Management Budget Reduction FY20	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Fisheries VITA Costs FY20	\$ 24,325	\$ -	\$ 24,325
Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic 2020 Yr 19	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ 7,500
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY20 *	\$ 1,539,703	\$ 1,446,708	\$ 92,995
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel, Yr 19	\$ 13,480	\$ -	\$ 13,480
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia	\$ 103,986	\$ 85,928	\$ 18,058
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2019 Yr 25	\$ 53,069	\$ 52,387	\$ 682
Reef Monitoring Equipment for VMRC Fisheries Mgt Div *	\$ 72,964	\$ 69,495	\$ 3,469
Restoration of SAV Habitat in Chesapeake Bay	\$ 102,368	\$ 10,692	\$ 91,676
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs, Yr 20 (2019-20)	\$ 88,240	\$ 73,359	\$ 14,881
Stock Assessment Budget Reduction FY 2020	\$ 37,356	\$ 21,678	\$ 15,678
Sunshine Children's Fishing Program 2020 Yr 18	\$ 8,050	\$ -	\$ 8,050
Undercover Funds, VA Marine Patrol Special Invest. Unit *	\$ 25,000	\$ 17,607	\$ 7,393
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY20	\$ 214,000	\$ 208,002	\$ 5,998
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Yr 8 *	\$ 12,000	\$ 7,307	\$ 4,693
Wallop Breaux State Match *	\$ 4,432,060	\$ 4,337,182	\$ 94,878

Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund Expenditures on from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	
Title	Expenditure
Admin. of Recreat. Project Grants & Contracts FY19-20	\$ 40,000
Artificial Reef Support Program 2018	\$ 42,731
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY19	\$ 200,121
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY20	\$ 1,446,708
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY19	\$ 208,002
DOA NGF Central Service Costs	\$ 9,304
Administrative Costs FY2020	\$ 6,277
Wallop Breaux State Match	\$ 195,590
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs FY19	\$ 73,359
Travel Advisory Board	\$ 569
Stock Assessment Budget Reduction, 2019/2020 FY20	\$ 21,678
Smithfield Clontz Park Boat Ramp	\$ 253,815
Genetic Analysis of the Distinctiveness of Cobia from Chesapeake Bay	\$ 20,927
Understanding VA Cobia Stock thru Trophy Fish	\$ 1,962
Quantifying Economic/Behavioral Effects of Cobia	\$ 6,309
Recreational Game Fish Tagging, Yr 23	\$ 3,109
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia Yr 2	\$ 21,087
Smithfield Clontz Park Boat Ramp, Add'l Funding	\$ 156,185
VA Marine Sportfish Collection, Yr 8	\$ 4,647
Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day Yr 8 2019	\$ (1,025)
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic 2019 Yr 12	\$ (964)
Saxis/Morley's Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing 2019 Yr 18	\$ (309)
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2019 Yr 25	\$ 49,688
Restoration of SAV Habitat in Chesapeake Bay	\$ 10,692
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel, Yr 18	\$ 13,480
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic	\$ 2,932
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip 2019	\$ 2,500
2008 Children's Fishing Clinic,	\$ 7,500
Saxis & Morley's Wharf Fishing Pier Youth Fishing Tournaments Yr 7	\$ 2,200
Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip 2020 Yr 9	\$ 1,200
Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day	\$ 7,510

Notes:

Funds for all projects, other than those noted ***, revert back to the VSRFDF if unspent during that cycle.
 All project funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis with the exception of the fishing events.
 All figures are based on funds expended as of June 30, 2020.