



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Ann F. Jennings  
Secretary of Natural and Historic  
Resources

Steven G. Bowman  
Commissioner

December 8, 2021

## MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: The Honorable Ann F. Jennings  
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

FROM: Steven G. Bowman

SUBJECT: 2021 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 2021 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 and Historic Resources Secretariat*

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The information below includes all programs and projects approved during 2021 or those projects approved prior to 2020 with expenditures occurring in 2021. 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 2020 was \$4,199,677. Revenue collected during fiscal year 2021 totaled \$3,168,612. Expenditures from the fund during fiscal year 2021 were \$2,188,912 leaving a cash balance of \$5,179,377. The Fund has maintained a cautiously budgeted surplus through careful and judicious review of each project and expenditure. Ongoing obligations to the Fund, including ongoing agency support costs, and annual operating/support are \$2,505,519. At the end of fiscal year 2021 there was \$1,361,385 obligated for projects 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, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

<b>Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund Projects Approved but not completed as of June 30, 2021</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>Project to Date Expenditures</b>	<b>Obligation remaining on Project</b>
Artificial Reef Program FY2019	69,520	15,479	54,041
Artificial Reef Program FY2020	69,520	-	69,520
Artificial Reef Program FY2021	69,520	-	69,520
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY21	1,539,703	1,446,708	92,995
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY21	214,000	172,027	41,973
Fisheries Management Budget Reduction FY21	25,000	-	25,000
DOA NGF Central Service Costs	25,000	7,229	17,771
Administrative Costs VMRC FY2021	20,000	8,593	11,407
Wallop Breaux State Match	4,836,225	4,528,040	308,185
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs, Yr 21 (2020-21)	88,240	75,010	13,230
Advisory Board Travel	86,000	46,581	39,419
Stock Assessment Budget Reduction FY 2021	37,356	16,791	20,565
Catch Assessment Yr 28 (FY21)	10,000	-	10,000
Undercover Funds, VA Marine Patrol Special Invest. Unit	25,000	17,607	7,393
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia	103,986	85,928	18,058
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Yr 8	12,000	9,960	2,040
Restoration of SAV Habitat in Chesapeake Bay	102,368	56,003	46,365
ASMFC Kids Fishing Events	-	(2,440)	2,440
Boat Scarring effects on SAV in VA Yr 18	11,000	-	11,000
Reef Monitoring Equipment for VMRC Fisheries Mgt Div	72,964	69,495	3,469
Artificial Reef Deployment FY2019	200,000	-	200,000
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2020 Yr 26	88,806	66,596	22,210
Kiwanis Childrens Fish Clinic	7,500	-	7,500
Knights of Columbus 34th Kids Fishing Day	7,500	-	7,500
Sunshine Childrens Fish Project	9,904	-	9,904
NN Rotary Children Fish Clinic	7,500	-	7,500
Virginia Game Fish Tagging, YR 26	88,495	7,777	80,718
MPCBP Severn River Fish Pier	50,000	-	50,000
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel, Yr 20	14,453	965	13,488
Fisheries VITA Costs FY21	24,325	0	24,325
Artificial Reef, Reef Maintenance & Development Project 2015	350,000	239,374	110,626
<b>Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund Expenditures on from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>		
Admin. of Recreat. Project Grants & Contracts FY19-20	40,000.00		
Administrative Costs FY2021	8,593.02		
Artificial Reef Support Program 2018	37,725.66		
DOA NGF Central Service Costs	7,229.45		
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic FY20	(1,252.00)		
Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day FY20	(7,510.00)		
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic FY21	2,900.00		
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY20	92,994.58		
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY21	1,446,708.42		
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel FY20	13,838.00		
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel FY21	965.33		
Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip 2020 Yr 9	(1,200.00)		
Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip 2021 Yr 10	1,200.00		
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2019 Yr 25	11,468.88		
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2020 Yr 26	66,596.28		
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2021 Yr 27	7,777.46		
Restoration of SAV Habitat in Chesapeake Bay	45,310.54		
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY21	172,026.65		
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs FY19	75,010.29		
Stock Assessment Budget Reduction FY21	16,791.32		
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip 2021	2,500.00		
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip 2020	(2,500.00)		
Va Marine Sportfish Collection, Yr 8	2,653.55		
Wallop Breaux State Match	190,858.49		

**Notes:**

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, 2021.