



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission*  
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Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Travis A. Voyles  
Acting Secretary of Natural and  
Historic Resources

Jamie L. Green  
Commissioner

December 15, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: The Honorable Travis A. Voyles  
Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

FROM: Jamie L. Green

SUBJECT: 2022 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 2022 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 2022 or those projects approved prior to 2022 with expenditures occurring in 2022. Please note that some projects occur over multiple fiscal years, and expenditures on subsequent project years may overlap.

The ending cash balance of the fund at the end of fiscal year 2021 was \$5,179,377.52. Revenue collected during fiscal year 2022 totaled \$2,836,652.98. Expenditures from the fund during fiscal year 2022 were \$2,339,377.23 leaving a cash balance of \$5,676,653.27. 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 2022 there was \$1,512,885.31 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, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

<b>Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund Projects Approved but not completed as of June 30, 2022</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>Project to Date Expenditures</b>	<b>Obligation remaining on Project</b>
Administrative Costs VMRC FY2022	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,031	\$ 9,969
Advisory Board Travel	\$ 86,000	\$ 46,581	\$ 39,419
Artificial Reef Program FY2019	\$ 69,520	\$ 57,854	\$ 11,666
Artificial Reef Program FY2020	\$ 69,520	\$ 65,000	\$ 4,520
Artificial Reef Program FY2021	\$ 69,520	\$ 1,221	\$ 68,299
Artificial Reef Program FY2022	\$ 69,520		\$ 69,520
Artificial Reef Deployment FY2019	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Artificial Reef, Reef Maintenance & Development Project 2015	\$ 350,000	\$ 239,374	\$ 110,626
Catch Assessment Yr 29 (FY22)	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
DOA NGF Central Service Costs	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,025	\$ 23,975
Fisheries Management Budget Reduction FY22	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Fisheries VITA Costs FY22	\$ 24,325	\$ -	\$ 24,325
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY22	\$ 1,539,703	\$ 1,446,708	\$ 92,995
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel	\$ 14,453	\$ 1,374	\$ 13,079
MPCBP Severn River Fish Pier	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Quantifying the Economic/Behavioral Effects in VA Recreational Cobia	\$ 103,986	\$ 85,928	\$ 18,058
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2022 Yr 28	\$ 86,312	\$ 1,473	\$ 84,839
Reef Monitoring Equipment for VMRC Fisheries Mgt Div	\$ 72,964	\$ 69,495	\$ 3,469
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY22	\$ 214,000	\$ 219,942	\$ (5,942)
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs, Yr 22 (2021-22)	\$ 88,240	\$ 50,391	\$ 37,849
Stock Assessment Budget Reduction FY 2022	\$ 37,356	\$ 18,778	\$ 18,578
Undercover Funds, VA Marine Patrol Special Invest. Unit	\$ 25,000	\$ 17,607	\$ 7,393
Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Yr 10	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Wallop Breaux State Match	\$ 5,079,513	\$ 4,457,087	\$ 622,426

<b>Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund Expenditures on from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Artificial Reef Support Program 2018	\$ 42,375
Artificial Reef Support Program 2020	\$ 65,000
Law Enforcement Budget Reduction FY 2022	\$ 1,539,703
Access Point Recreational Angler Intercept Survey	\$ 8,292
Saltwater Recreational Fishing Tournament FY21	\$ 219,942
DOA NGF Central Service Costs	\$ 1,025
Administrative Costs FY2021	\$ 10,031
Admin. of Recreat. Project Grants & Contracts FY21-22	\$ 40,000
Wallop Breaux State Match	\$ 166,819
Saltwater Recreational Staff & Support Costs FY19	\$ 50,391
Stock Assessment Budget Reduction, 2021/2022 FY22	\$ 18,778
VA Marine Sportfish Collection, Yr 11	\$ 2,040
Restoration of SAV Habitat in Chesapeake Bay	\$ 46,365
Boat Scarring effects on SAV in VA Yr 18	\$ 11,000
2020 Children's Fishing Clinic,	\$ (7,038)
Game Fish Tagging, YR 25	\$ 359
VA Marine Sportfish Collection, Yr 12	\$ 2,299
Boat Scarring effects on SAV in VA Yr 19	\$ 11,000
Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic FY21	\$ (2,900)
2021 Kiwanis Childrens Fish Clinic	\$ 7,500
2021 Va Beach Anglers Club	\$ (2,500)
2021 Norfolk Anglers Head Boat Trip	\$ (1,200)
Recreational Game Fish Tagging Program 2021 Yr 27	\$ 60,337
Monitoring Relative Abundance of YOY American Eel, FY21	\$ 13,488
Hope House Fishing Clinic, FY22	\$ 2,620
Virginia Beach/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip 2022	\$ 2,500
Children's Fishing Clinic (NN Rotary)	\$ 7,500
2022 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic	\$ 7,500
Saxis/Morley's Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing Tourn	\$ 2,200
Norfolk Youth Fishing Trip	\$ 1,200
Sunshine Children's Fishing Program	\$ 9,904
Recreational Game Fish Tagging	\$ 1,473
Est Rel Abundance of YOY American Eel	\$ 1,374

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, 2022.