



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

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Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic
Resources

Jamie L. Green
Commissioner

December 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees

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

FROM: Jamie L. Green

SUBJECT: 2023 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 (the Fund) during the 2023 fiscal year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee. This report is being submitted in compliance with Item 391 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 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 2023 or those projects approved prior to 2023 with expenditures occurring in 2023. 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 2022 was \$5,676,653.27. Revenue collected during fiscal year 2023 totaled \$2,998,883. Expenditures from the Fund during fiscal year 2023 were \$2,303,732.81 leaving a cash balance of \$6,371,803.46. 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 \$2,470,764. At the end of fiscal year 2023 there was \$1,399,698.62 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.