

# 2018-20 Strategic Plan

## Marine Resources Commission [402]

### Mission

The Marine Resources Commission serves as stewards of Virginia's marine and aquatic resources, and protectors of its tidal waters and homelands, for present and future generations.

### Vision

To ensure a healthy sustainable stock of marine and aquatic resources in the Commonwealth, while successfully balancing the competing needs of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, conserving and improving the habitat and environment of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and providing a secure and safe environment to all who enjoy the benefits of the Commonwealth's tidal waters.

### Values

As employees of the Marine Resources Commission we will exercise the highest degree of integrity and diligence in serving as stewards of Virginia's marine and aquatic resources and as protectors of its tidal waters and homelands for present and future generations.

### Finance

#### Financial Overview

The budget for the Marine Resources Commission (MRC) for the 2018 – 2020 biennium, as approved by the 2019 Session of the Virginia General Assembly, provided an appropriation in year one of \$26,776,948 and \$27,904,948 in year two. General Funds in year one (\$14,237,535) comprise 53% of the agency's budget and in year two (\$15,365,535) comprise 55.06% of the agency's budget. The remaining 44.94% of the agency's budget in year two (FY2020) is comprised of a variety of non-general funds which constitute a vital part of the budget as follows: Special Funds – 26.25%, Commonwealth Transportation Funds – 1.12%, Dedicated Special Revenue – 5.27% and Federal Funding – 12.29% comprised of grants from the Department of Commerce – NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and from the Department of the Interior.

Special fund revenues consist primarily of monies collected from the sale of commercial fishing licenses, the sale of recreational saltwater fishing licenses, the collection of an oyster resource user fee from those that work in the various facets of the Commonwealth's oyster fishery, from the small portion of indirect costs taken on federally funded projects coming into the agency and from monies collected when the agency surpluses equipment that is no longer viably usable by the agency. The Commonwealth Transportation Funds come from un-refunded motor fuel taxes collected from the sale of gasoline used in motor vessels. Dedicated special revenues are derived from the assessment of various habitat permit fees for permitted activity within the MRC's jurisdiction and from the assessment of royalties for non-exempt encroachments and dredging operations. The Federal Fund appropriations represent the best estimates during biennial budget preparation of all the federal monies that the MRC could potentially receive from federal programs. The agency currently assumes it will continue to receive funding from the Department of Commerce, NOAA to continue support of its existing coastal zone management work, to reimburse the agency for a portion of its finfish enforcement efforts, to fund sturgeon/endangered species work, to fund through the ASMFC the Marine Recreational Intercept Survey (MRIP) program work now done by each Atlantic Coastal State and the funding that comes as a result of a joint enforcement agreement that exists between the MRC Law Enforcement Division and the Law Enforcement Program at the National Marine Fisheries Service. Monies are also received from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior and fund mandated research on various fisheries species (primarily those that are caught recreationally). These monies are "passed through" by the MRC to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and to the Old Dominion University Research Foundation so they may conduct mandatory fisheries research to allow the State to stay in full compliance with all federal and interstate compact fisheries laws and regulations.

The 2019 Session of the General Assembly includes adjustments for the agency including the distribution of General Fund centrally funded costs in FY2019 (\$291,947) and FY2020 (\$932,530) for employer health insurance, retirement and post retirement, workers' compensation, information technology, information technology auditors and security officers, LODA, Cardinal and Personnel Management Information Systems, and salary increases.

Action by the 2018 Special Session of the General Assembly resulted in a number of changes to the VMRC budget (\$1,156,687).

- Additional Support for the oyster replenishment and restoration activities was provided (\$750,000 in the first year and an additional \$250,000 in the second year) that shall be used to provide support for oyster restoration.
- Virginia's share of an Army Corps of Engineers project to construct a seawall (jetty) to preserve the harbor on Tangier Island (additional funding of \$19,687 for the first year and \$7,687 for the second year) was provided. This project was funded in the previous biennium but updated project costs of \$245,687 for the first year and \$233,637 for the second year necessitated an additional appropriation to fully fund the Commonwealth's share of this project.
- \$160,000 was designated in FY 2019 for the completion of the public boat ramp project RF16-11/RF16-11a1 (Clontz Park – Smithfield), which includes all necessary and reasonable improvements as may be required.
- \$52,000 was provided for Information technology upgrades for the agency.
- As part of the Commonwealth's plan to utilize the publically owned lands at Fort Monroe, the headquarters of the agency moved to that location in January of 2019. It is the intent of the General Assembly that all operational assets of the Commission, including but not

limited to communications, dispatch, and marine equipment storage be co-located as a part of the relocation project. The General Assembly provided \$175,000 in FY 2019 and \$225,000 in FY 2020 in support for relocation costs of the current operations facility located at 30 Jefferson Avenue in Newport News.

- The 2018 session of the General assembly included central appropriations of \$145,997 in the first year and \$350,394 in the second year from the general fund to support the cost for entry-level salary adjustments and one-year service adjustments for all members of the Virginia Marine Police effective January 10, 2019.

The 2019 session of the General Assembly resulted in an additional \$1,000,000 in FY2020 support of oyster replenishment and oyster restoration activities. From this amount an additional \$500,000 (a total of \$1,500,000) shall be used to provide support for oyster restoration.

### Biennial Budget

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	14,237,535	12,539,413	14,365,535	12,539,413
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	1,000,000	0

*(Changes to Initial Appropriation will be 0 when the plan is created. They will change when the plan is updated mid-biennium.)*

### Customers

#### Anticipated Changes to Customer Base

Agency statistics below are mostly for calendar year 2018. Most agency customer levels are considered stable, with some moderate increases in shellfish lease and habitat permit applications. Commercial fisheries customer levels show some slight decline but are still considered stable (e.g. number of licensed commercial watermen, seafood buyers, and shucking houses).

#### Current Customer List

Predefined Group	User Defined Group	Number Served Annually	Potential Number of Annual Customers	Projected Customer Trend
Agriculture and Food	Licensed or Registered Recreational Tidal Anglers	218,785	250,000	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Recreational Users of Commercial Gear	2,195	2,500	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Licensed Commercial Fishermen in Virginia	2,689	3,000	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Licensed Offshore Commercial Fishermen	224	250	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Licensed Charterboat Fishing Vessels	295	300	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Commercial Fishing Piers	43	45	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Licensed Boat Rental Facilities	8	8	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Oyster Shucking Houses	41	45	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Seafood Buyers and Processors	258	300	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Shellfish Leaseholders	2,643	2,500	Increase
Natural Resources and Earth Science	Shellfish Leases	5,729	5,400	Increase
Agriculture and Food	Those Employed in the Commercial Tidal Fisheries in Virginia	10,200	10,200	Stable
Agriculture and Food	Those Employed in the Recreational Tidal Fisheries in Virginia	20,977	20,977	Stable
Consumer	Applicants for Habitat Permits	2,011	3,000	Increase
Federal Agency	Federal and State agencies	20	20	Stable
Interstate Entity	Interstate Compact Organizations	2	2	Stable
Local or Regional Government Authorities	Number of Tidewater Localities	46	46	Stable
Natural Resources and Earth Science	Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Managed	77,500	77,500	Stable
Natural Resources and Earth Science	Acres of Virginia's Tidal Wetlands Managed	213,686	213,686	Stable

Natural Resources and Earth Science	Miles of Tidal Shoreline in Virginia	10,120	10,120	Stable
Natural Resources and Earth Science	Square Miles of the Commonwealth's Water Surface Area	2,300	2,300	Stable
State Agency(s),	Commission Board Members	9	9	Stable
State Agency(s),	Employees of the Marine Resources Commission	163	163	Stable

## Partners

Name	Description
Federal agencies	Compliance with National Shellfish Sanitation Requirements, Data Sharing
Federal Agencies - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Army Corps of Engineers, etc.	Partners in Restoration Efforts
Federal Agencies - National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of the Interior, etc.	Data Sharing
Federal Agencies, National Marine Fisheries Service(NMFS), United States Coast Guard, etc.	Law Enforcement
Other Natural Resource Agencies - Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources, etc.	Data Sharing
Other State Agencies and other Divisions within VMRC	Data Sharing
Federal, State and Local agencies	Joint Permit Application Process
Interstate Compact Organizations - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Comm, & Potomac River Fisheries Comm.	Data Sharing/Regulatory Information
Interstate Compact Organizations, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), as well as with Federal agencies such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).	Research, Learning about Artificial Reef Activities in other States
Private Groups, (The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, etc.) and Localities	Partners in Restoration Efforts
Recreational Fishermen, Recreational Fishing Clubs	Participants in the Annual Tournament, Data Exchange
State Agencies - Department of State Police, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Emergency Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services	Law Enforcement
State Agencies and Institutions	Research and Partners in Restoration Efforts
State Agencies and Institutions such as the Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Research, Marking of Reef Areas
State and Federal Agencies	Reports, Data Submission, Grants, Information Submission, etc.
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Interstate Compact Organizations	Data Sharing and Species Management
Companies, Transit Authorities, Private Manufacturing Firms, Marine Construction Firms,etc.	Donations of Materials, Structures, etc. for Placement on Permitted Reef Sites. The program is very dependent on these materials of opportunity for reef construction and augmentation.
Educational Institutions - Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Old Dominion University (ODU), Virginia Tech	Research and Information for Fisheries Management
Tidewater Local Governments	Law Enforcement
Tourist Agencies in the Commonwealth	Promotion of Saltwater Fishing Opportunities in Virginia
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and Old Dominion University (ODU)	Data Exchange

## Agency Goals

- **Enable a sustainable and financially viable commercial fishery in the Commonwealth**

- Summary and Alignment**

- By managing the commercial fisheries of Virginia waters and select fisheries from federal waters on a long-term sustainable basis, the economic output of the fisheries is improved. Compliance with interstate and federal fishery management plans will ensure the availability of sustainable resources for Virginia's citizens. This aligns with two of the Commonwealth's objectives – to be a national leader in the preservation and enhancement of our economy and to protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

- Associated State Goal**

- Natural Resources: Protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

- Objectives**

- » **Collect and analyze information on fisheries stocks, harvest, landings, and amount of fishing effort, to manage quotas and allocations for harvests and landings, and to prepare fisheries conservation plans and regulations.**

- Description*

- To ensure that conservation and management measures promote a sustainable yield from the fisheries, by efficient utilization of fishery resources, without overfishing, and promote fair and equitable allocation of harvestable resources among user groups.

- Objective Strategies*

- Continue to develop fishery management and conservation plans for marine and estuarine species, continue to comply with federal and interstate fishing plan mandates, and continue to develop and promulgate regulations for fish sizes, gear restrictions, season and area closures, and quota management. On a yearly basis, continue to monitor and review the amount of key finfish, crabs and clams landed in Virginia in millions of pounds as taken from state and federal landings data.

- Measures*

- ♦ Percentage of 8 key migratory species that are not overfished in Virginia each calendar year based on yearly quota targets and landings data

- » **Conservation and management of sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries in Virginia**

- Description*

- To ensure that conservation and management measures promote a sustainable yield from the fisheries, by efficient utilization of fishery resources without over fishing, and promote fair and equitable allocation of resources that may be harvested.

- Objective Strategies*

- Continue to develop fishery management and conservation plans for marine and estuarine species, continue to comply with federal and interstate fishing plan mandates, and continue to develop and promulgate regulations for fish sizes, gear restrictions, season and area closures, quota management, and limited entry.

- Measures*

- ♦ Percentage of healthy stocks of 10 selected economically important saltwater species in a calendar year - to include 7 distinct different finfish, clams, oysters and blue crabs

- » **Conservation, management, regulation and restoration of shellfish stocks in the Commonwealth.**

- Description*

- Continued efforts to develop conservation measures for shellfish and continued efforts to conduct replenishment activities on public oyster grounds.

- Objective Strategies*

- Create and rehabilitate public oyster grounds and develop regulations to aid continued shellfish harvest.

- Measures*

- ♦ Acres of oyster reef construction, oyster bar reconstruction and maintenance done in a calendar year

- » **Ensure Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level, while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and codified Search and Rescue responsibilities.**

- Description*

- Conservation and protection of fishery and habitat resources is vital, and necessary for their sustainability. Proper enforcement ensures availability of the resources on a fair and equitable basis to all user groups. Ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities protects Virginia's citizens who live near, work on, or enjoy the State's marine resources and waterways, and ensures a fair and effective system of justice and provides a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds.

### *Objective Strategies*

- Issue legally justifiable summons, done in full compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.
- Keep agency expenditures, per Marine Police Officer at a reasonable level, and to monitor continuously the cost of operations for the Marine Police.
- Perform Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level, while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities.

#### Measures

- ◆ Average cost per inspection by Marine Police Officers each fiscal year
- ◆ Average number of inspections (seafood, licenses, safety, etc.) by Marine Police Officers per fiscal year

## • Promote a sustainable and financially viable recreational fishery in the Commonwealth

### Summary and Alignment

Promotion of a sustainable recreational fishery assists citizens in achieving a higher level of well being and improves economic outputs based on increased tourism and travel. Compliance with fishery management plans ensures the availability of abundant recreational fishery resources. This aligns with two of the Commonwealth's objectives - to be a national leader in the preservation and enhancement of our economy and to protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

### Associated State Goal

Natural Resources: Protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

### Objectives

#### » Creation and promotion of increased saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth

##### *Description*

Continued creation and promotion of saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth through continued construction of new reef sites, and augmentation of existing artificial fishing reef sites.

##### *Objective Strategies*

- Add materials to existing reef sites by purchasing reef materials, and seeking donations of materials of opportunity to place on reef sites.

#### Measures

- ◆ Tonnage of all material placed on permitted saltwater fishing artificial reef sites per year

#### » Conservation and management of sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries in Virginia

##### *Description*

To ensure that conservation and management measures promote a sustainable yield from the fisheries, by efficient utilization of fishery resources without over fishing, and promote fair and equitable allocation of resources that may be harvested.

##### *Objective Strategies*

- Continue to develop fishery management and conservation plans for marine and estuarine species, continue to comply with federal and interstate fishing plan mandates, and continue to develop and promulgate regulations for fish sizes, gear restrictions, season and area closures, quota management, and limited entry.

#### Measures

- ◆ Percentage of healthy stocks of 10 selected economically important saltwater species in a calendar year - to include 7 distinct different finfish, clams, oysters and blue crabs

#### » Promote increased saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth

##### *Description*

Continued promotion of saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth through an award program recognizing exceptional catches, conservation of recreational fisheries by promotion of a catch and release program and continued promotion of tourism and travel in Tidewater Virginia.

##### *Objective Strategies*

- Continuation of promotional activities of saltwater recreational fishing in Virginia by activities with sportswriters, tourist agencies, recreational angling clubs and continuation of the annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament program. Continuation of promotion, through same mediums, of catch and release fisheries in the Commonwealth.

Measures

- ◆ Number of citations issued for recorded catch of selected saltwater species as a percentage of saltwater recreational fishing trips taken in a year

- **Maintain a leasing and permit review process based on public interest review process consistent with the Public Trust doctrine to fairly and timely balance private uses of State-owned submerged lands with other public uses while preserving habitat for sustainable fisheries**

**Summary and Alignment**

This goal is designed to balance the public and private benefits of a particular lease or permit application to ensure that the Commonwealth's Public Trust responsibilities are adequately considered while protecting, and accommodating, use of our invaluable marine and aquatic resources for and by future generations. This also aligns with two of the Commonwealth's objectives - to be a national leader in the preservation and enhancement of our economy and to protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

**Associated State Goal**

Natural Resources: Protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

**Objectives**

- » **Maintain a permit review process based on public interest review procedures consistent with the public trust doctrine that fairly and timely balances private use of state owned submerged lands and the need to preserve habitat for sustainable fisheries.**

*Description*

Manage a permit review process which is designed to balance the public and private benefits of a particular permit application to ensure that the Commonwealth's Public Trust responsibilities are adequately considered while protecting, and accommodating, use of the States' marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations.

*Objective Strategies*

- Continue to have a permit processing system that balances the public and private benefits of a particular permit application to ensure that the Commonwealth's Public Trust responsibilities are adequately considered while protecting, and accommodating, use of the States' marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations.

Measures

- ◆ Average number of days required to process a joint permit application

- » **Maintain a lease application review process based on public interest review procedures consistent with private use of State-owned subaqueous bottomland for shellfish production and pursuant to the requirements of the Code of Virginia**

*Description*

Designed to balance the use of State-owned subaqueous bottomland for shellfish leasing while protecting and accommodating the use of the State's marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations.

*Objective Strategies*

- Manage an application processing system that balances the public and private benefits of a particular lease application to ensure that the Commonwealth's Public Trust responsibilities are adequately considered while protecting, and accommodating, use of the State's marine and aquatic resources for and by future generations.

Measures

- ◆ Average number of days required to fully process a shellfish lease application

- » **Promote increased saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth**

*Description*

Continued promotion of saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth through an award program recognizing exceptional catches, conservation of recreational fisheries by promotion of a catch and release program and continued promotion of tourism and travel in Tidewater Virginia.

*Objective Strategies*

- Continuation of promotional activities of saltwater recreational fishing in Virginia by activities with sportswriters, tourist agencies, recreational angling clubs and continuation of the annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament program. Continuation of promotion, through same mediums, of catch and release fisheries in the Commonwealth.

Measures

- ◆ Number of citations issued for recorded catch of selected saltwater species as a percentage of saltwater recreational fishing trips taken in a year

» **Ensure Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level, while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and codified Search and Rescue responsibilities.**

*Description*

Conservation and protection of fishery and habitat resources is vital, and necessary for their sustainability. Proper enforcement ensures availability of the resources on a fair and equitable basis to all user groups. Ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities protects Virginia's citizens who live near, work on, or enjoy the State's marine resources and waterways, and ensures a fair and effective system of justice and provides a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds.

*Objective Strategies*

- Issue legally justifiable summons, done in full compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.
- Keep agency expenditures, per Marine Police Officer at a reasonable level, and to monitor continuously the cost of operations for the Marine Police.
- Perform Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level, while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities.

Measures

- ◆ Average cost per inspection by Marine Police Officers each fiscal year
- ◆ Average number of inspections (seafood, licenses, safety, etc.) by Marine Police Officers per fiscal year

• **Ensure marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities**

**Summary and Alignment**

Conservation and protection of fishery and habitat resources is a vital element, necessary for their sustainability. Proper enforcement ensures availability of the resources on a fair and equitable basis to all user groups. Ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities protects Virginia's citizens who live near, work on, or enjoy the State's marine resources and waterways. This aligns with two of the Commonwealth's goals - to protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources, and to protect the public safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds.

**Associated State Goal**

Natural Resources: Protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

**Objectives**

» **Ensure Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level, while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and codified Search and Rescue responsibilities.**

*Description*

Conservation and protection of fishery and habitat resources is vital, and necessary for their sustainability. Proper enforcement ensures availability of the resources on a fair and equitable basis to all user groups. Ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities protects Virginia's citizens who live near, work on, or enjoy the State's marine resources and waterways, and ensures a fair and effective system of justice and provides a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds.

*Objective Strategies*

- Issue legally justifiable summons, done in full compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.
- Keep agency expenditures, per Marine Police Officer at a reasonable level, and to monitor continuously the cost of operations for the Marine Police.
- Perform Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Enforcement at the highest level, while maintaining the agency's ability to respond to Homeland Defense and Search and Rescue responsibilities.

#### Measures

- ◆ Average cost per inspection by Marine Police Officers each fiscal year
- ◆ Average number of inspections (seafood, licenses, safety, etc.) by Marine Police Officers per fiscal year

### • Maintain a high level of financial and business excellence for the agency

#### Summary and Alignment

Maintaining the existing high level of financial and business excellence for the Marine Resources Commission will allow for the best allocation of agency resources and will ensure that full support is given to the achievement of the goals for Fisheries Management, Habitat Management and Law Enforcement. This will align with the economic long-term objectives of the Commonwealth, and with the objective to be the best-managed state in the nation.

#### Associated State Goal

Government and Citizens: Be recognized as the best-managed state in the nation.

#### Associated Societal Indicator

Government Operations

#### Objectives

- » **Ensure that resources are used efficiently and programs are managed effectively, and in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal requirements**

#### Description

To ensure that the Marine Resources Commission uses resources efficiently and manages programs effectively, and in a manner consistent with all applicable state and federal requirements.

#### Objective Strategies

- To manage agency resources well and effectively in the areas of Human Resource Management, Government Procurement, Financial Management, Technology, Performance Management, Business Management and Internal Auditing.

#### Measures

- ◆ Percentage of compliance with State and Federal mandates relative to finance, budgeting, grants management, accounting and other fiscal and business applications

## Major Products and Services

Development of management and regulatory measures to enable both a sustainable and financially viable commercial and recreational marine fishery in the Commonwealth and to work to ensure that there is a fair and equitable allocation of all harvestable marine resources

Protection and regulation of the private use and development of the Commonwealth's coastal lands, including submerged lands, tidal wetlands and coastal primary sand dunes/beaches by maintaining a permit review process based on public interest reviews consistent with the Public Trust doctrine to fairly and timely balance private uses of State-owned submerged lands and the need to preserve habitat

Administration of a private shellfish ground leasing program

Replenishment and restoration through construction and maintenance of public oyster beds, transplanting of seed oysters, management of the public oyster grounds, and promotion of hatchery-based shellfish aquaculture

Maintenance of the surveys and maps required for public oyster grounds, the Virginia-Maryland border, leased shellfish grounds, condemned shellfish areas and seed/shell plant areas, tidal waterways and shorelines, and the 28,000 acres of un-granted marshes and meadowlands

Search, rescue and public safety, including marine radio communications and dispatch services and performance of homeland security responsibilities at the ports of Hampton Roads

Enforcement of commercial and recreational fisheries regulations in the Commonwealth by ensuring compliance with state, interstate, and federal fishery management plans for marine fisheries, providing cooperative enforcement of federal programs on offshore fisheries and enforcing state and federal health and safety laws for marine species

Promotion of marine recreational fishing in the Commonwealth by administering an awards program recognizing trophy catches, public access improvement and other activities, and by the construction and maintenance of artificial fishing reefs

## Performance Highlights



Continued efforts to restore Virginia's oyster fishery resulted in a 2017-2018 Virginia oyster harvest that was just less of the near recent record of 635,000 bushels. The total oyster harvest from public oyster grounds, privately leased oyster grounds and oyster farming operations –grew from 95,000 bushels in 2008 – 2009 to 600,000 bushels in 2017-2018. Dockside value has increased from \$3.5 million a decade ago to \$48 million this past oyster season.

The Agency plays an active role in reducing the stock of non-native blue catfish in the Virginia's tidal waters as these species can account for up to 75 percent of the fish biomass in a river, displacing or reducing many important native species such as river herring and shad and preying on blue crabs.

After being deemed depleted in 2014 the blue crab population has successively increased in abundance, allowing for higher commercial harvests. Regulations implemented in 2014 to reduce harvest by ten percent, have since been offset by increased harvestable stock, the Commission added protections to juvenile crabs as well as the adult female crab spawning stock in 2014.

The Virginia Marine Police were issued perfect marks in 2010 through 2017 by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration for its outstanding enforcement of shellfish harvesting rules and regulations ensuring that Virginia oysters meet all applicable safety laws and regulations and as such do not endanger the oysters' end consumers.

Between 2011 and 2015 the Marine Police issued an average of 208 summonses per year relating to oysters, nearly three times the summons issued in the prior five years. In 2016 and 2017 there were only an average of 115 oyster summons. It appears that increased enforcement activity, and Commission license actions against oyster regulation violators, may have significantly decreased violations and oyster poaching.

The Habitat Management Division implemented a general permit regulation to streamline the permitting process for certain living shoreline projects pursuant to Section 28.2-104.1 of the Virginia Code as living shoreline designs are the Commonwealth's preferred alternative for stabilizing tidal shorelines.

Two task force groups have studied and made recommendations for Code, regulatory and management changes and/or strategies to address increasingly complex issues related to the shellfish aquaculture industry in Virginia. The Agency is now part of a Work Group selected by the Secretary of Natural Resources charged with identifying recommendations to promote the sustainable growth of Virginia's aquaculture industry, and solutions to conflicts between shellfish growers and other users.

In June of 2019 Governor Northam signed two bills that will help support Virginia's oyster and clam aquaculture industry of others who use Virginia's tidal waters. One bill is aimed to alleviate conflicts in the Lynnhaven River among the many stakeholders who use the waterway and the second bill modernizes the state code and improves the review of lease applications for aquaculture operations.

The agency has continued its 20 plus year history of receiving audits with no associated findings.

## Staffing

Authorized Maximum Employment Level (MEL)	163
Salaried Employees	150
Wage Employees	0
Contracted Employees	7

## Key Risk Factors

Agency efforts to streamline and remove regulatory hurdles coupled with technological advances in shellfish aquaculture techniques have led to a very rapid expansion of the shellfish aquaculture industry resulting in a growing number of conflicts between the shellfish growers and the public who share in common the waters and submerged lands.

Shell cultch, the basic building material for public oyster bed restoration and for private aquaculture production is becoming increasingly scarce and much more expensive. Trials to use alternate cultch for oyster spat attachment have found this to be financially viable, but the materials used are much denser, more difficult to harvest and not suitable for all of the oyster grounds where shell could be used.

New fisheries management plan addendums with potential for new regulation are expected in 2019-2020 from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) for popular recreational species like cobia, and important commercial and recreational species such as spot and croaker. Climate change models based on increase in temperature alone, are projecting lower abundances of many mid-Atlantic fish stocks as it is expected these stocks will move northerly. At the same time climate change effects on reproduction and survival of early stage life history of fish stocks is unknown.

In the last 12 plus years a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) between MRC and the National Marine Fisheries Service has provided the only stable source of funding for the agency Law Enforcement Division to purchase equipment, primarily boats, trailers, motors, and vehicles. Funding reductions are expected. Other budget reductions and steadily rising support costs for Marine Police Officers greatly impact how the agency provides and maintains core management, regulatory and enforcement services and supplies the variety of equipment needed to support the Law Enforcement Division.

Recent and expected continued increases in sea level present challenges for the management of tidal wetland resources. Tidal wetland vegetation exists within specific tidal elevation ranges and has the ability to trap sediments and rise and keep pace with moderate increases in sea level, but rapid increases in sea level greatly stress these valuable resources.

## Management Discussion

### General Information About Ongoing Status of Agency

The agency will continue to focus on minimizing regulatory burden that inhibits normal business operations and promote efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources.

The Marine Resources Commission (MRC) expects increased involvement of federal and interstate organizations in the resource management process, with a trend toward increased fishery regulations and resource data collection and monitoring in a multispecies ecosystem context, requiring substantially more science and information than is currently available. New interstate and regional management policies on the taking of menhaden, which may pose significant personnel and financial hardship for the Commonwealth, as well as federal mandates that could affect management of sturgeon, summer flounder, striped bass, sea turtles and sea mammals.

The Commission is committed in its efforts to replenish Virginia's oyster resources and to support increasing shellfish aquaculture activities.

The ASMFC imposed a requirement to monitor a 2013 menhaden quota resulting in a 20 percent reduction in menhaden landings for Virginia. When stock assessments showed an increasingly healthy menhaden stock, quotas were relaxed but still resulted in an economic loss for the industry over landings levels prior to 2013. Virginia is now allocated 78.66 percent of the coast wide landings quota for menhaden, following a recent allocation decision in late 2017 by the ASMFC. Previously Virginia enjoyed an almost 86 percent share of the coast wide allowable landings of menhaden.

The agency continues its efforts to establish a take reduction plan for the endangered sturgeon and endangered or threatened sea turtles and expects substantial economic impacts to Virginia's gill net fishery once the plan is accepted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

A longer term risk for Virginia's fishery stocks is environmental change caused by climate shifts. Many of the fish species targeted by Virginia fishermen are migratory, with some stocks having a center of abundance further south or north of the Chesapeake Bay. Climate change is expected to substantially affect abundance and distribution of migratory species, for popular species like summer flounder, black sea bass and croaker. This will mean less fish available for harvest in the Bay. Temperature and sea level rise will impact habitat vital to juvenile fish, and water acidification will affect shellfish stocks.

The Marine Police expect an increased responsibility for homeland defense at the Ports of Hampton Roads, as well as continued search and rescue work and 24 hour, 7 day a week coverage of the waterways served by MRC. As the Virginia's oyster resource continues to improve, there will be a growing need for the protection of that resource from poaching from public waters and condemned shellfish areas. The Virginia Marine Police placed, and will continue to place, a priority on enforcement in these areas.

With the huge success now occurring with Virginia's oyster industry, the agency expects to see an increased emphasis on regulation and enforcement to comply with federal National Shellfish Sanitation Program mandates and to ensure that the State's oyster stock is safeguarded.

The number of requests for habitat permits is expected to grow commensurate with population increases and development in Tidewater, generating an increased need to balance both the public and the private interests of the marine resources of the state.

A marked increase in the number of applications for oyster ground leases is expected and this will result in all associated issues being handled by small existing staff.

There are several agency responsibilities that continue to require existing employees to continue to absorb additional duties for: State-owned bottomlands above the Fall Line, Eastern Shore marshes, aquaculture, finance and contracting, search and rescue, patrol work, homeland defense, emergency preparedness, interstate and quota based fisheries management, and complex conservation efforts for an ever-increasing number of finfish species. This additional workload will become more problematic as many long-term employees with much institutional knowledge are expected to retire within the next five years or less. More complex review of shellfish aquaculture leasing and permitting issues continue to strain the current management team tasked with these issues.

Over the last decade, the use of non-general fund (NGF) revenue from the sale of a variety of licenses, permit and dredge fees has increasingly replaced use of General Fund (GF) dollars. Many key management and regulatory functions are now dependent on these less stable sources of funding. This reduces the agency's ability to use these NGF for: fishery research, surveys, monitoring and stock assessments that provide the information to support MRC management and regulatory work that ensure Virginia's full compliance with fishery plans from the interstate regional fisheries management organizations, and for projects to remove waterways obstructions from Virginia's tidal waters.

### Information Technology

Major IT investments underway include:

Commission staff manage fifteen custom business applications providing automation for most agency business processes including licensing, permitting, mapping, and many data collection and reporting features. Up through 2012 the Commission rebuilt its suite of business applications in a web based development environment. Completion of application renovation tasks has provided the agency with more opportunity to offer additional citizen web access to agency data and business applications. Agency staff also help maintain infrastructure that includes over 100 Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA) assigned computers and 70 Virginia State Police (VSP) assigned computers for the Marine Police,

three data servers, the agency public web site at mrc.virginia.gov, and the hundreds of associated devices.

#### Information Technology Plans/Needs:

All agency IT activities are very modest out of financial necessity, and are always directly aligned with the agency mission, goals, and objectives. We believe our low cost approach to application development has business value primarily in operational efficiency and attainment of strategic goals of the Agency, but in doing so they also contribute to improving and maintaining constituent service levels in an era of increasing demands and relatively limited personnel.

The IT changes planned for the next biennium are enhancements or desired functionality that will be added using primarily in-house staff. In particular agency staff hope to continue efforts to offer application features better suited for mobile devices.

The agency does not anticipate any IT investments beyond in-house staff and VITA Service Fees during the 2018-2020 budget biennium.

### Estimate of Technology Funding Needs

#### Workforce Development

The average age of an agency employee is 47 years old. The Marine Resources Commission has a number of tenured staff members with an impressive amount of institutional knowledge and understanding of the agency's policies, practices, and history. Nearly 43 percent of the MRC staff is 50 years or older and 19 percent of the agency staff has 20 years or more of State service. About 10 percent of current staff is eligible for an unreduced retirement and six of these staff are Department Managers to Executive level management. Over the next five years, 15 percent of the agency current workforce will be eligible for an unreduced retirement. This percentage includes all of the top administrators of the agency's programs.

The agency continues to have the most turnover in the Fishery Management and Law Enforcement Divisions. More competitive salaries and opportunities for upward mobility offered by other local, other state, federal, and private sector employers contribute to this turnover. Budget is a continuing issue in addressing the agency's compensation issues and we continue to work to find creative ways to deal with this dilemma.

The Marine Resources Commission continues to work diligently to ensure that succession planning is in place so that there is continuity in the delivery of services to clients as the key management positions and longtime employees exit our employ. Loss of highly competent workforce will be significant, but in most divisions and departments there currently is knowledgeable and experienced staff that could, with some additional training and experience, make a smooth transition into positions of those leaving.

#### Physical Plant

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission headquarters moved from the Newport News location to a newly renovated facility on Fort Monroe in late January 2019.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that all operational assets of the Commission, including but not limited to communications, dispatch, and marine equipment storage be co-located as part of the current relocation project. Funding has been appropriated that would assist with the initial costs involved in the evaluation of potential available facilities on Fort Monroe that would be appropriate for the re-location of the agency-owned Operations Station that is located in the Newport News Small Boat Harbor. To date, a suitable location has not been found and the Operations Station remains in the Newport News Small Boat Harbor.

## Supporting Documents

Title	File Type
-------	-----------

**Marine Life Information Services [50501]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This activity collects and analyzes biological and statistical information on both interjurisdictional and resident fishery stocks and includes harvest and fishing effort data and biological attributes of the populations. Catch quotas and allocations of harvest are tracked. Fisheries conservation plans and regulations are prepared.

**Mission Alignment**

The collection and analysis of biological and statistical information, tracking of harvest and landing quotas and allocations to the user groups of that harvest, and preparation of fisheries conservation plans and regulations all serve to support the agency's mission to serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Conservation and management measures for a sustainable yield of the commercial fisheries and stable opportunities for recreational fisheries.	§ 28.2-201 and § 28.2-203		Discretionary	0	362,438
Efficient utilization of fishery resources without overfishing. Fair and equitable allocation of harvestable resources among commercial and recreational fisheries.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	217,537	179,862
Production of the best biological, scientific, economic and sociological information to manage the marine fisheries of the Commonwealth.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	323,681	74,712
Ability for the Commonwealth to comply with federal, state and interjurisdictional fishery management plans for all commercial and recreational marine fisheries.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	205,125	0

**Anticipated Changes**

The agency expects that there will be an increased involvement of interstate and federal fisheries management organizations and the accompanying demand for more skilled personnel to conduct research and data analysis, to make better regulatory and management decisions. There will be a greater need for quota-based fisheries management, and greater pressure from other states for higher allocations of coast wide commercial and recreational quotas.

**Factors Impacting**

The most significant factors impacting the delivery of agency services will be the amount of financial and skilled personnel resources available to the agency; retention of skilled fisheries personnel; the increasing complexity of the regulatory and management actions needed for all fisheries in Virginia's tidal waters; and, an increasing customer base.

The agency expects increased involvement of federal and interstate organizations in the Virginia resource management process, with a trend towards increased unfunded mandates for additional fisheries regulations, resource data collection, permitting and monitoring. Management of

resources in a multispecies ecosystem context is in process and will require substantially more science and information than is currently available.

### Financial Overview

Funding for this service area come from a variety of sources – General (\$746,343), Special and Federal Funds (\$590,512)- and support fifteen FTE's. General Funds support nine FTE's while Federal Funds support six FTE's

General Fund monies are budgeted in this service area for the payment of Virginia's yearly dues to two interstate compact organizations - the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. General funds also support nine FTE that work with the Mandatory Reporting program, the Biological Sampling program and the Fisheries Plans and Statistics programs.

Special funds from the sale of commercial fishing licenses and the sale of recreational fishing licenses are used to support the core services of the service area that were lost due to permanent reductions in its general fund budget in a previous biennium.

Federal funds appropriations in this service area support the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey with three FTE's and five to six seasonal workers and the Sturgeon/Turtle Endangered Species Grant with three FTE's.

#### Biennial Budget

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	746,343	590,512	746,343	590,512
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

### Supporting Documents

**Title** **File Type**

**Service Area Plan**

**Marine Life Regulation Enforcement [50503]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This service area is responsible for the following activities: patrolling the tidal waters and shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay, its tidal tributaries and territorial sea; enforcing marine fishery and habitat conservation laws and regulations; enforcing health laws pertaining to the harvesting of seafood from condemned areas; enforcing or assisting other agencies in enforcing laws pertaining to the removal of obstructions and abandoned vessels from the water, to boating operation and navigation, and to larceny on the water; providing for water-borne safety; conducting search and rescue activities; protecting from terrorist attack federal and state water-related installations and other water-related locations within the tidal waters of the Commonwealth as may be designated by federal or state officials as important to national security; and investigating and enforcing violations of federal laws that pertain to marine wildlife and fish, based on signed Memorandums of Understanding.

**Mission Alignment**

The activities listed above relate directly to the agency's mission to serve as stewards of Virginia's marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations. The agency would not be able to perform the activities described in the agency mission statement without the services of the agency Law Enforcement Division whose employees encompass slightly more than 50% of the agency FTE allocation.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Compliance with conservation and health laws and regulations in harvesting of marine resources from the tidal waters of the Commonwealth.	§ 28.2-106.2,3		Required	3,120,689	823,821
Fair and equitable enforcement of conservation measures.	§ 28.2-106		Required	547,508	153,970
Search, rescue and public safety on the waterways of the Commonwealth. Safe access and boating safety enforcement on the tidal waters.	§ 28.2-106.6		Required	711,761	208,383
Marine radio communications and dispatching services with boaters and other agencies.	§ 28.2-107		Required	109,501	344,562
Boating accident investigation and prevention efforts. Issuance of commercial and recreational fishing licenses.	§ 28.2-106.5		Required	547,508	153,970
Enforcing marine fishery and habitat conservation laws and regulations.	§ 28.2-106		Required	0	552,940
Public Safety to the citizens and visitors to the Commonwealth.	§ 28.2-106.3,7		Required	273,758	76,985
Homeland security services on state waters and harbors	§ 28.2-106.7			0	0

## **Anticipated Changes**

It is expected that there will be increasing demands for homeland security work, search and rescue work, and patrol, inspection and waterborne safety enforcement. We also expect to see an increasing number of new and more complex fisheries regulations, federal fisheries management mandates and interstate management requirements which must all be followed such that we manage, enforce and protect Virginia's tidal fisheries with an increasing degree of vigilance and efficiency. There will be an increasing need to protect the State's valuable and growing amount of oyster resources from poaching efforts and an increasing need to protect and safeguard designated condemned shellfish areas. These are efforts that will require sustained and priority enforcement.

## **Factors Impacting**

The most significant factors impacting service delivery will be the amount of financial, personnel and equipment resources available to the Marine Police so that the officers can adequately deal with ever increasing demands for a wide variety of services – both Law Enforcement and non-Law Enforcement related and an expanding customer base.

The Marine Police expect an increased responsibility for homeland defense work, particularly at the Ports of Hampton Roads, for search and rescue efforts, a need for continuous 24 hour, 7 day a-week coverage of all of the waterways served by the Marine Resources Commission and increasing responsibilities for safeguarding and managing all species found in Virginia's tidal waters.

## **Financial Overview**

This service area receives support from the general fund (\$5,310,725) that supports eighty and a half FTE's, special funds that support six FTE's, and federal funds.

General Fund support of this service has been reduced in response to general fund budget reductions. In order to maintain the core service functions of this service area the reductions have been supplanted with funding from the sale of commercial and recreational fishing licenses and the use of federal grant monies.

The base general fund budget includes funds distributed from central appropriations to cover increased costs for salary and fringe benefits, including the continued increase in state insurance plan costs. While the central appropriations support the increases and fringe benefits for personnel, the cost of other essential items (gasoline, lease cost for state vehicles, parts, equipment, vehicle repair services, etc.) continue to increase and must be covered with existing agency budget. The budget reductions, in conjunction with the increase in operational costs, continues to be problematic to this service area.

Of the eighty six and a half positions allotted to this Service Area, eighty and a half are general funded (sixty four field MPO's, five captains, eight first sergeants, one lieutenant, two mechanics and a one half FTE for a license sales agent). The remaining FTE's consist of six dispatchers that are funded from Commonwealth Transportation Funds.

The agency continues to hold the equivalent of between three and six general funded Marine Police positions vacant and delay the hiring of newly vacant positions in order to generate sufficient funds within the service areas budget to cover the increasing cost of salaries, fringe benefits and other support services for the Marine Police and also to fund some Dispatch Center costs.

The 2018 Special Session of the General assembly included central appropriations of \$145,997 in the first year and \$350,394 in the second year from the general fund to support the cost for entry-level salary adjustments and one-year service adjustments for all members of the Virginia Marine Police effective January 10, 2019.

At the beginning of the current biennium, the Law Enforcement Division's base budget included an appropriation of \$1,539,703 from Saltwater Recreational Fishing License revenues used primarily to offset the employer retirement and health insurance premiums for law enforcement. These monies replaced general funds that were eliminated from the law enforcement budget through an incremental series of budget reductions and continue to place the burden on the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund.

In FY 2018 reliance on the Commercial Fishing License Fund increased by \$20,000 such that \$62,000 is now part of the Law Enforcement Division base budget.

All of the Commonwealth Transportation Funds (CTF) appropriated in the agency budget are used to support the agency's Marine Dispatch Center to include the Dispatchers. Law Enforcement operates 24 hours a day and 7 days per week. The source of the CTF money is un-refunded motor fuel taxes used in boats.

The agency participates in a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These federal monies provided a stable source of funding for the MRC for approximately a decade. Unfortunately, the yearly JEA revenue has significantly declined over the last several years. The reduction for FY2020 was 7%. These funds pay for the time the Marine Police Officers who are trained and certified for federal enforcement duties by staff from the Law Enforcement Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA, spend on federal fisheries enforcement activities. Almost all of this work is done on days these trained Marine Police are not on duty for MRC, and the JEA funding allows our officers to be paid at an overtime rate for this work.

For at least the last decade JEA funding has provided the only stable source of funding for the purchase of equipment for the agency Law Enforcement Division. The agency lost all of its general funding for this purpose many years ago through a series of budget reductions. The JEA monies support both the federal enforcement activity as well as the purchase of equipment to support this activity – allowing the MRC to purchase an airplane, boats, motors, trailers, vehicles and some other law enforcement equipment.

Due to a budget reduction several years ago, the agency began to use \$100,000 of the yearly JEA funding as a part of the Law Enforcement Division's base budget. JEA monies have funded most of the yearly telecommunications costs and some of the gas cost for the Marine Police.

Less JEA money being available to the Marine Police means that less money is available for equipment purchases for law enforcement each year and the money is not available to continue to cover the costs of the Marine Police telecommunications costs. The agency is currently evaluating how it can best deal with smaller amounts of yearly JEA revenues and how to best mitigate the significant impact this will have on the agency's core services.

The Division also receives a yearly grant of NOAA monies for reimbursement of the time spent on interstate finfish enforcement as overseen by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. At the time these federal monies were first made available about 25 years ago, the agency lost an equivalent amount of general funding from the Law Enforcement budget.

The Law Enforcement Division also receives support from the recovery of indirect costs/overhead costs from several sources of federal monies that the Division receives monies from the sale of surplus equipment, monies from forfeited assets, and a few other non-general fund sources that provide minimal non-general funding support yearly.

#### Biennial Budget

	<b>2019 General Fund</b>	<b>2019 Nongeneral Fund</b>	<b>2020 General Fund</b>	<b>2020 Nongeneral Fund</b>
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	5,310,725	3,829,183	5,310,725	3,829,183
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

#### Supporting Documents

**Title** **File Type**



## Service Area Plan

### Artificial Reef Construction [50506]

#### Description of this Program / Service Area

This activity enhances the use of fishery resources through augmentation of existing, artificial fishing reef sites, through a variety of methods, in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and offshore in the Atlantic Ocean. New habitat provides niches for many species in addition to providing recreational fishing opportunities.

#### Mission Alignment

This activity enhances recreational fishing activity in the Commonwealth for current and future generations.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

#### Products and Services

##### Description of Major Products and Services

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Establishment and maintenance of a network of artificial fishing reefs in marine waters for the recreational fishing public and tourists.	§ 28.2-302.3		Required	0	69,520
Promotion of an enhanced recreational fishing industry.	§ 28.2-302.3		Required	0	0
Promotion of increased travel and tourism in Tidewater Virginia.	§ 28.2-302.3 and § 28.2-206		Discretionary	0	0

#### Anticipated Changes

With the increased level of interest in saltwater recreational fishing in the Commonwealth, it is anticipated that there will also be an increased demand for artificial fishing reef sites to be maintained and enhanced in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Almost all existing reef sites can benefit from added material. Due to the condition of the state and federal economy and the strong market for recycled concrete, the "materials of opportunity" that have been donated in the past to the Marine Resources Commission (MRC) for reef construction are more limited, but are likely to remain the primary means of reef site augmentation because of the cost effectiveness. Unfortunately the program no longer has dedicated staff, but will seek state and federal grants to fund competitively selected contractors to manufacture or to procure existing suitable materials for the maintenance and augmentation of existing reef sites instead of relying on the deployment of donated materials. As a result, both of these options present much more expensive alternatives and again emphasize the need to search for outside funding sources.

#### Factors Impacting

Availability of donations of materials of opportunity (concrete structures, etc.) for the program to be placed on permitted artificial reef sites.

Ability to find donations that include not only the material, but also the deployment, as the program has no equipment or funding to deploy materials.

Ability to secure consistent funding that will pay for the fabrication of concrete structures or for the procurement of other suitable materials to be placed overboard to maintain and augment existing permitted reef sites.

Ability to balance the often competing needs of those who use Virginia's tidal waters so that agency Artificial Reef sites provide the maximum benefits to all users.

Reef program staff are no longer dedicated positions, so assigned staff must share reef duties with their primary roles for fisheries management. This limited staff seriously constrains reef production, and also does not allow the agency to maintain buoys that were once used to mark reef sites.

#### Financial Overview

This service area is entirely funded by support from the Salt Water Recreational Fishing Development Fund (\$69,520) that supports a small

portion of the salaries of two FTE's in that fund that lend their expertise in this area and for the support of minimal equipment and fuel expenses for the monitoring of the deployment of reef materials. They rely heavily on the donation of materials of opportunity due to limited funding availability.

Biennial Budget

	<b>2019 General Fund</b>	<b>2019 Nongeneral Fund</b>	<b>2020 General Fund</b>	<b>2020 Nongeneral Fund</b>
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	69,520	0	69,520
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Management [50507]****Description of this Program / Service Area**

This activity is responsible for management of all commercial and recreational marine fisheries in Virginia. Fishery management and conservation plans are developed for marine and estuarine species. Regulations are promulgated by the Commission for fish sizes, gear restrictions, season and area closures, quota management and limited entry.

**Mission Alignment**

This activity is responsible for management of all commercial and recreational marine fisheries in the Commonwealth, which is an integral part of the agency's mission to serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services****Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Conservation and management measures for a sustainable yield of the commercial and stable opportunities for recreational fisheries in the Commonwealth.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	134,546	22,100
Ability of the agency to ensure efficient utilization of fishery resources without over fishing.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	201,819	33,150
Fair and equitable allocation of harvestable resources.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	335,067	55,250
Administration of a mandatory harvest reporting system.	§ 28.2-243		Discretionary	0	380,000
Ability for the Commonwealth to comply with federal, state and interjurisdictional fishery management plans for all commercial and recreational marine fisheries.	§ 28.2-201 and § 28.2-203		Discretionary	0	780,000

**Anticipated Changes**

The agency expects that there will be an increased involvement of interstate and federal fisheries management and the accompanying demand for more scientific research and analysis, to make regulatory and management decisions, greatly increasing the complexity of these decisions.

**Factors Impacting**

The most significant factors impacting the delivery of all types of agency services will be the amount of financial and personnel resources available to the agency, the increasing demands for services, the increasing complexity and analysis needed to support regulatory and management actions for the many fisheries species found in Virginia's tidal waters and an expanding customer base.

The agency expects increased involvement of federal and interstate organizations in the resource management process, with a trend toward increased fisheries regulations and resource data collection and monitoring. Management of resources in a multispecies ecosystem context is expected and will require substantially more science and information than is currently available.

Additionally, the agency continues to monitor a menhaden quota plan that was implemented by the Interstate Management Authority in 2013. Until recently this quota reduction represented a loss for the industry for the past five years. As of 2018 the Interstate Plan reinstated the amount of quota foregone in 2013. The agency will continue its efforts to establish a take reduction plan for the endangered Atlantic sturgeon and

endangered or threatened sea turtles, and once the plan is finalized by the National Marine Fisheries, there could be economic impacts to the gill net fishery as a limited number of takes, especially sea turtles, are expected. There continue to be ASMFC mandated changes to the State's management plan for other species such as striped bass and summer flounder, and it is anticipated that other species management plans, such as croaker and spot, will change as well.

### Financial Overview

This service area receives funding from the general fund (\$671,432), special funds and federal funds. Ten FTE's are supported by the general fund, and three FTE's are supported by the special funds.

The general funded FTE's include the Chief of Fisheries Management, Deputy Chief, division support staff, Fisheries Planners and Data and Quota Management staff to ensure Virginia's compliance with ASMFC guidelines.

Special funded FTE's support the Fisheries Management and Mandatory Reporting Program from revenues collected from the Marine Fishing Improvement Fund. This fund consists of that portion of nonresident harvester's license fees, which have not been allocated to the Virginia Marine Products Fund, fees collected from the registration of commercial fisherman and fees collected from the sale of seafood landing licenses. In addition to the FTE's the fund also pays for the Fisheries Division's computer services, clerical services for mandatory reporting, postal and printing services, travel and other miscellaneous expenses. Action by the 2018 Special Session of the General Assembly upheld the language that was added into the Appropriation Act in the 2017 session that required commercial harvest license and gear use fees to be held steady at rates in force as of January 1, 2016.

Approximately \$2.4 million dollars are collected annually from the sale of recreational saltwater fishing licenses. These funds support one FTE for this service area, and provide funding for projects to support Virginia's recreational fisheries, as described in Section 28.2-302.3 of the Code of Virginia, and to support agency law enforcement and fisheries management functions. Due to the recent series of budget reductions and the need to preserve core agency functions the great majority (approximately \$2.1 million dollars) of the revenues collected each year from the sale of recreational fishing licenses go to support Marine Resources Commission (MRC) fisheries and law enforcement programs at MRC. The 2016 Session of the General Assembly mandated that the fees levied by the Commission for saltwater recreational fishing licenses shall be imposed at the level that was in effect on October 1, 2014 thus restricting the ability to increase the amount of revenue available for projects in the Salt Water Recreational Fishing Fund (SWRF).

The agency will to continue the Saltwater Sport Fishing Tournament however, no funds have been provided by the General Assembly for this purpose. The agency will continue to utilize the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund for this purpose. As a result, the agency estimates that only \$200,000 to \$250,000 will be available yearly of the revenue from recreational licenses for allocation for projects that benefit the recreational fishing industry in the Commonwealth.

The two license funds provide matching dollars for the federal monies the agency receives each year from grants from the Department of the Interior. These federal Sport Fish Restoration Grant funds of approximately \$1.8 million dollars are received annually, and are allocated primarily to VIMS and ODU for approved research projects that impact several fisheries species, such as striped bass, river herring and american shad. Many of these research projects have been funded for twenty or more years.

#### Biennial Budget

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	671,432	5,008,409	671,432	5,008,409
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

### Supporting Documents

**Title** **File Type**

**Oyster Propagation and Habitat Improvement [50508]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This activity is responsible for developing conservation measures for shellfish, and conducting replenishment activities on public oyster grounds, and assisting with restoration efforts.

**Mission Alignment**

As this area is responsible for oyster conservation and restoration programs in the Commonwealth, it directly relates to the agency's mission to serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources for current and future generations.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Replenishment and restoration of shellfish habitat (historic rocks and shoals) through construction and maintenance of public oyster beds, transplanting of seed oysters, management of public oyster grounds.	§ 28.2-542 and § 28.2-550		Discretionary	4,000,000	0
Construction, maintenance and reseeding and reselling of oyster beds and shoals.	§ 28.2-542 and § 28.2-550		Discretionary	229,483	0
Transplanting of seed oysters.	§ 28.2-542 and § 28.2-550		Discretionary	21,223	0
Maintenance of oyster harvest areas and sanctuaries.	§ 28.2-542 and § 28.2-550		Discretionary	32,783	547,500
Conserving, managing and promoting regulations Virginia shellfish stocks for sustainable harvest.	§ 28.2-201 and § 28.2-507		Discretionary	16,391	0
Pursuing additional available shell resources or other economically viable substrate materials to be used for oyster spat attachment and subsequent growth into a marketable oyster.	§ 28.2-507 and § 28.2-550		Discretionary	0	265,000
Yearly standing stock assessment of Virginia's oyster resources.	§ 28.2-550		Discretionary	16,391	0
Training and promotion of hatchery-based shellfish aquaculture.	§ 28.2-507		Required	9,835	0
Manage and regulate shellfish harvest practices to protect public health,	§ 28.2-801		Discretionary	6,559	0

based on U. S. Food and Drug Administration and Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference guidelines.					
--	--	--	--	--	--

**Anticipated Changes**

The agency will continue to seek available federal grants and partnerships and monies from the State, private groups and other governmental bodies as well as partnerships with other entities such as The Nature Conservancy and the federal Army Corps of Engineers, to sustain and enlarge Virginia’s important oyster resources. The agency believes there will be continued growth in shellfish aquaculture efforts in the Commonwealth which will contribute to increased levels of oyster harvests, as well as improvements in water quality. The level of harvest on public ground should remain relatively stable if replenishment activity continues at the current level.

**Factors Impacting**

The most significant factor impacting the delivery of oyster replenishment activities will be the amount of financial and personnel resources available to provide this service.

Currently there is a finite amount of oyster shell available in the State and it is critical that we identify other suitable substrate that will support the attachment of oyster spat and subsequent oyster grow out.

Much of the success in the growth of Virginia’s oyster population is a result of Virginia’s shellfish leasing program, as well as aquaculture efforts undertaken by private citizens and companies. It will be critical to continue to nourish and manage Virginia’s public oyster resources as well as providing support for the Commonwealth’s growing oyster aquaculture industry.

**Financial Overview**

The Marine Resources Commission (MRC) FY2019 general fund appropriation is \$2.75 million for oyster replenishment and restoration efforts in the Commonwealth. The acts of the 2019 General Assembly increased the FY2020 general fund appropriation to \$4.0 million for replenishment and restoration efforts. The additional \$750,000 was provided for support of oyster restoration in FY2019 and the additional \$1,000,000 in FY2020 as approved by the 2019 General Assembly represents \$500,000 in additional funding for oyster replenishment and an additional \$500,000 for restoration, bringing the total funding dedicated towards replenishment to \$2.5 million and the total funding dedicated to restoration to \$1.5 million. In addition, the State provides general funds (\$332,665) to cover the salary and fringe benefit costs of the five program FTEs.

The Public Oyster Rocks Replenishment Fund is supported by oyster resource user fees (ORF) that were established by the 2014 session of the General Assembly upon the abolishment of oyster taxes. The ORF generates between \$360,000 and \$400,000 annually. The ORF monies are used solely to support the operating cost of the Oyster Propagation and Habitat Improvement service area, to support the annual oyster stock assessment, to provide funding for industry related projects including seed oysters, alternative cultch experiments and other small industry projects in response to developing issues.

Biennial Budget

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	3,082,665	1,629,014	3,332,665	1,629,014
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	1,000,000	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Coastal Lands and Bottomlands Management [51001]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This service area has responsibility for the implementation of a regulatory review process and permitting program for encroachments in state waters over state-owned submerged or bottom lands (both tidal and non-tidal), and for the use or development of coastal primary sand dunes/beaches and tidal wetlands. It also has responsibility for the ballast water management program, and for management of the ungranted marshes and meadowlands lying on the Eastern Shore. The Coastal Lands Management service area serves as the central clearinghouse for the receipt and distribution of the Joint Permit Application (JPA) used throughout the Commonwealth by numerous federal, state and local agencies.

**Mission Alignment**

This service area directly relates to the agency's mission to serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations, by protecting the Commonwealth's valuable state-owned submerged lands, state-owned riverbeds, coastal primary sand dunes/beaches, tidal wetlands and state waters.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

Title 62.1. Waters of the State, Ports and Harbors

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Preservation of the critical shallow water and intertidal habitats as vital spawning and nursery areas for many of the Commonwealth's commercially valuable finfish and shellfish resources.	§28.2-1205		Required	206,826	170,487
Protection and regulation of the private use and development of the Commonwealth's invaluable coastal lands and natural resources (i.e. submerged lands, tidal wetlands and coastal primary sand dunes/beaches).	§28.2-1205		Discretionary	206,826	308,354
Serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's publicly owned submerged lands. Ensure the protection and wise use of the coastal lands and natural resources held in trust for all the citizens of the Commonwealth.	§28.2-1503		Discretionary	342,783	173,080
Issuance of permits for work done on or over State bottomlands, tidal wetlands and coastal primary sand dunes.	§ 28.2-1204		Discretionary	289,557	255,732

**Anticipated Changes**

The number and complexity of requests for habitat permits has fluctuated from year to year, but with an overall increase, generating a continued increased need to balance both the public and the private interests of the marine resources of the Commonwealth.

Legislation approved in 2011 encourages the use of “living shoreline alternatives” for shoreline protection when appropriate. The review and permitting of these alternatives has required increased coordination with other regulatory programs including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the recently approved stormwater regulations.

**Factors Impacting**

The most significant factors impacting the delivery of services will be the amount of financial and personnel resources available. For the Habitat Management Division, the number of requests for habitat permits is expected to grow, commensurate with population increases and development in Tidewater, generating an increased need to balance both the public and the private interests of the marine resources of the Commonwealth. In addition, the agency has seen an increasing complexity of issues that must be resolved and mediated during the permitting process. We currently have eight general funded FTE's and five FTE's funded with non-general fund appropriations from the Marine Habitat and Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF). Until FY2018, ten of those FTE's were funded by the WIF due to State general fund budget reductions. The funding equivalent to support seven of the FTE's was restored to the general fund in FY2018, the remaining five FTE's that were supported by this fund continue to be funded from the WIF in order to be able to continue to meet the core functions of this service area. In order to preserve the funds in the WIF we have elected to leave some vacant positions unfilled but as the request for permits grow and the complexity of issues increases, the current personnel resources will not be sufficient to properly meet the demands.

**Financial Overview**

The Service Area receives support from the General Fund (\$1,045,992), Special Funds, and Federal Funds – and supports seventeen FTE's. General Funds supports eight FTE's, Special Funds support six FTE's and Federal Funds support three FTE's.

General funds allocated to this service area also include appropriations that are dedicated for special purposes. Virginia's share of an Army Corps of Engineers project to construct a jetty to preserve the harbor on Tangier Island (FY 2019 - \$245,687 and FY 2020 - \$233,637) is allocated to this service area with the Commonwealth's share fully expended by FY 2020. In addition, general fund support for a public boat ramp project RF16-11/RF16-11a1 (FY2019 - \$160,000) is allocated to this Service Area.

The Marine Habitat & Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) receives monies from habitat permit and dredging fees, civil charges and encroachment fees. Prior to FY2018, this fund supported eleven FTE's. In response to general fund budget reductions in FY2010, funding for ten FTE's was required to be obtained from the WIF in order to continue to deliver the core functions of the service area. Beginning in FY2018, general funds (\$402,000) were added back to the general fund base budget. The additions of the \$402,000 back to the service area did not reflect the increased cost for salaries and benefits for the eight-year period that the ten employees were funded solely from the WIF. The resulting shortage of approximately \$110,000 (the equivalent of three FTE's) continues to be supplanted by the WIF. Three of the six FTE's supported by this fund are not a result of budget reductions and remain supported by this fund. While the use of the WIF to supplant budget reductions was intended to be a short-term solution, the lack of sufficient funding for the staffing level requires the continued use of the WIF for this purpose. In some years the yearly obligations on this fund outweigh the revenue collected negatively effecting the funds available for the improvement of marine habitat and waterways.

Federal Funds allocated to Coastal Lands and Bottom Lands Management are received from a grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and support three FTE's.

**Biennial Budget**

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	1,217,992	1,044,439	1,045,992	1,044,439
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**



**Service Area Plan**

**Marine Resources Surveying and Mapping [51002]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This service area administers the Commonwealth's shellfish (oyster/clam) ground leasing program, maintains the surveys and maps of the public (i.e. "Baylor") oyster grounds, as well as numerous other surveys and maps of the Commonwealth's tidal waterways, shorelines, and sea/shell plant areas. It also has responsibility for the surveying and identification of ungranted marsh and meadowlands on the Eastern Shore. This service area also assists with Law Enforcement cases providing field locations, mapping of violations and court testimony. This service area also assists with the location of fixed fishing devices and mapping of such devices, for permitting by the Fisheries Division. This service area also assists with location information of leases, public grounds, and other information related to permitting by the Habitat Management Division.

**Mission Alignment**

This service area directly relates to the agency's mission to serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources for present and future generations, by administering the Commonwealth's shellfish leasing program, protecting ungranted marsh and meadowlands and providing survey and mapping services for the tidal waterways.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Administration of the Commonwealth's private shellfish leasing program and management of the Constitutionally protected public oyster grounds.	§ 28.2-515		Discretionary	65,764	26,740
The maintenance of surveying and mapping required for the public oyster grounds, the Virginia-Maryland border, all leased shellfish planting grounds, condemned shellfish areas, seed/shell plant areas.	§ 28.2-553, § 28.2-562, and § 28.2-603		Discretionary	65,764	0
The maintenance of surveying and mapping required for the Commonwealth's tidal waterways and shorelines, the 28,000 acres of ungranted marshes and meadowlands, fixed fishing devices, channels, management areas, and other natural resources information.	§ 28.2-562 and § 28.2-1200 to 28.2-1213		Discretionary	410,472	0
Maps for court cases and expert testimony concerning violations of marine environmental laws and regulations.	§ 28.2-562		Discretionary	13,152	0
Field bottom evaluation assistance to the Habitat Management permitting program when proposed projects may impact	§ 28.2-1205		Discretionary	85,497	0

existing leases and/or shellfish resources.					
---	--	--	--	--	--

**Anticipated Changes**

As has already been occurring in recent years, the Marine Resources Surveying and Mapping service area will likely continue to be confronted with increasingly complex shellfish industry user conflict issues requiring both considerable manpower requirements and adept management personnel skills and strategies. Code of Virginia changes concerning oyster ground leases will require additional staff time and effort to administer and additional FTE positions will likely be required to adequately administer the new requirements. New management schemes are being implemented to meet these new requirements.

**Factors Impacting**

Additional personnel will likely be required to manage the new Code requirements enacted in 2019. Considerable additional staff time will be required to review new lease applications, review lease transfer requests and ten-year lease renewals while maintaining current service levels for all other program components.

**Financial Overview**

This service area is entirely general funded and general funds support eight FTE's (\$640,649). This area also shares two FTE with the Coastal Lands service area, with costs for one of the two FTE budgeted in each service area.

An additional \$100,000 in general funding was added by the General Assembly in the 2017 session to assist with the fiscal impacts the then pending lease application surveying backlog.

Biennial Budget

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	640,649	26,740	640,649	26,740
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Virginia Saltwater Sport Fishing Tournament [53601]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This activity promotes saltwater recreational fishing opportunities and conservation ethics in Virginia through a yearlong Saltwater Fishing Tournament which recognizes exceptional catches and releases through an angler citation awards program, and benefits Virginia's economy through travel and tourism promotion.

**Mission Alignment**

Promotion of saltwater recreational fishing and conservation ethics in the Commonwealth, directly relates to the agency's mission to serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources for current and future generations.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
Promotion of an enhanced recreational fishing industry through an awards program recognizing exceptional catches.	§ 28.2-206		Discretionary	220,000	0
Promotion of catch and release fisheries.	§ 28.2-206		Discretionary	0	0

**Anticipated Changes**

Increasing service levels are not anticipated.

**Factors Impacting**

Ability of anglers to continue to undertake recreational saltwater fishing trips such that fishing is done within Tournament rules.

Health of the stocks of citation species fished by recreational saltwater anglers affects the number of citations awarded. In recent years, reduced abundance in several key finfish species has reduced the number of citations issued.

**Financial Overview**

This service area is fully funded from monies received from the sale of saltwater recreational fishing licenses (\$220,000), and support two FTE.

The Governor's budget for the 2017 session of the General Assembly proposed the elimination of the Tournament and the two associated FTE in response to a budget reduction that would necessitate the additional use of the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund (\$214,000) to further supplant the core functions for the Marine Life Regulation Enforcement service area. This was not approved by the General Assembly and language was added into the agency's section of the Appropriation Act that require the Tournament to continue. The two program FTEs were returned to the agency, and the agency sustained the budget reduction which further reduced the unobligated balance in the Fund that was previously available for funding a variety of projects that benefited the State's Saltwater Recreational Fishery.

Biennial Budget

	2019 General Fund	2019 Nongeneral Fund	2020 General Fund	2020 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	220,000	0	220,000
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**



**Administrative and Support Services [599]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This service area contains the areas of finance, budgeting, grants management, administration, procurement, business management, human resources, information technology for agency business systems, and licensing services. It also supports the agency head and the advisory board of the Marine Resources Commission (MRC).

**Mission Alignment**

The Administration and Support Services area provides support to the other agency divisions that regulate and manage the tidal fisheries and their habitat. Financial, business, information technology and human resource management are critical to agency performance.

Title 28.2 - Fisheries and Habitat of the Tidal Waters

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Products / Services					
Product / Service	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority	Required Or Discretionary	GF	NGF
License Sales and administration.	§ 28.2-201		Discretionary	281,292	85,000
Financial stewardship – to include accounts payable and receivable, budgeting preparation and execution, financial analyses and projections, grants management, internal auditing, financial reporting and reconciliation	§ 28.2-104		Required	746,362	36,596
All aspects of agency business management	§ 28.2-104		Required	150,022	0
Procurement	§ 28.2-104		Required	150,022	0
Human Resources services	§ 28.2-104		Required	243,790	0
Compliance with all State and federal laws and regulations	§ 28.2-104		Required	225,033	0
Computer business applications and security	§ 28.2-104		Required	742,446	0
Risk management	§ 28.2-104		Required	18,753	0
Leasing services	§ 28.2-104		Required	18,753	0
Internal controls and internal auditing	§ 28.2-104		Required	37,506	0
Preparation and execution of agency Strategic Plan	§ 28.2-104		Required	3,750	0

**Anticipated Changes**

None are known at this time.

**Factors Impacting**

There are continuously new state and federal performance and accountability requirements that impact all of the wide-ranging areas of responsibility overseen and performed by the staff in this service area, however no additional resources are available to assist with implementation, performance, records maintenance, training, continuity of performance standards etc. In addition, there are increased demands within the agency for services from the employees of this particular service area as demands are made by our constituents.

## Financial Overview

This service area is primarily general funded (\$2,567,729 in year one and \$2,617,729 in year two) and supports seventeen FTE's and their associated support costs to include staff in the Administration and Finance Division, the agency's Human Resources Division, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and supporting staff, and the agency Business Systems Applications staff. A small amount of funding is allocated from the sale of commercial fishing licenses (\$85,000) to support the salary and fringe benefits cost of one FTE in accounting who works with the commercial fishing license program and a small amount of support is received from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Fund (\$36,596), to support work done to administer projects from this fund.

Monies are budgeted in this service area for the entire general fund portion of the Marine Resources Commission costs for: telecommunications services, the rent fees for the agency's headquarters facility which houses all agency employees except those field personnel whose homes serve as their base points and also contains all of the general fund monies budgeted for the agency's assessed Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA) in-scope services monthly charges. Funds approved by the General Assembly in the 2018 Special Session include \$52,000 for information technology upgrades for the agency.

As part of the Commonwealth's plan to utilize the publically owned lands at Fort Monroe, the headquarters of the agency moved to that location in January of 2019. It is the intent of the General Assembly that all operational assets of the Commission, including but not limited to communications, dispatch, and marine equipment storage be co-located as a part of the relocation project. The General Assembly provided \$175,000 in FY 2019 and \$225,000 in FY 2020 in support for relocation costs of the current operations facility located at 30 Jefferson Avenue.

### Biennial Budget

	<b>2019 General Fund</b>	<b>2019 Nongeneral Fund</b>	<b>2020 General Fund</b>	<b>2020 Nongeneral Fund</b>
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	2,567,729	121,596	2,617,729	121,596
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

## Supporting Documents

**Title** **File Type**