

**Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
- April 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: April 18, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Ellen Brody, Tane Casserley, Mark Lasavio, Pam Orlando, Paul “Sammy” Orlando, Jean Prevo, Shannon Ricles

SAC Members: Eileen Abel, Lee DeCola, Jay Haigler, Dan Hamilton, Carolin McManus, Alan Miller, Maggie Ostdahl, Chad Tokowicz, Lucille Walker

SAC Alternates: Susan Gerbasi, Margo Jackson, Lolita Kiorpes, Phillip DePalo, Sara Ramotnik, Anne Stark, Ruth Toomey, Bill Utley

Government Agency and Tribe Members: Daryl Anthony (MD DNR), Timm Drummond, Elizabeth Hughes (MD Dept of Planning), Mario Harley (Piscataway Conoy Tribe),

Guests: Megan Ossman, Ryan Abrahamsen, Bandon R (Destination Southern MD)

Media: N/A

WELCOME & SAC BUSINESS:

Eileen Abel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Eileen introduced Phil DePalo the new Recreation alternate.

Dan Hamilton motioned to approve the February 7, 2022, meeting minutes. Jay Haigler seconded and the meeting minutes were approved by the entire council. The minutes are available on the website <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-potomac/involved/meetings.html>.

Mallows Bay NMS is currently recruiting for the following positions on the council:

- Business & Economic Development – alternate
- Citizen-at-Large – alternate
- Recreational Fishing – alternate
- Research, Science & Technology – alternate
- Youth – member and alternate

The deadline for applications was originally April 15, but has been extended until **May 31, 2022**. If you know anyone that is interested please direct them to <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-potomac/involved/recruitment.html> or have them contact jean.prevo@noaa.gov.

PROPOSED LAKE ONTARIO NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY – Ellen Brody, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, Eastern Region Office

The Lake Ontario Sanctuary nomination was submitted by four counties and the City of Oswego, with support from State of New York and focused on maritime heritage resources (shipwrecks, aircraft, historic artifacts.)

Lake Ontario is significant to the region’s maritime heritage because it was a gateway to the Great Lakes.

The community laid out the following goals for the proposed sanctuary:

- Protection and interpretation of maritime heritage resources
- Partnerships
- Education
- Research
- Tourism
- Economic development

The official designation process was started in 2019. NOAA is considering two possible boundaries for the proposed sanctuary. Alternative 1 boundary encompasses a portion of eastern Lake Ontario and a segment of the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River, while Alternative 2 only encompasses the same portion of eastern Lake Ontario. The same proposed management plan and regulations would apply to both alternatives. NOAA has not selected a preferred alternative and is requesting public comment on a boundary for the proposed sanctuary.

Boundary Alternative 1 - 64 known shipwrecks, 20 potential shipwrecks, 1 known aircraft, 3 potential aircraft

Boundary Alternative 2 – 43 known shipwrecks, 20 potential shipwrecks, 1 known aircraft, 3 potential aircraft

A pre-designation sanctuary advisory council was formed in 2019. Some of the council’s accomplishments are:

- Writing and passing a resolution on the Draft Management Plan
- Snowtown Film Festival partnership with Thunder Bay International Film Festival
- Winter/Spring Lecture Series
- Brainstorming future partnership opportunities
- Connecting Lake Ontario communities

Some of the values expressed by their advisory council are place-based education, maritime heritage tourism, stewardship, and exploration and discovery.

Designation Process Steps:

- Scoping – 2019
- Sanctuary Proposal – Summer 2021
- Public Review – Summer 2021
- Sanctuary Designation – hoping early 2023

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published last summer. The next phase is publishing a proposed Rule. The Rule is currently in clearance and hoping it will be published this summer. This process includes another public comment period. Once that is complete the EIS and the Rule would be finalized and Lake Ontario would become a sanctuary.

Tane Casserley spoke about the connection between Monitor NMS and Syracuse, New York. Monitor NMS has a heritage trail sign system along the eastern seaboard. One of these trail signs is in Syracuse. The USS *Onondaga* which was a later *Monitor* type war ship was named for the Onondaga Nation in Syracuse. The ship was designed based on the *Monitor's* design. The sign tells the story of the USS *Onondaga* and its connection to the USS *Monitor*.

The Mallows Bay advisory discussed passing a resolution or drafting a letter in support of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. Eileen Abel and Dan Hamilton will draft the letter, make the draft letter available to the council via email or google docs prior to the meeting and give members a couple of weeks to review and provide comments. Then a vote on the final support letter will be held at the June meeting.

Dan Hamilton motioned that a draft letter of support be prepared, Lucille Walker seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

2022 – WHAT'S NEXT?

Prior to the meeting a google poll was sent out with the topics from last meeting's What's Next discussion. (See poll results attached). Eileen went over some of the top items chosen.

Learn:

The highest priority under the learn category was to learn more about the cultural history of Mallows Bay. Members were given the opportunity to weigh in on what does that mean to you? Do you see this as a training activity or more of an individual conversation?

The second most popular in the survey under the learn category was best practices from other sanctuaries. A couple of ways we can accomplish this goal is to invite people from other sanctuaries to our meetings or we could attend their virtual SAC meetings

The best practices would really be helpful to determine who is doing what well. How do we emulate what they are doing so we aren't reinventing the wheel? It would help to see how the other successful sites operate. Sammy will help identify some of the successful sites and invite some of those folks to attend our meetings.

The third priority for the Learn section was the ecology at Mallows Bay. Examples shared were more about global sea level rise and the impacts at Mallows Bay.

Need to look at how we move forward and the kind of things we want to do to enrich the experience of others.

The top five priorities in the Do category were:

1. Open house or event at Mallows Bay Park to reinvigorate the community
2. Education and outreach events
3. Develop a concept plan for the Park
4. *Get into your Sanctuary* day event at Mallows Bay
5. SAC Paddle/SAC Hike

The possibility of a SAC kayak and hiking event this summer was discussed. Staff will check the calendar, talk to the DNR and get something on the calendar.

We will continue these discussions at future meetings.

SANCTUARY VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES:

Staff previewed a virtual experience prototype that has been developed in partnership with Terrain 360 and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The virtual experience is designed to bring Mallows Bay to the people that can't be there in person. It breaks down all of the barriers and allows people to immerse themselves in it. This virtual experience creates a lot of potential for economic and tourism opportunities. It's a product that can be brought to public venues that people can visit from the comfort of their own cell phone or computer screen.

This product was created by looking back at the different types of paddle tours that have been given at Mallows Bay that were tailored to each group that visited – history, ecology, fishing, climate change and heritage. This platform brings multiple experiences to the public.

Mark Losavio and Ryan Abrahamsen walked through the virtual experience and the interactive map which will be available soon. The homepage contains the welcome 360 video, safety information, current weather conditions and a link to the Eyes of the Bay Buoy.

The virtual trail map contains layers of content – shipwrecks, historical photos, audio clips, oral histories, etc. The map will also include the hiking trails at Mallows Bay Park.

The platform will also integrate iNaturalist data into some of the two-dimensional maps.

This virtual tour will be on the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's website. Hope to have a soft release within the next few weeks. There are also plans to convert it to an app.

By hosting it on the Foundation's website it gives more flexibility for adding data and making changes. Also allows for it to be linked to other websites to help promote tourism. Once it is released the staff will definitely be seeking feedback from the council including ideas on when, where and how to use this tool.

ROV WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

Education Working Group – Shannon Ricles

The education working group met last week to introduce summer interns Gabriel McDaniel and Trinity Gbla. Both interns are undergraduates. Gabriel will be focused on the environmental camp for diverse and underserved students. The camp will be hosted during the week of July 25-29. Trinity will be creating an ROV summer camp for diverse and underserved students in middle and high schools. That camps will be hosted at the Monitor NMS this year but would like to grow these programs to be able to host at Mallows in future years. The education working group will be instrumental in helping the interns develop the camps and helping identify the students.

SANCTUARY UPDATES

Mallows Bay will be hosting 15 graduate students from East Carolina University for a field school mid-May through early June. They will be doing work in and around the sanctuary which includes research on the vessels, the interplay with the ecology, climate change, and biocorrosion and the rate of degradation of the vessels.

Megan Ossmann will be joining the Mallows Bay team next week as the first official employee. Megan was hired as a Science Research, Partnerships and Interpretation Specialist. She is coming from the Chesapeake Bay program where she provided staff support for coastal conservation and restoration activities.

SAC ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS:

Dan Hamilton shared that this week is Chesapeake Bay week on Maryland Public TV. Also, April 22nd is Earth Day. Plant a tree do something special for Mallows Bay.

Mark Losavio mentioned a social media event for the City Nature Challenge, that happens the week after Earth Day. Mallows Bay actually falls into DC's area for data collection. The link is <https://citynaturechallengedc.org/>.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURN: Lolita Kiorpes motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lee DeCola seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next regular meeting is **June 27, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

Links shared in Chat Box:

More info about Proposed Lake Ontario NMS: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario/>

Upcoming 2022 Meetings & Events:

- June 19 Juneteenth at MBP
- June 25 Pride paddle at MBP
- June 27 SAC Meeting
- September 12 SAC Meeting
- September 25 Blue Star Families at MBP
- December 5 SAC Meeting

2022 Priorities

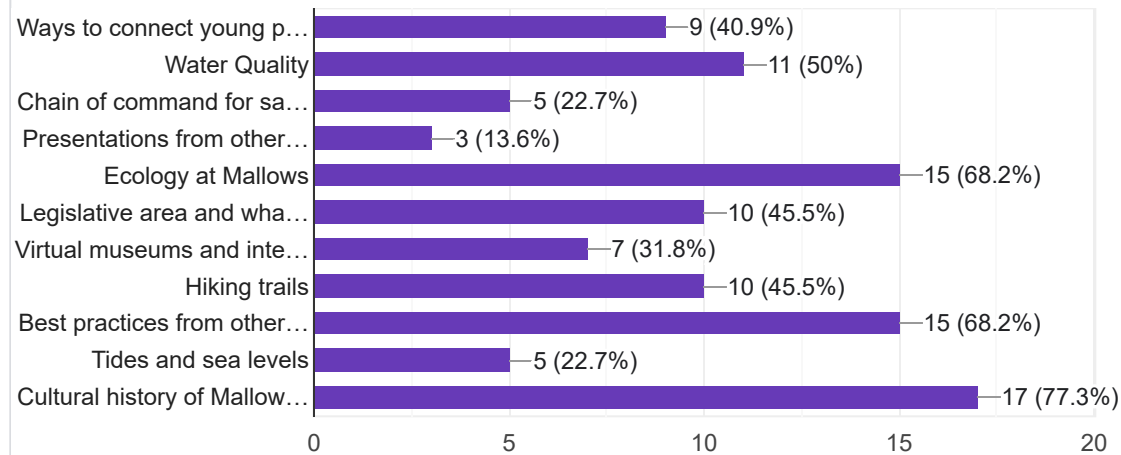
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LEARN: Please choose your top 5

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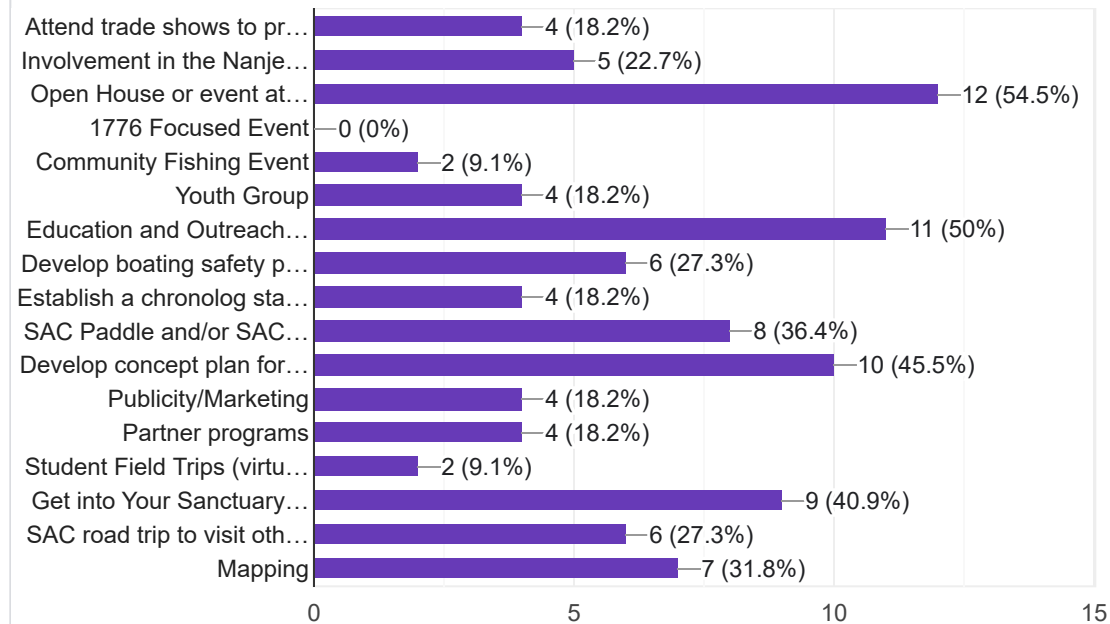
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DO: Please choose your top 5

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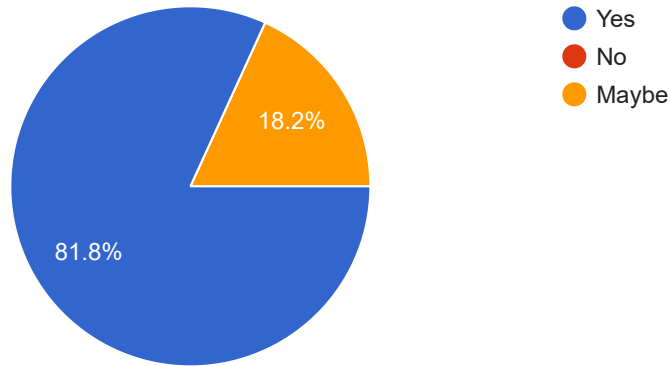
22 responses



For the items you chose "To Do" will you plan to participate in the event?



22 responses



Is there an event you would be willing to run? Please provide details.

10 responses

Study of future sea level.

As needed.

Not sure-- co-run, assist --perhaps. I have run programs down at the park for years-- but haven't for the last 3.

Training Staff, Youth programs, hiking trail work

Paddle

Being on the other side of the Potomac, we provide the opportunity to explore the western side of the sanctuary. This would definitely include paddle trips.

Maybe assist with establishing a youth group

Education and Water quality

Will assist in paddling events at Mallows

I would love to be helpful with any of the above events, please just let me know!

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