

**Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council  
- June 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes-**

**Date: June 27, 2022**

**Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**Location: Google Meet**

**Meeting Attendees**

**NOAA:** Russ Green, Mark Losavio, Paul “Sammy” Orlando, Megan Ossmann, Jean Prevo, Shannon Ricles, Will Sassorossi

**SAC Members:** Lee DeCola, Jay Haigler, Dan Hamilton, Carolin McManus, Maggie Ostdahl, Joanne Roland, John Stefancik, Lucille Walker, Deanna Wheeler

**SAC Alternates:** Lolita Kiorpes, Anne Stark, Ruth Toomey, Bill Utley, Sharee Williamson

**Government Agency and Tribe Members:** Paul Anderson (State of VA), Daryl Anthony (MD DNR), Sam Drury (Charles County), Shaka Hill (USCG), Susan Langley (MD Dept of Planning), Elizabeth Moore (State of VA)

**Guests:** Warren Brown (National Parks Service), Nathan Richards, Dan O’Brien, Morgan Burger, Brandon Rosario (Destination Southern Maryland)

**Media:** None

**WELCOME & SAC BUSINESS:**

Vice-Chair Dan Hamilton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Joanne Roland motioned to approve the April 18, 2022, meeting minutes. Maggie Ostdahl 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>. Lee DeCola created a different version of the bar charts from the poll data shared in the April minutes that he feels is easier to read. Jean will send out Lee’s version of the poll results with the minutes from this meeting.

The recruitment period for the open alternate seats will be extended. Those positions are:  
Business & Economic Development - alternate  
Citizen-at-Large - alternate

Recreational Fishing - alternate  
Research, Science and Technology - alternate  
Youth – alternate

Jean will send out the new deadline. Please help recruit folks you know that may be interested in participating.

During the April meeting the council discussed drafting a resolution in support of the designation of the proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA is about to release their recommendation for the proposed sanctuary and at that time will invite public comment. Therefore, the council decided to hold off on voting on a resolution until NOAA's official position is released and the public comment period is open. The resolution will be revisited at the next council meeting.

### **SANCTUARY UPDATES:**

#### **Summer Camps – Shannon Ricles**

July 25-27, 2022, 10am-2pm – Free summer camp to be hosted at Port Tobacco Recreation Center. Middle school students will have the opportunity to learn about water quality, chemistry, pollution, marine careers and the environment in and around the sanctuary. Monday and Tuesday the camp will be held at Port Tobacco, Wednesday the camp will be onsite at Mallows Bay Park.

July 18-20, 2022 – Free summer ROV camp will be hosted at the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia. Middle school students will be given the opportunity to learn how ROVs are used to study the ocean and the cutting-edge technology that NOAA uses. They will also learn about the many career opportunities in science and within NOAA. This ROV camp will be offered at Mallows in future years. Please contact [Shannon.ricles@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.ricles@noaa.gov) for more information about either of these camps.

The council requested a recap of these camps at the September 12 meeting.

#### **East Carolina University Field School – Dr. Nathan Richards, Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History East Carolina University**

May 18 through June 12, 2022, East Carolina University (ECU) led a field school with nine graduate students at Mallows Bay. The field school included partners from Maryland Historical Trust, NOAA's Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program, Charles County's Department of Parks and Recreation, Melwood Recreation Center and US Forest Service's Forest Products Lab.

ECU runs two field schools annually and are one of the main training organizations for maritime archaeologists in the nation. The summer field school is their introduction field school and their advanced field school is held during the fall semester.

Six-week summer session:

- 3-4 weeks of fieldwork (schedule depends on location)
- 1 week of prep, drills, orientation
- 1 week of breakdown
- Research ongoing – try to integrate thesis research into the field schools

The primary focus of the field school at Mallows was the *Aowa* wreck. The plan is to do a long-term project on the *Aowa* so they did a very detailed site plan using traditional recording methodologies, which produced a 12-foot site plan, extensive photography, profile drawings and timber sampling for species analysis. The samples that came back from the US Forest Service lab confirm the identity of the *Aowa* which says that it was predominantly southern yellow pine and the stern post came back as white oak which corresponds with the historical records.

PhD student Allison Ropp will be using the *Aowa* for her dissertation so she will be one of the main recipients of the data collected during this project. She is interested in long-term preservation, stability and integrity, in particular the factors of climate change. She has carried out extensive microbial sampling of the wreck, along with soil samples from around the site. Her intention is to continue sampling the site over the next three to four years to see what factors are affecting the preservation of the wrecks in Mallows Bay.

The students were also able to do some photomodeling. Currently, ECU is not allowed to use drones so they used running transects around the *Aowa* to create a 3d printable model. Dr. Richards will try to print some copies to send to the council.

There are two additional thesis studies that will be developed from the work this summer. Dr. Erin Field (ECU Biology) is an expert in microbial influenced corrosion and she has students that will be looking at the microbial influenced corrosion on the *Accomac*. Also did a 3d model while they were on the site.

Also looking at two other alternative sites that were suggested by the sanctuary team, including the *Bayou Teche*. Didn't have time to do a full-scale drawing of the *Bayou Teche*, so they did a smaller scale drawing, some photography and timber species analysis. The timber sampling came back as douglas fir so not sure that it actually is the *Bayou Teche* which was built in Louisiana and should be made of southern yellow pine. They will be doing more research on this to see if there isn't something in the historical record which can clarify their findings.

Dan Hamilton suggested doing a lunch and learn with Dr. Richards to learn more about their projects.

### **Mallows Bay Bio Blitz - Megan Ossmann, Research, Partnerships, and Interpretation Specialist**

Mallows Bay NMS is applying for grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Outreach and Restoration Program to host a bio blitz at Mallows Bay next year. A bio blitz is a community science effort to record as many species as possible within a designated location and time period. The bio blitz typically uses the iNaturalist app, which is a social network of naturalists, community scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe.

It works by taking a picture of the organism observed in the field and uploading it to iNaturalist where it is recorded as an observation and shared with the rest of the online community. If you don't know what you are observing you can crowdsource within the community to help identify the species. As of right now Mallows Bay has 550 observations of almost 300 species in the area recorded by 74 different observers.

Why is this needed? It will help create a baseline site characterization of Mallows Bay. Having more data will help with research needs – understanding more about the species abundance and distribution in the area, invasive species, climate changes impact, and ships as habitat. It will also be helpful for expanding interpretation materials and programming. Also, a great way to engage with local communities and strengthen partnerships.

Proposing a series of bio blitz events in April, July and October 2023. Ideally, there will be NOAA staff and partners on hand to engage with participants through hikes and guided tours for deeper engagement. Planning to have it align with the City Nature Challenge – Washington DC Metro Area in the spring and have the Mallows bio blitz listed as a field event, which would hopefully increase participation. Also looking to engage partners.

Grant funding will help cover the costs of the kayaks during the event, refreshments, promotional materials and supplies.

Looking for the council to support by volunteering to lead guided hikes and kayak tours, promote the event through their partner organizations, support in planning and executing the events and letters of support.

The grant application is due August 10. Megan will send information to the council members that volunteered to provide letters of support.

### **June Events Recap & Blue Star Families Event – Mark Losavio**

**Juneteenth** - On June 19, the sanctuary partnered with Blue Star families to host an event to honor and commemorate Juneteenth. There were just over 100 people in attendance. The event included two kayak tours with Atlantic Kayak Company. The Monitor and Mallows staff were there with their outreach activities, including the virtual reality goggles with the 360 video.

**Pride in the Ocean** - On June 23, hosted the first Pride in the Ocean virtual career panel in conjunction with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Featured people in the LGBTQ community that work in the ocean related field. 175 people registered across seven countries.

**Pride Day at Mallows Bay** – Monitor and Mallows staff provided outreach activities and also partnered with other organizations to provide additional activities. The event included guided birding and kayak tours. Park officials estimated that there were roughly 250 visitors during the day.

### **Sanctuary and Co-Management Update**

Terrain 360 information is now on the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation website found [here](#). Feel free to share this and provide feedback of how it could be made more useful. Off and running on the next version of this that will include ecology.

Daryl Anthony, Maryland DNR - Received great feedback from the last event. Thank you to all that put that together.

Susan Langley, Maryland Dept of Planning – She has been talking to Tane Casserley about buying some of the Oculus so they can show off the 360 video. Going to feature the virtual tour at the annual Public Archaeology Workshop on August 27.

Sam Drury, Charles County – Charles County is excited to further expand partnerships and activities. Bringing some additional summer programs out to the park and to Port Tobacco. The tourism office is working with Sammy to bring Mallows Bay information to Maryland Association of Counties to show the local governments everything the sanctuary has to offer.

### **CONSIDERATIONS FOR IN-PERSON SAC MEETINGS:**

The council had the opportunity to discuss and share their thoughts about having an in-person meeting on September 12. It was suggested that the council come to the park earlier in the day for an activity (either a hike or a kayak) and then hold the business meeting at the end. If the weather didn't allow, we would plan for a virtual meeting.

Jean will send out a poll to get a better idea of how many members are interested in this idea and would be planning to attend. More details to follow.

**SAC ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS:**

Morgan Burger shared about her experience attending Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) for the first time. Enjoyed being able to hear what everyone was doing globally from different industries and viewpoints. Her biggest takeaway is everyone is struggling to communicate to the public what they are doing and how to translate this scientific language to public understanding.

Lolita Kiorpes attended CHOW virtually. Sessions were really good and appreciated the opportunity to attend virtually.

Jay Haigler attended the CHOW gala where Diving with a Purpose was awarded the Sanctuary Wavemaker Award. Jay accepted the award on their behalf. Jay has been talking with Sammy and Tane about bringing his organizations Force Blue and Diving with a Purpose to Mallows Bay.

The recordings and photos from CHOW can be found [here](#).

Brandon Rosario with Destination Southern Maryland, also known as the Southern Maryland Heritage Area attended the meeting in place of their executive director Lucille Walker. Brandon provided a quick update about the progress in seeking to designate Southern Maryland as a National Heritage Area. The legislation has passed through all House and Senate committees and sub-committees favorably, and is now awaiting a floor hearing in the Senate. Mallows Bay has been an incredibly important partner through this process, and will continue to be a primary component once we achieve this National Designation.

Ruth Toomey – The cover of this year’s Charles County Visitors Guide features Mallows Bay. The magazine can be found [here](#). Visitor and welcome centers across the state should have hard copies available.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Morgan Burger is available for volunteering if anyone has anything. She has been doing a lot of photography. Feel free to email her.

Mark Losavio - There is currently a competition for the Get Into Your Sanctuary Photo Contest. Photo contest is useful for us as an outreach tool and is a great way to bring Mallows Bay to the national forefront, winners get published in the sanctuary yearly magazine. More information can be found [here](#).

**ADJOURN:** Lolita Kiorpes motioned to adjourn the meeting and Maggie Ost Dahl seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **September 12, 2022**.

**Links shared in Chat Box:**

Terrain 360 Video: <https://mallowsbay.marinesanctuary.org/>

CHOW 2022: <https://marinesanctuary.org/chow-2022-archive/>

Force Blue: <https://forceblueteam.org/>

City Nature Challenge: <https://citynaturechallengedc.org/>

Discover Charles County Magazine: <https://www.paperturn-view.com/?pid=MjM234316&v=1.1>

Sanctuary Photo Contest: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photo-contest.html>

**Upcoming 2022 Meetings & Events:**

September 12 SAC Meeting

September 25 Blue Star Families at MBP

December 5 SAC Meeting