

**Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
March 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 6, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual – Google Meets

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Mark Losavio, Paul “Sammy” Orlando, Megan Ossmann, and Shannon Ricles

SAC Members: Eileen Abel, Dan Hamilton, Jay Haigler, Bill Utley, Alan Miller, Maggie Ostdahl, Lee De Cola, Bill Kilinski, Anne (Youth Seat)

SAC Alternates: Bill Utley, Sharee Williamson, Sara Ramotnik, Lolita Kiorpes, Anne Stark, Erin (Youth Seat)

Government Agency and Tribe Members: Mario Harley (Piscataway Conoy Tribe), Elizabeth Hughes (MD Dept. of Planning), Tim Drummond (Charles County), Paul Anderson (Commonwealth of VA), Sam Drury (Charles County), LCDR Shaka Hill (US Coast Guard)

Guests: Joe and Shelly Perrie (Atlantic Kayak), Carl Sharp (Charles County Rec and Parks), Amy Greene (University of Maryland), Christine Burns (Coastal Planner)

WELCOME:

Eileen Abel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Able asked if there were any members of the public who would like to make a comment.

- There were no public comments.

SAC BUSINESS

Eileen asked for a motion to approve the December 5, 2022, meeting minutes. Shannon noted that Susan Langley had made a minor edit to the minutes to delete the summer field school for 2023. Dan Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Jay Haigler seconded the motion. 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>.

Eileen explained that for the upcoming meetings in June and October that a change of venue had been suggested. One option is to host a meeting at the museum in Annapolis. Several of the SAC members agreed with the idea. Eileen said that another option might be to host a family day at the aquarium on a Saturday or Sunday and have a short business meeting before or after. Several SAC members also liked the idea. It was agreed that Shannon is to send out a Doodle Poll to gauge SAC members interest and availability. Eileen pointed out that with every venue, we have to make a reservation and there may be a cost associated with it. Therefore, it is important to know whether or not people want to do this and will commit.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LAKE ONTARIO

Eileen reminded everyone that the SAC had received an email with the letter of support drafted by Dan for the proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. In a presentation to the SAC, Eileen showed a map of the proposed sanctuary area. She said that this nomination was a community-based process just like the one that Mallows went through to be designated. This is the third sanctuary to go through this type of nomination process. It is being proposed that 1,700 square miles, bordering four counties, with 21 known shipwrecks and one aircraft become a sanctuary. The area is historically significant and this site will be the third sanctuary in the Great Lakes region with one in three of the five Great Lakes. It will give the sites opportunity to share stories between the sites and honor the heritage of the indigenous people of the area as well. Eileen showed a [video about the proposed sanctuary](#) in Lake Ontario.

Eileen thanked Dan for drafting the letter and reiterated that she hoped everyone found the time to review it. She said that NOAA looks favorably on letters of support from sanctuary advisory councils of other sites. She then opened the floor to questions, comments, and suggestions regarding the letter.

Discussion

- Lee DeCola asked if there are any natural features under threat? Eileen said that she had not yet read the DEIS. Sammy explained that Lake Ontario is similar to Mallows Bay in that is set up around shipwrecks and maritime heritage. As in Mallows, where all natural resources are overseen by the Maryland and Virginia DNR, it is the same with Lake Ontario. Therefore, the sanctuary is not addressing natural resources. He said that there is no denying that water quality has an effect on shipwrecks, but this sanctuary will mirror Thunder Bay, Wisconsin, Mallows, and Monitor sanctuaries. Eileen said that Bill Crist, Chair for Lake Ontario, said this area is huge for fishing and diving.
- Bill Kilinski said that as the commercial fishing seat, he liked what Sammy said. He asked if the watermen and fishermen have been involved in Lake Ontario. Sammy said that they have and that the sanctuary has commercial and recreational fishing sets, along with diving and other outdoor recreation. There are a lot of user groups involved and the site has had numerous public scoping meeting and a public comment period. He said that

the sanctuary would be open just like Mallows and it's all about the wrecks. Bill said that if the name was changed from "sanctuary" it might not be so controversial when a person hears about a proposed sanctuary. Eileen said that she also had to explain during her Hill visit that sanctuary does not mean exclusive, but rather it is open to all activities and people are welcomed.

- Bill Utley said that the zebra mussel is the greatest threat.
- Maggie agreed that "sanctuary" is a loaded word, but that Congress is to blame for it as it is the National Marine Sanctuary Act.
- Eileen said that it is supposed to protect but not exclude.

Dan Hamilton made a motion to submit the letter of support for Lake Ontario to NOAA. Lolita Kiorpes seconded the motion. Eileen did a rollcall vote and there were 11 yes votes and no votes opposed. Voting members included Jay Haigler, Bill Utley, Sharee Williamson, Sara Ramotnik, Alan Miller, Dan Hamilton, Maggie Ostdahl, Eileen Abel, Lee DeCola, Bill Kilinski, and Anne Stark. Eileen thanked everyone for passing the SAC's first official business. See Appendix A for a copy of the letter of support for Lake Ontario.

SAC UPDATES:

- Eileen reminded everyone how important it is to connect with your communities and to share any events that might be of interest to the SAC and perhaps support each other's events. She explained that the sanctuary staff is exploring better ways to share those ideas and opportunities as well as grant funding available.
- Dan asked if the council had been introduced to Shannon as the new SAC coordinator and Eileen asked Sammy to explain the changes.
- Sammy said that Jean Prevo served for several years as the SAC Coordinator for Mallows, but she is now working with the Wisconsin sanctuary as they begin to have their first official SAC meeting. Jean will be working to get them organized and up to speed. Shannon Ricles stepped in to replace Jean. She has years of experience as the former SAC coordinator for Monitor NMS that she brings to the table and will help to make the change as seamless as possible.
- Eileen said that Shannon will send an email to the SAC with grant information. This document will be updated quarterly and resent as needed. Eileen said that if anyone wants to solicit a grant, Mallows will support however best they can. Eileen said that if your work or volunteer interests have an interest in a grant to let the sanctuary staff know. She reminded everyone that connecting the sanctuary to the community depends on them and that is why they are here.
- **Capitol Hill Testimony** – Eileen told the group that on Wednesday, March 1, she went to Capitol Hill at the invitation of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to educate Congressional staff on the importance of sanctuaries in the community. She explained that she had help from many different people as she crafted her message. Eileen presented

a slideshow that she had shared during her testimony. See Appendix B for Eileen's full testimony.

Eileen also shared a link in the chat box and invited each member of the SAC to click on that link to see if their representative is a member of the [National Marine Sanctuaries Caucus](#). And if they are not, then click to send them an invite to join.

Sammy called out Eileen for her efforts and said that it is a big deal that we have a caucus in Congress. He reminded everyone that Congress passes the budget – our budget – and our budget relies on Congress knowing about sanctuaries in their communities. They are the tip of the spear. Sammy explained that to have Eileen and Bill Crist from Lake Ontario asked to come and represent all of you is an enormous deal. It also shows the commitment of her time, and he thanked everyone who gave input. He said that this is a bipartisan caucus and thanked everyone for considering to ask their representative to join. He again thanked Eileen.

Eileen said that she had also shared Terrain-360 with Congress and the 3D models that are being created as she emphasized how wonderful it would be to have a visitor center for Mallows Bay just 40 miles from Washington DC, where visitors could virtually visit all sanctuaries.

Dan thanked Eileen and said that he read her testimony and realized that a lot of work went into writing it. He asked for a copy of the testimony could be included in the minutes. (See Appendix B.) He reminded SAC members that the group has to work to reach the community. The group must do their own outreach. Dan encouraged everyone to hit that link that Eileen shared and get the word out there about the sanctuaries.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE – Sammy Orlando

- Welcome message. Sammy thanked everyone for coming. He said that there was no update on the visitor center, however, the sanctuary is expected to receive funds for the center, but just not yet.
- Christine Burns, a coastal planner, joined DNR with the Coastal Training program, Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Research.
- Amy Green (Guest), University of Maryland, introduced herself on the call and expressed her interest to possibly join the SAC. Amy teaches environmental literacy to pre-service and in-service teachers. She has been involved with NOAA and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in a variety of capacities, such as webinar series, collaborated on a B-WET program with an indigenous perspective, and more. She indicated that she had reached out to Shannon Ricles to inquire about applying for a seat on the council and for other ways to be involved. Sammy thanked her for interest and said that she is excited to see new energy and excitement and that MD DNR and the Chesapeake Bay program are great partners.

- Joe and Shelly Perri, Atlantic Kayak, are working to get as many people as possible out on the water from May 1 to October 31. Sammy thanked Joe and Shelly for all the work they do to make the sanctuary accessible to many.
- Sammy said that the sanctuary finally received a budget on March 1. He explained that in the budget was money to build a field operations center and is working with Charles County to build it. The building will allow staff to store supplies and equipment within a short distance from the sanctuary. The funding will go to the county and they will contract out the construction of the building.
- Sammy said that there were several upcoming summer events that he hoped SAC members would participate in. Mark Losavio, MPNMS media and outreach coordinator, is working with Joe and Shelly on a Pride event at Mattawoman. He said that he really encourages SAC members to connect to their community and come out to support this event and others.
- Working as one unit (Monitor and Mallows), Sammy explained that we are including updates concerning work and events at the Monitor NMS as much of it parallels with Mallows. There are a lot of activities that could be done at Mallows, and they are at the bottom of the agenda.

Terrain 360 Update

- Megan Ossmann, research specialist for the sanctuaries, gave an update on Terrain 360. She explained that with the earmark from Congress, the site is being divided into various themes. Currently, maritime heritage and ecology are the main themes. She explained that there will be three hiking trails and one water trail added.

Megan said that Lynn Wheeler, bird expert, walked the trails with her and noted points of interest to see and observe birds. They took GPS coordinates and video of Lynn as she talked about the birds. Megan said that she has pulled out the most interesting points to make a nature loop. She also explained that she hopes more experts will offer their time and expertise to fill in the gaps. Megan then showed examples of the text and images, along with video and audio clips that will be used.

For the next steps, Megan explained that they will continue to develop the trails consulting with various experts to incorporate more information into each trail. There will also be additional interpretive and public outreach products. She asked for anyone interested in sharing their expertise to contact her.

Megan also talked about the upcoming BioBlitz on April 29 and shared the flyer with the group. She asked for everyone to please share it with their networks.

Discussion:

- Christine Burns, DNR, said that they may have contacts to help. She said that they may have a Mallows Bay SAV guide as well. In addition, Christine said that it would be exciting to include climate resilience messaging and that she is willing to help.
- Carl Sharp, Charles County, said that he would love to walk the trail with Megan to show her Rippling Waters and that she has to experience it to understand.
- Lollita said that she is interested in going on a paddle or hike with her students to give feedback and suggestions on the T360 trails. She said she could make it possible if there was funding for bus or canoes. Sammy said that he liked the idea of students being our beta testers to see if it reaches the youth, and if not, then what would?
- Shelley and Joe, Atlantic Kayak, said that they remembered taking canoes out before the designation, and that community minded locals would love to work with the sanctuary. Add macros to T360 – what they are and what they turn into. Show the real progression through summer. Also, they are trying to get kids with disabilities on the water to understand and appreciate the beauty of the sanctuary.
- Lollita said that she does a macro collection with her students.
- Eileen reminded everyone that there is a BioBlitz at Mallows Bay on April 29. She asked Anne and Amy to share with their schools.
- Bill Utley said that perhaps the sanctuary could do a photo contest in association with the BioBlitz.
- Sammy said for everyone to look for ways to connect to the sanctuary and reach out to Megan with your ideas.

ADJOURN: As there was no other business, a motioned was made by Mario Harley and seconded by Dan Hamilton to adjourn the meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on June 5. Stand by for more details to come.

Upcoming 2023 Meetings & Events:

- March 11 – Battle of Hampton Roads at The Mariners’ Museum and Park, Newport News, VA
- Earth Day – April 22, 2023
- BioBlitz – April 29, 2023
- June – LGBTQ Pride Month
- SAC Meeting – June 5, 2023
- BioBlitz – September 9, 2023
- SAC Meeting – September 11, 2023
- SAC Meeting – December 4, 2023

Appendix A

Letter of Support for the
Proposed Lake Ontario
Sanctuary

March 7, 2023

John Armor, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282

Dear Mr. Armor,

The Sanctuary Advisory Council of the Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary enthusiastically supports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) proposal to designate a new National Marine Sanctuary in New York's eastern Lake Ontario.

Whereas, the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Mallows Bay-Potomac River agrees that the designation of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary (LONMS) would ensure the proper management and preservation of nationally significant maritime heritage resources, including historic shipwrecks; such designation would also promote and facilitate research, education and community involvement. Additionally, we support the concept that NOAA would co-manage the LONMS with New York State; and

Whereas, the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Mallows Bay-Potomac River notes that Eastern Lake Ontario represents a diverse array of important events in our Nation's history including military conflicts, maritime innovation, and American expansion to the west. The eastern corridor is one of the most historically significant regions in the Great Lakes and the country. This area has been critical to maritime trade and transportation for centuries, beginning with the canoes and boats of early Indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Mallows Bay-Potomac River also agrees that the designation of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary would demonstrate resolve and a commitment to honor the Indigenous people and nations who were the original stewards of Lake Ontario; and

Whereas, the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Mallows Bay-Potomac River is confident that establishing a national marine sanctuary in eastern Lake Ontario would: (a) allow NOAA to complement and supplement existing state and Federal efforts to protect underwater cultural and historical resources and actively manage, study, and interpret them for the public; (b) through outreach and communication, recognize and promote this area's nationally significant historical and cultural properties; (c) provide access to NOAA's extended network of scientific expertise and technological resources, enhance ongoing research, and provide an umbrella for the coordination of these activities; (d) create and build upon existing

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Education Seats

Eileen Abel – Chair
Maggie Ostdahl
Susan Gerbasi – Alternate
Lolita Kiorpes – Alternate

Business & Economic Development

Dan Hamilton – Vice Chair
Alan Miller

Maritime Archaeology & History

Jay Haigler
William "Bill" Utley – Alternate
Margo Jackson – Alternate

Cultural Heritage

Lucille Walker
Sharee Williamson – Alternate

Recreation

Chad Tokowicz
John Stefancik
Phillip DePalo – Alternate
Sara Ramotnik – Alternate

Recreational Fishing

Taylor Schmitz

Tourism & Marketing

Joanne Roland
Ruth Toomey – Alternate

Research, Science & Technology

Lee De Cola

Commercial Fishing

Francis "Bill" Kilinski
Dennis Fleming – Alternate

Citizen-at-Large

Deanna Wheeler
Anne Stark - Alternate

educational initiatives and provide programming and technology for students, teachers, and the general public across the country; (e) enhance and facilitate public stewardship of underwater cultural and historical resources and the surrounding maritime landscape and its peoples; and (f) bolster broader lake conservation efforts and stimulate maritime heritage-related tourism in the many communities that have embraced their centuries-long relationship with Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes region, and the Nation; and

Whereas, Mallow's Bay-Potomac River NMS has increased the visibility of the culture and heritage of Southern Maryland and, through the Sanctuary Advisory Council, has actively engaged diverse communities and people through programs and outreach.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Mallow's Bay-Potomac River Sanctuary Advisory Council unanimously supports the proposed community-based nomination and encourages NOAA to approve the designation of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Eileen Abel

Eileen Abel

Chair, Mallow's Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary

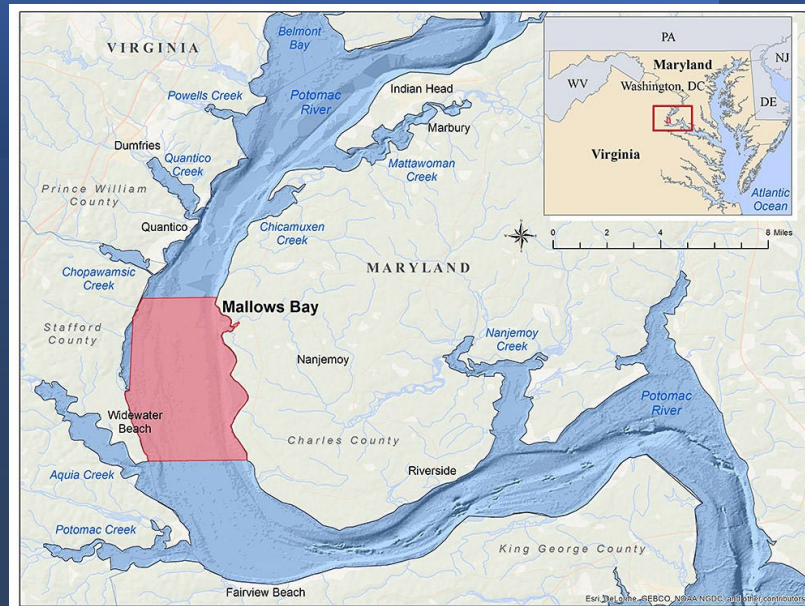
Email: Eileen.Abel@outlook.com

Appendix B

Eileen Abel's Testimony

Intro

1ST SLIDE: MAP



I extend my thanks to you (NOD) for coming today, and to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for organizing the opportunity to share some thoughts about the value and importance of marine sanctuaries, more specifically the one for which I serve as sanctuary advisory council chair: Mollus Bay-Potomac River NMS, located in Charles County Maryland, a mere 42 miles from this very building. For convenience today, and out of habit, I will shorthand that just to “Mollus.”

We like to call it “the capital’s sanctuary,” and indeed it can serve as a gateway for people to understand the larger marine sanctuary system. My comments today will center around what we are, how we bring Mollus to the people, and why we matter.

Home of the “Ghost Fleet,” the historic remains of more than 100 World War I-era wooden steamships, as well as Native American sites, remains of historic fisheries operations, and Revolutionary and Civil War battlescapes, these 18 square miles are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and were a key component of Southern Maryland’s bid to be designated a National Heritage area, accomplished with bipartisan support last fall.

But Mollus is more than just an interesting site. It is a driver for recreation, community development, science education and research. It is also a place of history, culture and imagination. In an era where large portions of the earth’s surface are being ravaged by development, when new science tells us that ecosystems are interconnected in ways we could never have fathomed in the past, and when philosophers tell us that geography contributes

fundamentally to personal and social identities, sanctuaries, like other protected places across the United States, carry multiple kinds of meaning for the communities they serve and the communities in which they are embedded.

The Piscataway Indian tribe representative on the advisory council shares this perspective of Mallows:

“Within the area on the Potomac River now designated as the Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary we, the Piscataway Indian people, teach our next generation the lesson that “We are all Connected”. Every year in the western mountains, heavy winter snow falls eventually become the source of the spring melt. This annual thaw replenishes the headwaters of the Potomac River, which then refills the sacred fresh waters within the Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Every fall, Atlantic Ocean hurricanes and Nor’easters push saltwater into the Chesapeake Bay and thus into the Potomac River. When fresh river water meets brackish water, the lighter fresh water rises and moves over the denser salt water. In our Piscataway language we identify this area as Pasicipexux – (Pah-C-Chee Pay Kook) which means “Where the Freshwater Flows Over”. This water blending area occurs within the Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary and is unique within the 400-mile-long Potomac River. Our planet’s water is a sacred gift that much too often is taken for granted. Pasicipexux (Pah-C-Chee Pay Kook) is a physical reminder that what happens 100s of miles away from us in every direction can have a direct impact here. Thus, we teach our next generation to be thoughtful when making decisions. The decisions that we, as two-leggeds make here within our homelands may have impacts to others that are hundreds of miles away. We are all connected!”

Upstream decisions have downstream consequences (something our western neighbors are learning with the draining of the Colorado River Basin). Ironically, it is these very waters, carrying higher levels of pollution, warmth, and salinity from the Potomac and the Chesapeake, that threaten the ecology and the very ghost ships themselves in Mallows Bay basin.

It was a coalition of community groups that in 2014 nominated Mallows Bay to be considered for marine sanctuary status, a designation conferred five years later on Sept 3, 2019. As the first one designated in nearly 20 years, and the first one under the new community nomination process, Mallows Bay has community at its heart. From the very beginning, people were heavily engaged from nomination through designation, and that investment continues through its community representation on the advisory council and through its commitment to bring the community in.

SECOND SLIDE: COLLAGE



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Here's how we bring Mallows to the people:

One of the sanctuary's core philosophies is making Mallows Bay accessible to everyone, not just those who live proximately. Many videos are available on the Mallows website and are free to download; they transport the public through sweeping views of the sanctuary's historical and natural wonders. Additionally, the sanctuary has partnered with Terrain360 to create an online "kayak and hiking view" interactive experience that puts viewers inside a 360° virtual trail map to learn more about the sanctuary's resources and to immerse themselves in the area's landscape features. The online virtual hiking and kayak trails will allow anyone to "tour" Mallows Bay through different virtual lenses, such as maritime heritage, ecology, or an indigenous perspective, providing a full picture of Mallows Bay history, culture, and ecology to anyone—everyone—who wishes to experience the sanctuary.

This project provides an avenue to explore Mallows from the comfort of home, a classroom, or on a kayak as people paddle through history and the sanctuary's diverse ecosystem. By its very nature, this project will act as a *virtual* visitors center, accessible to anyone with a web-enabled device, and has the added benefit of removing economic and physical barriers so that the public can direct their own experience in this special area.

Promoting apps like iNaturalist and Seek, which allow visitors to explore Mallows Bay in more detail and learn about the species and habitats in the sanctuary, is another way to encourage

citizen science, and anyone can contribute to this data collection. Sanctuary staff are planning large-scale community science events like BioBlitzes, where people can participate in a day of collecting species observations and biodiversity data while learning more about Mallows Bay and southern Maryland ecology from expert naturalists.

Because not everyone lives nearby, and not everyone can get in a kayak or a canoe to experience the ghost ships or can walk the lovely trails through the hills above, these technologies make Mallows accessible to anyone anywhere.

When people **can** be on site, though, magic happens. Mallows has seen the following diverse groups participate in events: Blue Star Families, Pride Paddle, Get Black Outdoors, Outdoor Afro, Diving with a Purpose, Charles County NAACP, and the National Association of Black Scuba Divers. These are in addition to the recreational fishing and daily visitors. For major events, local vendors are on site which create opportunities for local businesses to connect with these active groups.

Here's why Mallows matters:

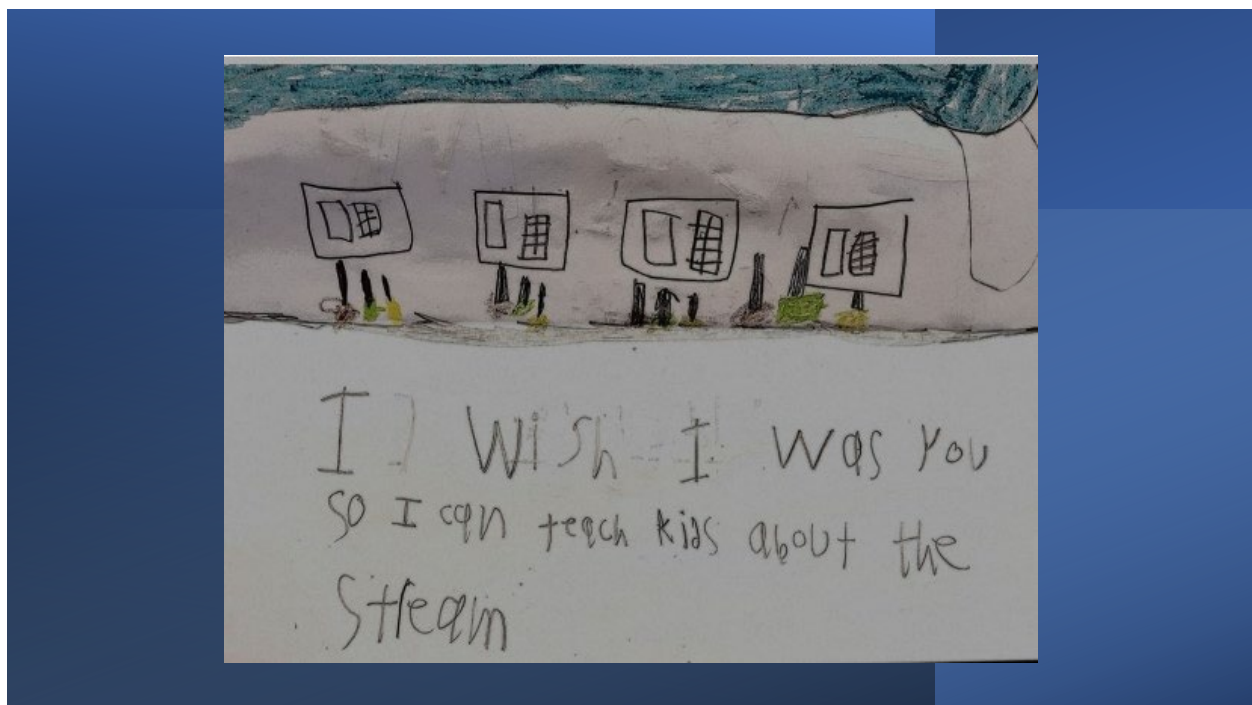
Mallows also serves as a living laboratory for science education and research from elementary through graduate school. Let me share 3 examples.

Currently, graduate students in Coastal Sciences from East Carolina University (ECU) are studying the microbiomes of both metal and wooden-hulled vessels to aid not only in the future management of these resources, but also to contribute to the worldwide UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development efforts, to study the impacts of climate change on vessels in various environments. Students have produced 3-D imagery of several of the vessels, which are useful both for academic study but also to make them available globally online. The Sanctuary staff hope to integrate these 3-D images into the 360 tour I just mentioned, so, for example, if you are out on a kayak, you can point your camera at a wreck, and up pops the 3-D image, the name of the ship, the location of its original build, as well as information about some of the flora on the wreck.

Additionally, a local high school teacher has taken her science classes there for years. Many students have never canoed before, or done water quality testing, or studied wildlife, or were aware of native plants like wild rice or pawpaw that grow in the area. This teacher told a story of listening to a county public hearing online, when she heard a past student speak about the importance of protecting the local watershed. At that hearing, she attributed her passion about the environment to her school field trips to Mallows Bay.

One elementary school teacher brings 125 kids to Mallows every year. These 4th graders could choose from a variety of activities that were based on the natural, historic, and environmental aspects of Mallows and included bird watching, fishing, seining, buoy building, hiking, water testing, analyzing macroinvertebrates, and soil testing. One student was so profoundly influenced by her experiences she wrote to her teacher many years later and expressed her gratitude for having had a teacher who instilled in her a love of science that “prepared me for life and for the future without even knowing and I am so thankful,” and specifically called out her experience at Mallows.

3RD SLIDE: DRAWING OF THE SCIENCE EXPERIMENT



This picture was drawn by a 4th grader: it is a shot of the experiment station from above showing the tables, laden with specimen-filled ice cube trays and a supply box, with nets nearby, and of course, the stated desire to one day teach.

Mallows helps inform our present generation and inspire the next.

As the Piscataway teach us: We **are** all connected!

I hope I have conveyed to you what makes Mallows special, and its unique, tangible benefits to the community. We are looking forward to expanding our reach so Mallows continues to be a jewel in the National Marine Sanctuary system and a leader in offering the Mallows experience both in person and virtually. We have a national-level brand in the marine sanctuary system, and Mallows being so close to the nation's capital gives it additional stature to catalyze interest in America's protected areas and to spur technology, science, and economic development in the area.

Mallows does not have a visitor's center; our hope is that through legislation like the inflation reduction act, this may be possible so we can continue our mission of bringing Mallows to as many people as possible while maintaining its unique nature in the fabric of the community.

How cool would it be to have a 360 virtual tour station at the Mallows Visitor Center for every single one of the national marine sanctuaries?

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation: PLEASE COME VISIT. The best place to understand not just MB, but the entire marine sanctuary system, is to invest half a day and come down—we'd be happy to host you, take you on a hike, a kayak tour or both. I can say with confidence you'll be glad you did. It is, after all, the Capital's sanctuary—*your sanctuary away from the everyday*-- and it **is**, after all, only 42 miles down the road.

I am happy to answer any additional questions at the end of our session, and I thank you again for your time today.