



Summary of Action and Accomplishments in 2018

Through research, coordination and advocacy, and in affiliation with the Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA), we have continued our efforts to protect, defend and enhance the commercial fishing industry in the DelMarVa region of the United States for present participants as well as future generations through all legal means while maintaining healthy and sustainable stocks of fish. Throughout 2018, we monitored a range of industry related issues and actively engaged on various fronts. For example (but by no means exhaustive):

- As a member of the National Coalition of Fishing Communities, submitted testimony supporting Congressional reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) with reforms that enable both sustainable fisheries management and the long-term preservation of our nation's fishing communities (January);

- Maryland General Assembly:

routinely attended meetings of the General Assembly's Commercial Watermen's Caucus and briefings of import to DFA

legislative and regulatory monitoring and testimony on matters of import to the DFA agenda; e.g., support for SB 926 (priority to natural indigenous shell in oyster restoration, propagation and replenishment projects); opposition to HB 1455 (ban on Man O'War Shoals shell dredging)

advocated for funding for Oyster Seed and Shell Program in Governor's FY2019 supplemental budget (\$750,000 allocated by Governor)

- Corresponded with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on various matters: extension of oyster season and fishing hours due to weather; concerns with Bay water quality issues in wake of heavy and persistent rains in upper Bay watershed (Conowingo Dam scour); concerns with Oyster Sanctuary Program; changes with hail-in/hail-out program;
- Monitored and attended meetings of the Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC);
- Coordinated meeting in Church Creek, Dorchester County with Congressmen Harris, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dorchester County and impacted businesses re channel dredging and navigation issues (April);

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- Monitored the Oyster Futures Workshop at UMCES in relation to HB 924 (2017 Session); corresponded with Senate President Mike Miller re same (March);
- Coordination and collaboration with the Clean Chesapeake Coalition to improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay;
- Participated on DNR's Aquaculture Review Board and engaged in issues throughout the Bay related to aquaculture leasing (particularly where detrimental to the public fishery);
- Monitored and reviewed MDE water quality certification (WQC) decision for Conowingo Dam relicensing (April 2018) and Exelon's legal challenges to MDE's permitting decision (May), including related filings at FERC;
- Monitored and attended meetings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC);
- EPA Chesapeake Bay Program: DFA representatives attended the CBP Executive Council meeting (Chaired by Governor Hogan) in Baltimore City (August);
- Continued advocacy before DNR, MDE and Board of Public Works regarding DNR's State Tidal Wetlands permit application for the dredging of natural indigenous oyster shell from Man O'War Shoal in the Upper Bay for use in oyster restoration and propagation efforts; meetings with Board of Public Works members and staff re same;
- Coordinated meeting at Ocean City Marlin Club with commercial and sport fisherman concerning proposed wind energy farms off Atlantic coast (August); coordination with the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA);
- Corresponded with County Commissioners of St. Mary's County about proposed ordinance related to shellfish aquaculture leasing in local waters (September);
- Reformatted and updated DFA website; routine updates to members and sponsors via email, website and Constant Contact;
- Co-hosted hospitality tent at the 42st Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in Crisfield to raise awareness of DFA priorities (July).

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