

Agenda
CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION
Port Isobel Island
Tangier, Virginia
November 6-7, 2008

MEETING THEME: HEART OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Located almost precisely in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay, the low-lying marsh islands of the Chesapeake offer a perspective rarely seen or experienced by most. It is here where true ecosystem response to the many upstream restoration efforts can be measured and assessed. Three of the primary critical indicators of the Bay's health – blue crabs, oysters, and underwater grasses – naturally abound in the shallow waters surrounding these islands. A fourth – the unique and storied island waterman community – equally measures the results of our upstream policies. Our time at Port Isobel, directly adjacent to the waterman community of Tangier Island, Virginia, will give us a more pragmatic and tangible understanding of the current status of some of the Bay's key health indicators, and will bring us closer to the heart of a national treasure.

Thursday, November 6

MEETING LOCATION

Port Isobel Island
Tangier, Virginia

Low Tide	11:25 AM	Sunrise	6:35 AM
High Tide	5:38 PM	Sunset	5:00 PM

11:00 A.M. WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

Welcome – Chairman Art Hershey and Lynwood Lewis

Orientation – Bill Portlock, Senior Educator
Ann Jennings, Virginia Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Roll Call

11:15 A.M. THE CANARIES IN THE MINE: CRABS, OYSTERS AND SAVs

Some of the Bay's leading scientists will summarize the current status of these key indicators of Bay health, and offer their perspective of expected next steps for each species.

SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) – Bob Orth, Ph.D., Virginia Institute of Marine Science

OYSTER – Tommy Leggett, M.S., Chesapeake Bay Foundation
BLUE CRAB – Rom Lipcius, Ph.D., Virginia Institute of Marine Science
FORAGE FISH – Jacques van Montfrans, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

12:45 P.M. LUNCH AND DISCUSSION WITH TANGIER ISLAND LEADERS

In May, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, along with the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia, petitioned the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to declare a commercial fishery disaster for the blue crab. On Tuesday, September 23, that declaration was granted effectively taking another step towards potential economic assistance for watermen and seafood processors. We will get an update as to the status of the request, and discuss next steps with some of the Tangier Island community leaders.

STATUS OF THE EMERGENCY FUNDING

Frank Dawson, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

THE TANGIER ISLAND WATERMAN PERSPECTIVE

James “Ooker” Eskridge, Mayor, Tangier Island
Dan Dize, Tangier Island resident and President, Tangier Waterman’s Association
Lonnie Moore, Tangier Island resident
Allen Parks, Tangier Island resident

2:30 P.M. FIELD ACTIVITIES

Joined by scientists, the Bay Program’s Director and Bay Foundation senior staff, we will spend the afternoon on a Bay workboat collecting the three main Bay indicators found in this part of the Bay by using the same harvesting tools the watermen use every day.

OYSTER DREDGING at the Fish Hook and Cod Harbor
SAV SCRAPING at Queen’s Ridge

5:00 P.M. OYSTER AQUACULTURE, OYSTER ROAST & COCKTAIL HOUR

We will gather at the end of Port Isobel’s pier to learn about work with Tangier Island waterman in advancing oyster aquaculture as a viable alternative source of income for waterman communities. We will have a chance to see and discuss the aquaculture rigs used by some Tangiermen and discuss the advantages and issues facing this growing industry.

Tommy Leggett,
Oyster Farm Manager and Oyster Fisheries Scientist
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Friday, November 9

LOCATION

Port Isobel Island
Tangier, Virginia

Low Tide	12:11 AM	Sunrise	6:36 AM
High Tide	6:19 AM	Sunset	4:59 PM
Low Tide	12:28 PM		
High Tide	6:34 PM		

6:00 A.M. SUNRISE APPRECIATION (Optional – Please sign up)

Sunrise on the Islands is the perfect time of day to witness the Bay at its fullest wonder. You will have optional activities available to you to take advantage of this magnificent time of day.

- 1) **CANOE:** Canoe the shallow grass beds surrounding Tangier with CBF Education Staff
- 2) **FISH:** Catch a Rockfish with Tangiermen Lonnie Moore and Charles Parks
- 3) **PHOTOGRAPH:** Search for the perfect shot with Bay photographer Dave Harp

8:00 A.M. BREAKFAST DELEGATION MEETINGS

Be sure to discuss 2009 Biofuel initiatives

9:30 A.M. THE CONDITION OF THE MINE SHAFT

The TMDL is Coming to Your Home District

Facilitator: Ann Swanson

Part I

NEW MODEL: BRINGS US DOWN TO THE LOCAL LEVEL

Updates to the Bay model will allow for allocations of nutrient and sediment loadings at a smaller scale – namely small watersheds rather than large river basin and state load allocations as we have had in the past. This will give us new insight into local sources of impairment and will underscore the role of local government in Bay restoration.

Mark Dubin

University of Maryland, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Part II

TARGETING: NEW AND EXISTING INVESTMENTS

Using the new federal funds available, the Farm Bill's Chesapeake Watershed Program calls for focus on a small number of strategically chosen subwatersheds, where outreach, education, and best management practice

implementation can be intensified with the goal of significant measurable results. The states are also advancing more targeted approaches, while the U.S. Congress is considering the integration of a sub-watershed focus into the reauthorization of the Bay Program (Section 117).

Staff presentation followed by roundtable discussion

10:15 A.M. CBF vs. EPA
Update on CBF Notice of Intent to File Suit

Roy Hoagland, Vice President for Environmental Protection & Restoration, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

10:45 A.M. 2008 CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
The Chesapeake Executive Council will meet in Washington, D.C. on November 20. In light of wide agreement that we will not meet water quality goals by 2010, one of the main topics will be a new timetable for Chesapeake restoration. Specifically, the question is, "if not 2010, when?"

Introduction to Discussion

Jeff Lape, Director
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

John Griffin, Chair
Principals' Staff Committee

11:00 A.M. ADJOURN AND PACK UP

11:30 A.M. DEPART

The next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Commission
will be held at the Loews Hotel, in Annapolis, Maryland on Thursday, January 8, 2009.