

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Winter 2017

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a prosperous, healthy and safe 2016 and that 2017 is even better. During 2016 we dealt with many of the same issues as we did in 2015 including more discussion on pressure washing and the management of pressure wash wastewater at marinas. The discussions are moving forward, albeit at a slow pace, but we continue to stay in contact with the regulating agencies and will keep all of you informed as the process moves forward.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Marine Advisory Services was once again honored to partner with and host the [Virginia Marine Trades Association](#) annual meeting on November 15, 2016, and we look forward to maintaining the working relationship for many years to come.

On May 2 – 5, 2016, VIMS and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) hosted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) and Clean Vessel Act (CVA) coordinators at VIMS for a Federal Aid workshop. Representatives from Maine, New York,

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Where Money Meets Water

Retiring Sea Grant extension agent reflects on his career

*By Chris Patrick, science writer,
Virginia Sea Grant*

Upon entering eighth grade, Tom Murray moved from West Virginia to Chappaqua, New York—one of the wealthiest towns in the United States. The change was a social shock. And because Murray had a West Virginian accent, school officials placed him in remedial English.

“But I’ve always liked a challenge,” he says with a grin. By the next semester, he was in an honors English class. Murray’s professional career in marine resource economics reflects this same delight in confronting and overcoming obstacles.

As an undergraduate student at Kenyon College, he was studying biology and English until a mandatory economics class changed his life’s course. “I got excited,” he recounts. “I was deeply interested in natural resources and it seemed to me that economics was a way of looking at problems of scarcity and allocation.”

Realizing that he wanted to work on these types of problems, Murray changed his major to economics, earning his bachelor’s in 1971. He went on to receive a master’s degree in applied economics in 1975 from Clemson University. Following graduation, he began his career at the South Carolina Marine Resources Research Institute studying the economics of the shrimp industry. Then he moved to Key West, Florida, where he became the “southernmost Sea Grant extension agent” with the University of Florida.

Since 1999, Murray has continued his engagement with Sea Grant as a Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) extension staff member affiliated with Virginia Sea Grant, applying economics to marine business and coastal development prob-



lems. He’s also been the associate director of Marine Advisory Services at VIMS for seven years, overseeing a unit of scientists whose primary responsibility is to provide expert advice to Commonwealth citizenry, marine industries, and government.

Murray enjoys the intersection of economics and extension because it goes beyond just theory into the application of theory. At VIMS, this means Murray is applying theories from economics to marine resources, like the oyster industry, to give people the information they need to understand the way money moves in their industry.

Murray also develops educational materials for industry members, like a budget calculator for oyster aquaculture that allows growers to input predicted costs and crops to estimate their bottom lines.

“The calculator helps people before they risk any money, to see what the costs and returns might be,” he explains. The budget calculator is also used in loan applications so that lenders can see what growers’ profitability might be. “The

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Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia attended the workshop and had the opportunity to tour several Virginia marinas. The consensus of the group was that Virginia is a beautiful state!

Another exciting project that we worked on in 2016 was the development of resiliency guidelines for marinas. I traveled to South Carolina in September to meet with representatives from the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to partner on this endeavor. The project is ongoing and I will be contacting those of you who expressed interest to assist in the implementation phase of the resiliency guidelines in Virginia when we are ready to proceed.

As we have in previous years, we will partner with VDH in 2017 to host four workshops in different regions of Virginia. All of the workshops will cover the application process for the BIG, the CVA and the procedure to become a certified Virginia Clean Marina. When the dates are set for the workshops we will send out email notifications.

The most notable occurrence of 2016 was the retirement of Tom Murray, Associate Director of Marine Advisory Services. Tom was instrumental in securing dedicated fulltime funding for the Virginia Clean Marina Program when the initial seed money was depleted. We celebrated his retirement with good food, friends and family in December. He will be missed! The majority of this newsletter is dedicated to Tom, with an article highlighting Tom's career, written by Chris Patrick, a science writer with Virginia Sea Grant.

Once again, a highlight of the year was visiting with all of you at your facilities. Happy 2017!

Anne Smith,
Virginia Clean Marina Program

Please Take the Resilient Marinas Survey

Please follow this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vamarina>, if you have not done so already, to complete the Resilient Marinas Survey. Thank you!

Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads

We have finally ordered the oil absorbent bilge pads and will contact everyone when they arrive.

*Where Money Meets the Water,
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better they can define their economics costs and returns, the better they can present themselves for lending."

He has also designed other, Virginia-specific educational materials, like a long-standing shellfish grower survey that annually assesses the Commonwealth's oyster and clam aquaculture landscape.

Murray first came to VIMS in 1979 from the University of Florida to be a Sea Grant extension marine economist for Marine Advisory Services. After two years, he went to work with the Farm Credit Banks of Columbia, the nation's largest private credit cooperative, where he managed their aquaculture and fisheries lending programs and conducted loan officer training in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. In 1984 he returned to Florida to run the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation.

As the executive director of this nonprofit research foundation in Tampa, Murray funded turtle excluder device research. In the late 1980s, the booming shrimp industry from Texas to North Carolina was at risk of being shut down because of its accidental bycatch of marine turtles. Murray developed funding and contracted Sea Grant programs in the nine states involved to support their extension agents and industry members as they jointly developed excluder devices that would prevent turtles from being caught with shrimp, helping save this important industry.

"That to me was the heart of extension: technology transfer and

Congratulations New Clean Marina

Congratulations to Mobjack Bay Marina for becoming a certified Virginia Clean Marina! Mobjack Bay Marina is located in Mathews, Virginia. For more information please visit their [website](#).



development," Murray says. "So I really feel good about that. The extension programs we facilitated can take great credit in supporting an industry that was on the verge of experiencing a regulatory disaster."

Twenty years after leaving his first position with VIMS, Murray came back to begin his current stint here. That's when he started noticing the displacement of traditional marine industries from waterfronts by housing developments. After talking to people around the country, Murray realized the problem was pervasive: Working waterfronts, like ports, boat harbors, fishing docks, were being lost to re-development nationwide. Murray and a few others in Sea Grant saw this as a "disaster in slow motion."

But for Murray, the problem presented an opportunity. In 2007, he lead the development, co-chaired, and convened the first national working waterways conference in Norfolk, Virginia, bringing people together from across the country to talk about the issue. There have been four since the first, held every two years all over the country.

"I think that first working waterfronts conference was landmark," he says. "We really lit the fuse here in Virginia."

While waterfronts are critical to coastal communities, they're also a constant in Murray's life. He's always lived on or near the water, and when he retires from his current position at the end of 2016, he'll continue doing so at his home on the North River.

Continuing Funding Opportunities

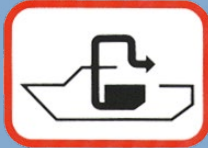
BoatUS Foundation Grass Roots Grants and Lifejacket Loaner Programs

BoatUS Foundation has changed the way they are administering two of their popular programs: the Life Jacket Loaner Program and the Grass Roots Grants Program. In the past the programs were administered of a set application deadline. They are now accepting applications for both programs on a year round basis with applications being reviewed within a month of submission. For more information on both of these programs please visit the [BoatUS Foundation website](#) and follow the Community Outreach link.



Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

Remember that the Virginia Department of Health has funds available for the installation and maintenance of vessel sewage pump-out and dump stations. Marinas that find themselves with increasingly higher maintenance costs should consider applying for funding to replace their existing pump-out stations. Please contact Scott Vogel, ScottM.Vogel@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7467, for more information on the [Clean Vessel Act program](#) and participation for Virginia marinas.



For additional information on the Virginia Clean Marina program please click on the logo to visit our website.



VIMS | WILLIAM & MARY
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE
MARINE ADVISORY SERVICES
P.O. BOX 1346
GLOUCESTER POINT, VA 23062

VIMS Embarks on Collaborative Cobia Research Projects

On January 16, 2017, more than 30 anglers, charter boat captains and scientists got together to discuss ideas for four new cobia research programs at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Hosted by the Marine Advisory Program at VIMS, the workshop provided a unique opportunity for researchers to give an overview of their projects, data needs and field collection methods, while also offering a forum for anglers to give direct feedback regarding the projects. Each project will focus on a different aspect of cobia research, and each has potential outcomes that could be valuable for management. There are still many questions about the movement and stock structure of cobia in Virginia. Dr. Jan McDowell will be working with anglers to collect tissue samples from cobia captured on hook and line in the Chesapeake Bay. These samples will



Ken Neill

be analyzed to look for genetic differences and assess cobia stock structure in Virginia. In a related study, Dr. John Graves will also investigate patterns of movement using pop-off satellite tags (PSATs) to track cobia migration.

In order to better understand the economic effects of regulatory changes for cobia, Dr. Andrew Scheld will investigate Virginia recreational angler decision-making and preferences with respect to cobia management through focus groups and an online survey for cobia anglers and members of the bait and tackle industry. Lastly, Dr. Kevin Weng will review angler logbook records to look for changes in the maximum size of cobia over time. Angler participation is a crucial part of each project, and an exciting chance for collaborative research. To learn more about the research or if you'd like to participate, please contact Susanna Musick, susanna@vims.edu.

Hampton Roads Boater Education Program

Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) in 1992. The CVA, like the Boating Infrastructure Grant is administered nationally by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and on a state level by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). In addition to providing funding for pump-out and dump stations at boating facilities, the CVA has an education and outreach component.

VDH has partnered with [Hampton Roads Sanitation District \(HRSD\)](#), the city of Norfolk and the city of Virginia Beach to provide boaters with educational materials and complementary sewage holding tank pump-out demonstrations. Student interns will visit marinas in the HRSD service area and



Hampton Roads Sanitation District boater education interns practice pumping out a boat during annual training.

talk to boaters about the proper disposal of vessel sewage, provide them with literature showing the locations of pump-out stations in Virginia and offer free sewage holding tank pump-outs.

The popularity of the program has grown such that they now have one team working on Saturdays between Labor Day and Memorial Day; and three teams working Friday, Saturday and Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

To schedule a visit at your marina call 757-460-4253 and leave a detailed message including your name, the name or your facility and a return phone number. The phone number is not continually manned, but they are diligent about returning calls.