

**Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
- September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: September 12, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Tane Casserley, David Dodsworth, Russ Green, Mark Losavio, Paul “Sammy” Orlando, Megan Ossmann, Jean Prevo, Shannon Ricles

SAC Members: Eileen Abel, Lee DeCola, Jay Haigler, Dan Hamilton, Bill Kilinski, Alan Miller, Maggie Ostdahl, Joanne Roland, Chad Tokowicz, Anne Vazhappilly

SAC Alternates: Margo Jackson, Lolita Kiorpes, Sara Ramotnik, Anne Starke, Bill Utley

Government Agency and Tribe Members: Daryl Anthony (MD DNR), Phil Hager (MD DNR), Mario Harley (Piscataway Conoy Tribe), Tim Drummond (Charles County), Elizabeth Hughes (MD Dept. of Planning), Elizabeth Moore (State of VA)

Guests: Erin Cooley, Morgan Burger, Dan Obrien

Media: None

WELCOME & SAC BUSINESS:

Eileen Abel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The new youth member Anne Vazhappilly was introduced, along with Erin Cooley who has applied to be the youth alternate. Anne is a tenth grader at LaPlata High School. Erin is a sophomore at North Point High School.

Dan Hamilton motioned to approve the June 27, 2022, meeting minutes. Phil Hager 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>.

The council shared a moment of silence for council member Caroline McManus who passed away while diving in August. Eileen will send a card to her family on behalf of the advisory council.

Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary Designation Update – The draft document has not yet been released. The new estimated release date and public comment period is early November. Ellen Brody presented about the proposed sanctuary at a previous meeting and the council discussed passing a resolution in support of its designation. Dan Hamilton has drafted a resolution but until the council knows what NOAA’s preferred alternative is the council can’t move forward with reviewing the draft. If NOAA’s document is released in November, the council should be able to review the draft resolution via email, provide feedback and then vote on it at the December meeting.

BLUE STAR FAMILIES EVENT:

On September 25, 2022, from 10:30am to 2:30pm, Blue Star Families is holding an event at Mallows Bay Park to kick off their welcome week. Blue Star Families connects military families to their local communities. Mallows Bay-Potomac NMS is surrounded by four different navy bases so this is a great opportunity to introduce them to Mallows Bay Park and the sanctuary. Mallows and Monitor staff will be there with activities, along with the Maryland DNR who will be providing on-land activities and supporting a lot of the activities at the waterline. The DNR will also be sharing information related to ADA compliant kayaking. Port Tobacco River Conservancy and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society will be there with an information table and will also be leading a nature hike through the walking trails.

Expecting 300 or 400 people to attend the Blue Star Families Event. Would really like to see some council members attend this event as a guest or as a volunteer. If you’re interested in volunteering please reach out to mark.losavio@noaa.gov.

The sanctuary hopes to do more of these events in the future with the armed forces communities.

Another group that will be on site that day is Force Blue, which is a group of special forces divers. SAC member Jay Haigler is a member of this group. Force Blue has made a pledge to dive all 15 national marine sanctuaries in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. They are starting this endeavor with a dive in the Mallows-Potomac Bay NMS. They plan to do some photo documentation during their dive in Mallows Bay.

Eileen would like access to the photos taken by Force Blue and also suggested inviting someone from Force Blue to present at a future meeting.

INATURALIST DEMONSTRATION:

Megan Ossmann gave an overview on how to use the iNaturalist app and shared a flyer with the instructions. Jean will include this flyer with the meeting minutes. If you have questions on

using the app please contact megan.ossmann@noaa.gov. As was discussed at previous meetings, iNaturalist is a great way to gather data and learn more about the ecology at Mallows Bay.

Eileen mentioned a birding app called Merlin that can identify birds by sounds. You can also connect your findings on that app to Mallows Bay as well. She finds that app easier to use for sounds than iNaturalist.

The sanctuary can use these tools and their data for the 360 virtual projects.

Anne Stark asked if the app is able to identify shells that are found at Mallows? Could be a resource to know what is non-native that is being found in the Potomac. Megan wasn't sure but is interested to see if it might work. Mark mentioned he has used it before and it does work.

The mdFIND app was also mentioned in the chat box during this discussion. It is a collector app for unanticipated artifact discoveries.

DISCUSSION OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA:

Lucille Walker was unable to make it to the meeting, so the discussion was postponed for a future meeting.

Sammy mentioned that Mallows Bay is one of the anchor spots for getting this designated. Jean has been forwarding information as it comes in and will continue to do so. The council can discuss the possibility of doing a letter of support for this initiative later.

SAC ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS:

Dan Hamilton – The Patuxent River Appreciation Day will be held at Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland on Saturday, October 8 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Dan will be there representing his private charter business but there is all kinds of great stuff there. Would be great to have a Mallows presence at that event next year.

Sammy mentioned that a couple of weeks ago the Maryland Historical Trust had their annual workshop to discuss and review the work that has been done. Susan Langley and Elizabeth Hughes invited Mallows staff to attend. The sanctuary staff showcased their virtual goggles and the virtual tours were a big hit. These types of events help gather feedback to continue building out the tours.

Mark Losavio mentioned that if you have an event you would like the sanctuary staff to attend or support, please let him know and the staff will do their best to be there.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURN: Joanne Roland motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dan Hamilton seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **December 5, 2022.**

Links shared in Chat Box:

[mdFIND](#): Collector App for Unanticipated Artifact Discoveries

[Merlin App](#)

360 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkdtprFGZes>

Upcoming 2022 Meetings & Events:

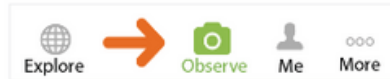
September 25 Blue Star Families at MBP

December 5 SAC Meeting

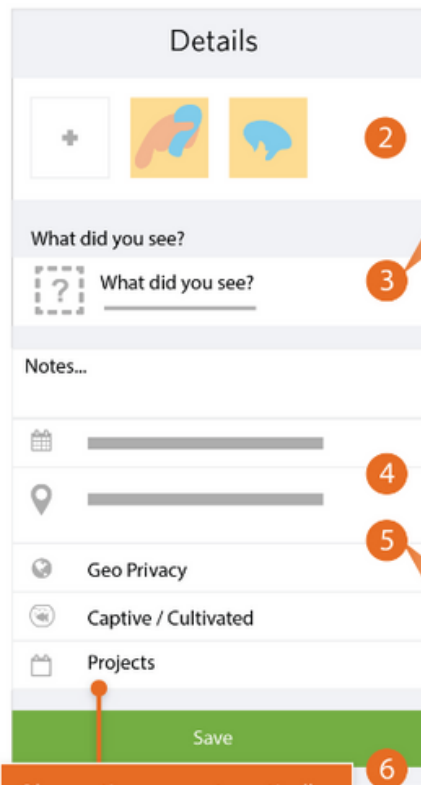
Learn more about local species and help contribute to a global database of biodiversity observations by using **iNaturalist** during your next visit to Mallows Bay! **Scan the QR code** to download the app to your phone, set up an account, and follow the instructions below to get started:



1 Tap **observe**.



2 Add one or more photos as **evidence**.



3 Choose **what** you saw.

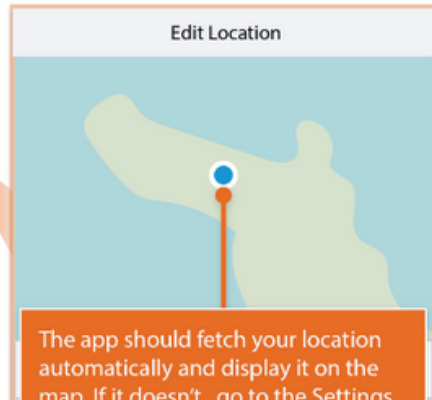
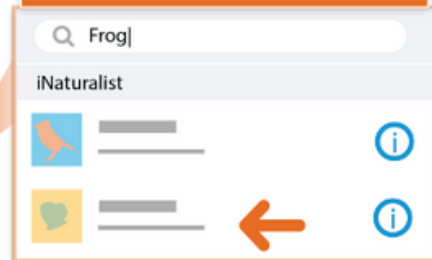
4 **When** you saw it should be added automatically.

5 **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If it doesn't, check Privacy in the Settings app.

6 **Save** your observation.

Observations are automatically counted by collection projects and can't be added manually

Choose one of the computer vision suggestions, search for something else, or type in a 'Placeholder' if offline



The app should fetch your location automatically and display it on the map. If it doesn't, go to the Settings app and tap Privacy to enable Location Services for iNaturalist

7 **Upload** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the Upload button. You can turn off automatic upload from the app settings from the Me tab.



8 Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



9 Click on **explore** to see observations by others in the community.