

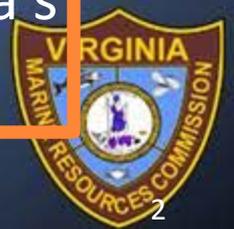
Marine Resources Commission update to the Coast Policy Team

September 20, 2016



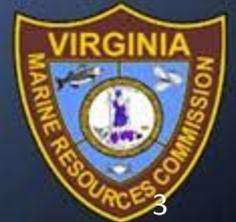
Fisheries Management at VMRC

- FMD carries out current and long-term state policies saltwater fisheries in Virginia's tidal waters
- Goal- provide maximum benefit and long-term use of finfish and shellfish resources through conservation and enhancement
 - 1) to collect statistics and information on Virginia's fisheries
 - 2) to develop fisheries management plans for commercially and recreationally important species found in Virginia waters
 - 3) to promote recreational fishing (artificial fishing reefs and the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament)
 - 4) to participate in organizations at the interstate (ASMFC) and federal level (MAMFC) regarding Virginia's fisheries and their management



Climate Change Concerns and Ecosystem-based Management

- Sea level rise affecting the oyster industry
 - Natural beds
 - Aquaculture
- Shifting and changing species distributions
 - Target species
 - Forage species
 - Chesapeake Bay Program Sustainable Fisheries GIT (forage fish management strategy): notes ongoing climate change is expected to lead to changes in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem – distribution shifts and changes in abundance to both dominant forage species and their predators



Challenges

- Observed shifts in timing and range of several species
 - Black sea bass
 - Summer flounder
- Quota-based management using historic reference points
- Unknown effects of climate change (hard to predict)
- Potential for invasive species and emerging fisheries



What's Next

- Climate change will affect most living marine resources (negatively or positively)
- Jon Hare, NMFS, Director of the Narragansett lab, will give a presentation on climate change and the impact on fish species to the Commission
- The CPT is invited - next Tuesday, September 27th, 2 p.m.

