



Virginia's Working Waterfronts

Hampton Roads

Regional Value

- Working waterfronts and water-related industries have been a key part of the regional economy and history since the founding of Jamestown in 1607.
- Hampton Roads ranked 13th of all major U.S. ports in the total value of commercial fishery landings in 2012, bringing in seafood worth \$64.1 million.

Regional Challenges

- Rising demand for waterfront land is encouraging the transition from working waterfronts to other commercial and residential uses.
- Environmental challenges such as pollution and disease are reducing seafood populations.
- Regulations, such as time limits and fishery closings, and are hampering the ability of vessels to offload their catches locally, affecting ancillary businesses.

Virginia's working waterfronts are of great historic, economic and cultural value. Unfortunately, they are disappearing. It's time to find solutions.

The following organizations have come together to harvest solutions at the Virginia Working Waterfronts Workshop:

Newport News Seafood Industrial Park: Supporting Working Waterfronts Through Public Infrastructure

The Hampton Roads region has been the home of working waterfronts since its beginning in the early 17th century. The shipment of goods to and from Europe was a major consideration in selecting sites for settlement, and wharfs were a common sight in the area's colonial towns, including Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Yorktown. Military and industrial concerns helped to establish what is now a major port, with shipping, shipbuilding, and ship repair all major components of the regional economy. The Port of Virginia, operator of major shipping terminals in Newport News, Norfolk, and Portsmouth, is a major global shipping entity, transporting containers and bulk cargo around the world. Newport News Shipbuilding is one of the nation's premier shipbuilding facilities, and the region is also home to the world's largest navy base at Naval Station Norfolk.



Virginia Working Waterfront Workshop

Exchange ideas and potential strategies to keep Virginia's waterfronts working!

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Eastern Shore Community College (satellite location)

Register Today! Space Limited!

Call—Beth Polak, Virginia CZM Program(804) 698-4260

Hampton Roads

While the region's major industrial waterfronts are also the region's largest employers and so are in the public eye, the region's commercial seafood industry has labored in the background for decades. The rapid population growth in the region's suburban localities such as Poquoson, York County, Suffolk, and Isle of Wight County has pushed out many commercial seafood businesses and replaced them with homes. Economic and environmental challenges have also negatively affected the industry. However, in spite of these challenges the Port of Hampton



Trawlers docked in the Seafood Industrial Park (Newport News Staff)

Roads continues to be one of the largest ports for commercial fishery landings in the country. In 2012, 13.5 million pounds of seafood worth \$64.1 million were landed in Hampton Roads area facilities. One of the reasons for this success is the presence of the Newport News Seafood Industrial Park, an industrial harbor established specifically to provide a home for water-dependent industries, including seafood processing.

What is now the Seafood Industrial Park (SIP) had its official beginning as the Newport News Small Boat Harbor in the early 20th century. Recognizing a need and demand for a seafood-specific facility, the City of Newport News established the SIP in 1979 and followed that with a series of improvements designed to turn the facility into a premier seafood harbor. The SIP is now home to over a dozen water-related businesses, including seafood processing and sales, boat building and repair, machine shop, marine towing, and marine construction. Major employers located in the SIP include Davis Boat Works, Casey's Seafood, and Chesapeake Bay Packing.

The SIP is an example of cooperation between business and government (local, state, and federal) to address a commercial need that benefits an entire community. While the City owns the land and leases it, the tenants own the facilities they build. Improvements to the harbor have been financed by city funds and grants. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also dredged the harbor's channel to help maintain navigability. The area is zoned to allow tenants to conduct most working waterfront uses by right. Demand for mooring space exceeds capacity, and all the land at the SIP is leased. The facility has also been a revenue generator for the City, contributing over \$450,000 per year in rent alone.



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Value of Virginia's Working Waterfronts

Virginia is known for its rich history of maritime commerce. Today working waterfronts continue to be a force in local economies, providing critical access to coastal waters for commercial fishing, seafood processing, recreational fishing businesses, boat building, aquaculture and other water-dependent businesses. Working waterfronts are without a doubt a vital element of the culture and character of our coastal communities.

Challenges Facing Virginia's Working Waterfronts

Working Waterfronts are under pressure. These important areas are being converted to other uses, such as condominiums, hotels, restaurants or private residences. Increasing demand for waterfront properties along Virginia's coast has resulted in an increase in property values and higher costs for traditional waterfront businesses. Because of these and other factors, Virginia is slowly losing its working waterfronts – an issue that may have long-term consequences for local economies, the environment, our coastal culture and quality of life.