



Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comments for the Development of a Water Quality Improvement Plan (Implementation Plan) for Impaired Shellfish Waters in Mathews, Middlesex and Gloucester Counties

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of an Implementation Plan (IP) for impaired shellfish waters, located in Mathews, Middlesex and Gloucester Counties, Virginia. **The nine tidal shellfish waters that feed into the Piankatank River and Milford Haven (Queens, Stutts, Morris, Billups, Edwards, Harper, Wilton, Healy and Cobbs) and a portion of the Upper Piankatank River are on the state’s list of dirty or impaired waters. The shellfish harvesting in these waters has been restricted due to excessive bacteria levels. The TMDL studies for these waters can be found at DEQ website under the “Approved TMDL Reports” section as: pianka.pdf, pianharp.pdf and gwynnisl.pdf.**

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs.aspx>

Actions to restore water quality in above impaired tidal creeks will be the subject of a meeting to be held **May 23rd from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Middlesex Family YMCA, 11487 General Puller Hwy in Hartfield, Virginia.** At this meeting, TMDL findings and the development of the implementation plan will be discussed and citizens will learn how they can be part of the public participation process. DCR seeks information and involvement of local citizens in developing this plan. After a one-hour public meeting, stakeholders will break into working group sessions to discuss and provide input for the implementation plan.

The 30-day public comment period on the information presented at the meeting will end on June 22, 2012. Questions or information requests should be addressed to May Sligh with the DCR – Tappahannock Field Office by phone at (804)443-1494 and by e-mail at may.sligh@dcr.virginia.gov. The written comments and inquiries should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to May Sligh, **Department of Conservation and Recreation, Tappahannock Regional Office, P.O. Box 1425, Tappahannock, VA 22560.**