

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 sixteen tidal shellfish waters that feed into the Piankatank River and Milford Haven (Queens, Stutts, Morris, Billups, Edwards, Harper, Wilton, Healy, Cobbs, Lanes, Hudgins, Barn, Frenchs, Ferry and Dancing Creeks) and a portion of the Upper Piankatank River are on the state's list of dirty or impaired waters. Maps of these watersheds can be found at the following link:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/ImplementationPlans/Drafts/piankatanklanduse.pdf>

The shellfish harvesting in these waters has been restricted due to excessive bacteria levels. The TMDL studies for most of 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>

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. In addition, Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected

achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

The content of the draft plan, including corrective actions necessary to reduce bacteria levels and improve water quality in these tidal creeks will be the subject of a public meeting to be held **February 27th from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Mathews High School, 9889 Buckley Hall Road, Mathews, Virginia 23109**. The implementation plan has been under development for the past 9 months, including a series of local meetings and input from local citizens and government agencies. Comments on the draft plan will be accepted through March 27, 2013. A copy of the draft plan can be found the day after the public meeting at:

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

Questions or information requests should be addressed to May Sligh with the DCR – Tappahannock Regional Office by phone at (804)443-1494 and by e-mail at may.sligh@dcr.virginia.gov. Though e-mail comments are preferred, written comments and inquiries can also be submitted and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Please send to May Sligh, **Department of Conservation and Recreation, Tappahannock Regional Office, P.O. Box 1425, Tappahannock, VA 22560**.