



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

January 12, 2015

Ms. Kelly Collins
Coastal Resources Planner
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Collins,

Thank you for submitting the nomination for the proposed Mallows Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary. We greatly appreciate the interest expressed by the State, Charles County and numerous community organizations that signed letters in support of the nomination.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has completed its sufficiency and significance reviews and determined that the nomination successfully meets the national significance criteria and management considerations. The nomination will be added to the inventory of areas NOAA may consider for national marine sanctuary designation. We look forward to working with you, your colleagues and community organizations that have proposed the Mallows Bay – Potomac River site as we consider this area for possible designation as a national marine sanctuary.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Festa
Director

