September 15, 2014



MARTIN O'MALLEY GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE 100 STATE CIRCLE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925 (410) 974-3901 (TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Room 5128 Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 1305 East-West Highway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of the State of Maryland, the Board of Charles County Commissioners and a diverse coalition of business, education, American Indian, conservation, historical, research and recreational organizations, I am pleased to submit for your consideration the enclosed nomination of the Mallows Bay area of the Potomac River as a new National Marine Sanctuary. The nomination represents a significant collaboration between Charles County, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, the Maryland Historic Trust, and numerous nonprofit, small business, and community partners throughout the region. Community support has been widespread and overwhelmingly positive, as evidenced by the numerous letters of support attached to this letter.

Mallows Bay is beautiful area of the Potomac River with national significance and outstanding and unique historical, archaeological, cultural, ecological, conservation, recreation, and educational qualities. Its maritime landscape is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States from the Revolutionary War through the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, whose construction marked our nation's entry into the war; galvanized more than 50 communities across the nation; witnessed the evolution of our Merchant Marines; and transformed the country into the dominant maritime power of today. Its culturally-rich landscape also includes numerous Native American sites, the once-booming Potomac River fishing industry and Civil War archeological sites. The associated marine and terrestrial ecosystems are among the most ecologically-significant and undeveloped in the tidewaters of Maryland.

Designating this section of the Potomac as a National Marine Sanctuary offers exciting opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime and cultural history, the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing, boating, and tourism. Such recognition would better connect people, both near and far, to this special place in the backyard of our nation's capital, on the nation's river and in a corridor already rich in partnerships at both local and regional scales – including federal partners as well as Virginia's natural resource agencies.

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan Mr. Daniel J. Basta Page Two

Moreover, it would fill a significant gap in the existing system of National Marine Sanctuaries by being the first sanctuary designated in America's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay. Finally, it would be a fitting tribute and lasting legacy as we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I.

We look ahead with great enthusiasm for your response in designating the Mallows Bay area of the Potomac River as the newest member of the National Marine Sanctuary system in hopes that this nomination is the first step toward future collaborations with you and many community partners for this special marine place.

Sincerely,

Governor

Attachments:

- 1) Letters of support
- 2) Application

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

### Resolution No. 2014-10

A **RESOLUTION** to support the nomination of Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County as a National Marine Sanctuary.

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland is a site of National significance, rich in America's maritime history, and an ecologically important resource; and

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay is unique, but largely unknown, as the location of the largest and most varied collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States from the Revolutionary War to the present, including the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamship remains; and

WHEREAS, these shipwrecks and the shipbreaking operations that occurred at this site from 1922 – 1945 have created a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem offering tremendous opportunities for education, conservation, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Charles County has worked to conserve and promote public access to Mallows Bay and its historic and natural resources by establishing a day-use park and partnering with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources constructing a boat ramp at the site; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Charles County have been advised that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting nominations of areas of the marine environment having nationally significant historical, ecological, research, recreational or aesthetic values for consideration as new National Marine Sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a National Marine Sanctuary designation for Mallows Bay would focus national attention on this treasure, provide a new catalyst for conservation, education, public access and tourism and be the first in the Chesapeake watershed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, hereby support the nomination and designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Maryland, members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation and General Assembly representing Charles County, the NOAA Administrator and the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect on the date of adoption.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2014.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Carlin Kell. 111100

Candice Quinn Kelly, President

Reuben B. Collins, IL Esq., Vice President

Debra M. Davis, Esq.

Ken Robinson

Bobby Rucci

Carol Desoto, Acting Clerk



The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As one of the nation's first land trusts and one devoted to preserving the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park, we believe Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System, and to the protected areas along the Potomac River that make this such a significant waterway. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely yours

Dr. Lisa Hayes

Dr. Lisa Hayes President and CEO



<u>Kimberly Faulk, Chair</u> Geoscience Earth & Marine Services 10344 Sam Houston Park Drive Houston, TX 77064 USA Bus 281-994-3385 Kim.Faulk@f-e-t.com

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and *NOAA* Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

#### Dear Dr. Sullivan:

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA), I am writing on behalf of our members to express our support for a new NOAA National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland. The unique natural and cultural resources of Mallows Bay are just a stone's throw from our Nation's Capital, and in the heart of the Atlantic coast. Mallows Bay would be the first National Marine Sanctuary on a river, and is uniquely located to highlight the rich natural and cultural heritage that sanctuaries are created to protect. We note the large degree of local buy-in and the enthusiasm for a sanctuary in the Chesapeake and have every confidence that a Mallows Bay NMS would be every bit as successful and popular as current sanctuaries at Thunder Bay, Flower Garden Banks and elsewhere.

For more than 50 years, the ACUA has been at the forefront of underwater archaeology and has worked tirelessly to preserve and protect our shared maritime heritage worldwide. The ACUA serves as *the* international advisory body on issues relating to underwater archaeology, conservation, and submerged cultural resources management. It works to educate scholars, governments, sport divers, and the general public about underwater archaeology and the preservation of underwater resources.

We are sure that Mallows Bay will be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. Mallows Bay contains a huge and diverse collection of historic shipwrecks totaling nearly 200 known vessels with many more yet to be discovered. It includes the remains of the world's largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships—a testament to our nation's industrial capacity and evidence of our contribution to victory in the war to end all wars. The proposed sanctuary at Mallows Bay would also include numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archaeological sites. Mallows Bay is a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation and research, while offering recreational fishing and boating, and tourism opportunities.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing that will have a larger impact on our Nation's Capital, nothing timelier to commemorate the anniversary of World War I, and no better way to continue the outstanding stewardship of the National Marine Sanctuary System than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, along with thousands of other American citizens and scholars of history worldwide, urge you to take this opportunity and add another jewel to our crown of NOAA Marine Sanctuaries.

Sincerely,

J. Faulk

Kimberly L. Faulk, MA Chair, ACUA

cc : Mr. Charlie Stek, Chair, Mallows Bay Steering Committee

## Isabel G. Mack 12206 Mira Bay Circle Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Proposed National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Mallows Bay, in Charles County, Maryland, as a National Marine Sanctuary. Mallows Bay is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels as well as numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Having a National Marine Sanctuary close to the Nation's Capital will raise the profile of the sanctuary program, not just for local residents, but for those Americans who visit the Washington area since it is a very popular tourist destination. There are many other historic sites near and along the Potomac River that will have a mutually beneficial relationship with a National Marine Sanctuary.

In my capacity as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America, I serve as a counselor for the Archaeology and Scuba merit badges as well as sitting on several leadership committees at the council and local levels. The Scout programs promote the study of our nation's history, appreciation of natural and cultural resources and a respect for our world that leads to preservation of those resources. The National Capital Area Council, one of the largest Boy Scout councils in the US, has a significant number of Sea Scout ships as well as the land-based programs for youth aged 6 to 21. It should be noted that several of the Sea Scout ships are based in Aquia, Virginia, which is located close to the proposed sanctuary.

In addition to Scout leadership, I am active in the local diver community. Most of the local dive clubs are embracing and promoting site preservation as opposed to the old souvenir-hunting ethos. While this site is most likely to appeal to shallow water canoes or kayakers who enjoy a quiet paddle, the divers will be invested in protecting the historic aspects of the site just as they do for the U-1105 submarine down the river.

There are a large number of World War I vessels at this site, so it is perhaps more urgent that this site be selected and dedicated in time for the centennial celebration. It will raise the profile of an important local resource and encourage future generations to study and preserve important historical resources.

I would be happy to discuss further and include my professional and volunteer Scout colleagues in additional recommendations for this site.

Best regards,

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Isabel G. Mack



## To support the establishment of a new National Marine Sanctuary in the Chesapeake Bay watershed on the Potomac River in the vicinity of Mallows Bay

WHEREAS, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council provides a non-governmental voice and advice on Chesapeake watershed restoration policies and programs; and

WHEREAS, the CAC strongly supports efforts to conserve, promote stewardship, educate and engage citizens, and bring new programs to bear in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake watershed's ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be soliciting nominations of areas of the marine environment of national significance due to their special historical, archaeological, cultural, ecological, conservation, recreational, scientific, educational, or aesthetic qualities for consideration as new National Marine Sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Potomac River in the vicinity of Mallows Bay is one of the most nationally and ecologically significant areas remaining in the watershed, providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife and offering tremendous opportunities for education, conservation, public access, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, a National Marine Sanctuary designation for Mallows Bay would be the first in the Chesapeake watershed and help focus national attention on this treasure and provide a new catalyst for conservation, education, and public access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Citizens Advisory Committee, hereby strongly supports the nomination and designation of the Potomac River in the vicinity of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary;

WITNESS the signature of the undersigned as of this  $23^{rd}$  day of June, 2014.

of Gora Dower

R. John Dawes Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee



P. O. Box 97, Solomons, Maryland 20688 410-326-2042 · FAX 410-326-6691 www.calvertmarinemuseum.com

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Calvert Marine Museum is an educational organization that works to tell the story of the history and natural history of Southern Maryland. I believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. This mirrors the mission of the Marine Museum and we have been involved in much of the research and study of Mallows Bay over the years.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Cordially,

C. Douglan Alun, fr. C. Douglass Alves, Jr.

C. Douglass Alves, Jr. Director





August 22, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of the Potomac River/Mallows Bay area in Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

Because the Mallows Bay section of the Potomac River is rich in America's maritime and cultural history, it has the potential to draw in international visitors seeking authentic and pristine outdoor recreation activities. The designation will help convey that Mallows Bay is nationally significant and that it offers the same high-caliber visitor experience as places like Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague Island Nation Wildlife Refuge.

For the international visitor, the designation means Mallows Bay is "the best of the best" that Capital Region USA (CRUSA) has to offer. The designation will go a long way in helping CRUSA compete with destinations from around the world who seek increased economic impact from international travel.

Thank you for your consideration of Mallows Bay area as a NMS.

Sincerely,

Matt Gaffney President and CEO



# **CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION**

Policy for the Bay• www.chesbay.us

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I write to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). With its location in the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., Mallows Bay is an excellent location with a unique history that makes it a deserving choice. With an area so rich in history and environmental resources, the value of designating this first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac – is further enhanced by its location in the Nation's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting this one special place takes us one step closer to restoring and protecting the entire Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is unique as a tri-state legislative commission which advises the general assemblies of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia on matters of Baywide concern. As such, we work to address the broad range of issues and polices that reflect the pollution sources, land uses and human impacts in the Bay region. Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. Ecotourism is a critical component for connecting our citizens with the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay and few sites offer the abundance of educational opportunities present at Mallows Bay.

The diverse collection of historic shipwrecks from the Revolutionary War to the present create a distinctive resource among the numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites found in the area. Preserving Mallows Bay protects a marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

I believe that Mallows Bay is a nationally significant and ecologically important resource and urge you to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Ann P. Swanson Executive Director

### CC: Charlie Stek, Chesapeake Conservancy

Headquarters & Maryland Office 60 West Street, Suite 406 • Annapolis, MD 21401 • Phone 410.263.3420 • Fax 410.263.9338



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

July 8, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc. ("CBF") and over 200,000 of our members, please accept the following recommendation to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

CBF is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization with its headquarters in Annapolis, Maryland and offices in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Norfolk, Virginia; Easton, Maryland; and the District of Columbia. CBF is the largest conservation organization dedicated solely to protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Chesapeake Bay itself and its tributaries. Our vision for a saved Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers, broadly recognized as a national treasure, is a highly productive estuary and in good health as measured by established water quality standards.

Mallows Bay is located in an area identified as one of the most ecologically significant and undeveloped landscapes remaining in Tidewater Maryland. At least two tributaries that drain to Mallows Bay are designated Tier II waters by Maryland Department of Environment. Fish and aquatic invertebrate communities are of high biological integrity, reflecting minimally-disturbed, intact stream ecosystems which allow for important spawning and nursery habitat for Striped Bass and harbors large beds of submerged aquatic vegetation that serve as important feeding and nursery grounds for a variety of aquatic life.

CBF believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. We urge you to make Mallows Bay the newest National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

m Coble

Vice President of Environmental Protection and Restoration



July 18, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

As an organization dedicated to expanding the engagement of Chesapeake Bay watershed residents in natural resources issues, the Chesapeake Bay Trust supports the designation of Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland, as a National Marine Sanctuary.

The Trust was established in 1985 by the Maryland General Assembly to promote education and involvement of the citizenry in the restoration and protection of the resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We have learned a great deal since that time about what it takes to create an aware and engaged citizenry: People need to be provided with a connection to topics about which they care, and they need to be provided access to the resources. Bringing a National Marine Sanctuary to the Chesapeake would allow our community to make great strides on both of these fronts.

Mallows Bay offers a unique feature, its shipwrecks, and therefore an opportunity to draw in a new audience through focus on this particular piece of U.S. history. Using shipwrecks as an initial attractor, this audience will be educated on other aspects of Mallows Bay and the importance of protecting and restoring the full Chesapeake watershed. Mallows Bay's importance to recreational fishermen offers the same benefit. As a sanctuary, the Mallows Bay's existing functions and uses, both natural and human-related – tourism, fishing, habitat, preservation of history - would be not only protected but enhanced. For these reasons, the Trust supports its designation as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Thank you,

Jana Davis Executive Director



60 West Street, Suite 405 • Annapolis, MD 21401-2400 • PH: 410-974-2941 • FX: 410-269-0387 *www.chesapeakebaytrust.org* 



July 15, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing in support of the nomination of Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland to be a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on the Potomac River, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Conservancy for Charles County is a local land trust operating throughout Charles County to protect and preserve our forests, waterways, farmland, and heritage. All 186 miles of our Potomac River shoreline is a priority with us for environmental protection, preservation of cultural and historical resources, and access for recreation. Mallows Bay would make an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is nationally significant and ecologically important. How appropriate and timely it would be to designate Mallows Bay a National Marine Sanctuary during the centennial commemoration of World War I.

Sincerely,

tal Delaplane

Hal Delaplane President

101 Centennial Street, Suite A La Plata, MD 20646 (301) 932-6500 (301) 870-3089 Fax: (301) 932-3945



E-mail: info@charlescountychamber.org Website: www.charlescountychamber.org

July 7, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, we work to attract public attention to our area, not only through our high quality businesses, but also through our amenities. We believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System – a designation which, in turn, would lend even greater credibility to this extraordinary resource. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely en Menn

Stephen C. Kensinger, Chairman Charles County Chamber of Commerce

"The Charles County Chamber of Commerce provides leadership in supporting and promoting the free enterprise system through business development, education and sound ethical values for the benefit of our members and our communities."



5980 Radio Station Road P.O. Box 2770 La Plata, MD 20646 Main line: 301-932-6610 www.ccboe.com

Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

August 15, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

Charles County Public Schools works to provide quality educational opportunities for students and we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

-been A. Wil

Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

It's all about teaching and learning.



CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Candice Quinn Kelly, President Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., Vice President Ken Robinson Debra M. Davis, Esq. Bobby Rucci

> Mark Belton County Administrator

September 9, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere And NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the Charles County Office of Tourism, I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Mallows Bay as a NOAA National Marine Sanctuary. This nomination would play an important role in telling Charles County's Heritage Tourism story as well as enhance the visitor experience in Southern Maryland.

To be nominated one of 14 sanctuaries in the United States would be an honor for Charles County and a wonderful tribute to the World War I era. This portion of the Potomac River boasts the largest assemblage of shipwrecks in the Western Hemisphere Mallows Bay Park offers excellent outdoor recreation opportunities, wildlife viewing areas, small boating access to the Potomac River, a kayak launch site, fishing, and a hiking trail. The ship wrecks are now home to Osprey, water fowl, and other wildlife. Bald Eagles nest in the nearby trees along the shore. This site is now enjoyed by many nature and outdoor enthusiasts.

We strongly believe that Mallows Bay represents the finest in marine resource protection, proactive public engagement, and promotes stewardship. Therefore, we strongly believe that Mallows Bay should be considered for nomination. We appreciate your consideration of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Tim Morgan (/ Chief of Tourism & Special Events Charles County Government

Phone: <u>301-396-5839</u> Fax: <u>301-885-1311</u> <u>MorganT@CharlesCountyMD.gov</u>

#### Your Charles County Connection...

 
 Departments:
 Community Services • Emergency Services • Fiscal & Administrative Services Human Resources • Planning & Growth Management • Public Works

 Offices:
 Media • Public Information • Safety • Security • Tourism

P.O. Box 2150 • 200 Baltimore Street • La Plata, Maryland 20646 • 301-645-0553 • 301-870-3000 Fax: 301-648-0544 • E-Mail: Commissioner@CharlesCounty.org

Maryland Relay Service: 711 + Relay Service TDD: 1-800-735-2256 + Equal Opportunity County





### **RESOLUTION #4 4.2.14**

To support the designation of Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

WHEREAS, Chesapeake Conservancy's mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the watershed, conserve the landscapes and special places that sustain the Chesapeake's unique natural and cultural resources, and encourage the exploration and celebration of the Chesapeake as a national treasure; and

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland is a special place in the Chesapeake watershed, rich in America's maritime and cultural history, and an ecologically important resource; and

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay is contiguous to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, a signature initiative of the Conservancy, and an important part of the Potomac River segment planning process for the Trail being conducted by the National Park Service, in partnership with the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay is unique, but largely unknown, as the location of the largest and most varied extant collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States from the Revolutionary War to the present, including the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamship remains; and

WHEREAS, these shipwrecks and the related shipbreaking operations that occurred at this site from 1922 – 1945 have created a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem offering tremendous opportunities for advancing the education, conservation, public access, recreational, and geotourism goals of the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be soliciting nominations of areas of the marine environment having nationally significant historical, ecological, research, recreational or aesthetic values for consideration as new National Marine Sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a National Marine Sanctuary designation for Mallows Bay would be the first in the Chesapeake watershed and help focus national attention on this treasure and provide a new catalyst for conservation, education, public access, and tourism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY, hereby strongly supports the nomination and designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to the Governor of Maryland, members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation and General Assembly representing Charles County, the NOAA Administrator, and the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

WITNESS the signature of the undersigned as of this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2014.

Dr. Mamie Parker, Secretary



The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a sea kayaking educational organization that works to promote safe sea kayaking in the Chesapeake Bay region , we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. Mallows Bay is one our most popular destinations for kayak trips because it is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites.

Mallows Bay is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, kayaking, recreational fishing, and eco-tourism.

We believe that the boundaries of the proposed marine sanctuary can be drawn in such a way as to allow recreational development of nearby Charles County and State of Maryland parks that would add to the public access and use of the resources at Mallows Bay, rather than detract from it. Designation of Mallows Bay as an NMS would ensure the protection of those resources.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

sh themlik

Ralph E. Heimlich Coordinator Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.



July 20, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

As President of the Council for Maryland Archeology, I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Council for Maryland Archeology (CfMA) is the organization of professional archeologists in Maryland. The Council was founded in 1976 to foster public awareness, concern, and responsibility for the conservation of archeological resources in Maryland. As an organization that works to promote research, preservation, and management of archeological resources in Maryland, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

With regards,

Lyle <sup>C</sup>. Torp President, Council for Maryl<del>a</del>nd Archeology



Office of the President

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator1401 Constitution Avenue, NWWashington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to you as the President of the College of Southern Maryland to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). As you know, Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on the historically and culturally important Potomac River as well as the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The College of Southern Maryland enthusiastically supports this designation. We are prepared to develop and offer academic programs with Mallows Bay as an integral component. We would also provide students who would volunteer their services in a variety of ways. Several of our faculty have also indicated an interest in integrating the Sanctuary in their courses and would consider pursuing research on the area.

We are making a commitment to this project because we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

La Plata Campus 8730 Mitchell Road, P.O. Box 910, La Plata MD 20646-0910 301-934-2251 • 301-870-3008 www.csmd.edu Mallows Bay is, I believe, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. I think it is fitting that Mallows Bay be designated as a National Marine Sanctuary in time to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history. It will also leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans.

Sincorely, A Holpier Drafte

Bradley M. Gottfried President

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Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Joseph P. Gill, Secretary Frank W. Dawson III, Deputy Secretary

August 12, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and *NOAA* Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

It is my pleasure to write to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a State agency program that works to educate and engage Maryland citizens regarding their natural, aquatic, coastal and ocean resources, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Maryland's educators are currently facing new challenges in evolving educational requirements and practices, yet these come with an exciting new emphasis on using the environment as a context for learning across a variety of disciplines. A place such as Mallows Bay not only adds to the possible opportunities for students to visit and engage in inquiry, its unique features also juxtapose natural, cultural and historical maritime resources – for a truly multi-disciplinary field experience.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Britt Slattery Maryland DNR, Chesapeake and Coastal Service Director, Division of Conservation Education and Stewardship Coordinator, Maryland Partnership for Children In Nature



August 25, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Re: Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing on behalf of Preservation Maryland to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a state-wide historic preservation organization that works to preserve Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and archaeological sites through outreach, funding and advocacy, Preservation Maryland believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

& Aircangelis)

Margaret DeArcangelis Education and Outreach Director

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# The Filey Bay Research Group

60 Cherry Tree Drive Filey North Yorkshire YO14 9UZ 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014

The Honourable Kathy Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

I write to you to extend my full support for the proposed National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay, on the Potomac River, Charles County, Maryland.

I have had first-

hand experience at Mallows Bay, having undertaken an extended examination of the site and a hands-on examination of the enormous number of historical and cultural heritage treasures contained therein. Mallows Bay and its adjacent waters incorporate a unique assemblage of valuable maritime archaeological sites consisting of some 100 historic vessel remains of World War I vintage, as well as of many other eras from the American Revolution onward. Most of these sites are a lasting link to World War I, the European struggle that defined the parameters of world history ever after. They also serve as a monument to the dynamic growth of American industry, your nation's burgeoning role in international affairs, as well as the two centuries of friendship between the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

From my visit and further investigations, it is also clear that the site contains many individual and vibrant mini-ecosystems that have developed over a long period of time. Both these fragile shipwrecks and the unique environment that has formed about them must be studied and preserved for future generations, to increase knowledge of the environment and history of the area, for your nation and the world.

In my years of experience as Head of the Filey Bay—Bonhomme Richard Research Project, serving as project liaison with the National Geographic Society, the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Navy Heritage Command, the York Archaeological Society and English Heritage, and as founder of the Filey Bay Initiative, and originator of the Filey-Calvert County, Maryland Sister Cities Program, it is my opinion that the proposed Mallows Bay, Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary is a world class historical and archaeological site. Its formal establishment as a National Marine Sanctuary should be considered as not only as a necessity for the American people, but as a monument to enduring British-American friendship, which the ships therein were so instrumental in helping to insure.

Yours faithfully

www.fileybay.com

Email: LPGREEN@ONETEL.COM Tel (+44) 1723 513960

The Filey Bay Research Group A Constituted not for profit Organisation, dedicated to researching the Maritime and Terrestrial History of Filey, its Culture and Environment. The Historical Society Of Charles County, Inc. PO Box 2806 La Plata, MD 20646

April 26, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a non-profit historical society that works to preserve, research, and promote the heritage of Charles County, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II ship breaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. All this and only 25 miles south of the Nation's Capital.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Mary Pat Berry Mary Pat Berry, President, HSCC



INSTITUTE OF MARITIME HISTORY A TAX-EXEMPT EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 108, TALL TIMBERS, MD 20690 MOBILE 302-222-4721 www.MaritimeHistory.org

May 21, 2014

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20230

Re: proposed National Marine Sanctuary, Mallows Bay MD

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH) enthusiastically supports the designation of Mallows Bay, Maryland, as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Since our incorporation in 1994 as a non-profit society, IMH has been actively engaged in underwater archaeological research in the United States and abroad. Since 2005 we have focused on proactive, *pro bono* reconnaissance for submerged historic resources for the State Historic Preservation Officers in Maryland, Delaware, Georgia, New Jersey, and Virginia. In 2011 we received the *Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation* from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for our work on submerged Civil War sites at Quantico, Virginia, for the United States Marine Corps Base.

In September and October of 2014, on behalf of the Maryland Historical Trust, we plan to assess twelve to fifteen large, wooden vessels lying in the Potomac River at Widewater, all within the proposed Sanctuary transect. We believe they are part of the surplus fleet that was scrapped in Mallows Bay in the 1920s. We undertook that project before learning of the pending initiative to designate Mallows Bay as a Sanctuary. Based on research by Donald G. Shomette and others, it appears the Widewater sites may comprise five distinct types of wooden vessels that were built for the Emergency Fleet Corporation. The area lies approximately three miles southwest of Mallows Bay. Some of the vessels are awash and visible. Others, barely submerged, are visible on Google Earth. The vessels at Mallows Bay and Widewater represent a unique chapter in American shipbuilding and in the incredible establishment and growth of our nation's shipbuilding industry and merchant marine in World War One. As the centennial of America's entrance into that conflict approaches, this seems a particularly apt time to investigate, document, and record the sites and to embrace them within the protections of a Sanctuary for all Americans. We hope you will consider the matter favorably. Of course, we will do everything in our power to assist NOAA in archival research, fieldwork, and other matters concerning the sites.

Sincerely yours,

MAnne

David P. Howe, Secretary

cc:

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director Office of National Marine Sanctuaries National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1305 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mr. Charles A. Stek Chairman, , Steering Committee Mallows Bay Sanctuary Initiative 18611 Mink Hollow Road Highland, MD 20777



July 1, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and *NOAA* Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the extensive remains of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American archaeological sites, as well as those representing the Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

As Maryland's State Underwater Archaeologist and director of the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program, and as an Adjunct Professor in the Anthropology Department of St. Mary's College of Maryland, I can state categorically that the education and research opportunities that Sanctuary status would impart to Mallows Bay are unparalleled. While providing a hands-on venue for teaching courses like ship architecture, it would also provide opportunities for diverse research into maritime archaeology, and training opportunities for students as well as for the members of the State's cadre of volunteers through our partner organizations the Institute of Maritime History (IMH), the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) and the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS).

The State of Maryland currently holds concurrent jurisdiction with the National Park Service over Park Units in Maryland; this may serve as a precedent for a Sanctuary. Concurrent jurisdiction provides the State access to federal legislation, where appropriate, such as the Archaeological Resource Protection Act that is considerably stronger than present State laws governing important heritage resources. In addition to providing stronger management, protective, and preservation tools to the State, the outreach and education potential ensures the Sanctuary would have a dynamic nature. Programs offered and the research possible have the potential to develop continuously and embrace increasingly diverse organizations, institutions, and individuals.

Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary Amanda Stakem Conn, Esq., Deputy Secretary Mallows Bay is a nationally and in some ways globally significant and ecologically important resource. I can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary, and I enthusiastically endorse the application for designation and urge you to support this submission.

Sincerely, Susan B.M. Langley, PhD.

State Underwater Archaeologist, MDP Adjunct Professor, SMCM

/sl cc. Charlie Stek, Chair Mallows Bay Steering Committee



## MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 44382, L'ENFANT PLAZA WASHINGTON DC 20026-4382

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS) to convey our support for the designation of Mallows Bay. Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

MAHS is a non-profit tax exempt educational society dedicated to advancing the science of maritime archaeology and enhancing public awareness and appreciation of historic shipwrecks and other submerged cultural resources. Every year since 1988, we have conducted the MAHS Introductory Course in Underwater Archaeology which is also distributed on DVD throughout the country and to various locations across the globe. MAHS certified members who complete our training programs serve as volunteers in support of NGO, state, federal, and foreign government underwater archaeology projects. Over the past 25 years MAHS members have protected and preserved over 40 submerged historic sites. Mallows Bay is a graveyard filled with historic shipwrecks and MAHS supports any and all efforts to protect them.

Mallows Bay is located on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland. It is a place of national significance, rich in America's maritime and cultural history as well as an ecologically important resource. Public interest in the sordid tale of the Ghost Fleet has grown since the 1996 publication of Don Shomette's popular book "Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay and Other Tales of the Lost Chesapeake." The Mallows Bay area reportedly hosts the largest and most varied extant collection of historic shipwrecks in the U.S. from the Revolutionary War to the present. The remains of 200 wooden steamships built during World War I reside here creating a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities for public education, conservation, recreation and tourism.

Designation as a National Marine Sanctuary would focus national attention on this important area and provide critical support to the efforts of Charles County and the State of

Maryland to expand access while protecting the cultural and natural resources and promoting sustainable ecotourism. MAHS is pleased to have this opportunity to express our support for the nomination and designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely.

Stance Authory Steven Anthony

Sa/sa Sullivan 140728

Cc:

Mr. Charles A. Stek Chairman, , Steering Committee Mallows Bay Sanctuary Initiative 18611 Mink Hollow Road Highland, MD 20777 August 4, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

#### Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a civic volunteer\_that works with the Charles County Master Gardener's Bay-Wise Program, the Charles County Garden Club, the Extension Advisory Council, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Kris Kringle Market Organizational Committee, I believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. What a wonderful way to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history! Designating Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary will leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans and I urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Ronda R. Goldman, M.Ed. Charles County Resident



# **Mattawoman Watershed Society**

Protecting and preserving Mattawoman Creek for the enjoyment of all.

July 21, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to strongly endorse the designation of Mallows Bay on the Potomac—the Nation's River—as a new National Marine Sanctuary. The Mattawoman Watershed Society, Inc., along with its over one thousand supporters, strives to protect vulnerable Mattawoman Creek, and has a keen interest in conserving the other remarkable aquatic resources in the local and greater region. As we emphasized in our August 2013 comments in support of re-establishing the nomination process, the nation's largest estuary is presently without a Sanctuary. Designating Mallows Bay would not only redress this marked oversight, but would confer deserved and appropriate attention to a site of unusual historical and natural significance.

Mallows Bay is the site of a startling "ghost fleet" of sunken ships, dominated by more than a hundred scuttled hulks of wooden steamships once intended for the United States' effort in World War I.<sup>1</sup> Myriad online reviews and reports attest that cruising and paddling among these hulls is a very popular sightseeing destination with boaters, and fish drawn to the structures has long attracted anglers.<sup>2</sup>

Mallows Bay is also is embraced by the forests of Charles County, one of the last extensive areas of notable biodiversity in Maryland, and the only such large area in the state's inner coastal plain.<sup>3</sup> These lands sweep from the Nanjemoy Creek watershed in the vicinity, to join those of Mattawoman Creek to the north. Both areas are recognized as hotspots of biodiversity in a multi-state area by the Fish and Wildlife Service,<sup>4</sup> and both have been recognized as Important Bird Areas by the Audubon Society.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay, D.G. Shomette

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/naturalresource/winter2001/ghostship.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Tidal Potomac River Fishing Bible, K. Penrod, PPC Publishing, Beltsville, MD (1992)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bionet: Biodiversity Conservation Network, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division (May 21, 2012) http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants Wildlife/pdfs/BIONET FactSheet.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A GAP analysis of animal species distributions in Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey, Final Report-Part 2. McCorkle, R.C., J.N. Gorham, and D.A. Rasberry. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Delaware Bay Estuary Project, and USGS Biological Resources Division, Gap Analysis Program (2006). http://www.fws.gov/delawarebay/Pdfs/finalreport.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Maryland Important Bird Areas, Audubon Maryland-DC. http://md.audubon.org/ibas-maryland
These and other features strongly identify Mallows Bay as a potential centerpiece for nature ecotourism. Hence, designation as a National Marine Sanctuary could release a pent-up desire to employ the region's beauty and natural heritage for sustainable economic development through experiential tourism.<sup>6</sup> As an example, serious proposals to rejuvenate the nearest town, Indian Head, which has fallen on hard times, seek to build on its natural assets.<sup>7, 8</sup> These assets include its location on the famous Mattawoman Creek estuary, and its location at the terminus of the Indian Head Rail Trail, wildly popular for its natural forested setting.<sup>9</sup> Indian Head and Mallows Bay are linked by the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and lie along Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The renown that a National Marine Sanctuary would endow on the area could contribute to the critical mass needed to sustain nature ecotourism as an alternative economic model.

In conclusion, for the many reasons given above, the Mattawoman Watershed Society strongly supports designating Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Jim Long President

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Nature and Experiential Tourism: Report And Recommendations for Charles County, MD, Fermata, Inc., Austin TX, October 20, 2000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Indian Head works toward becoming a trail town. (June 21, 2010) www.somdrcd.org/articles/publish/news/Indian Head Works Toward Becoming a Trail Town.shtml

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> *Technical Assistance Panel Report, Indian Head Rail Trail*, Urban Land Institute, Bethesda, MD. (May, 2012) <u>http://washington.uli.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2011/06/Indian-Head-Final-Report-Draft.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> For example, <u>http://www.traillink.com/trail-reviews/indian-head-rail-trail.aspx</u>

Sustainable\_\_\_\_Attainable



April 18, 2014

Mr. Dan Basta NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 1305 East-West Highway, N/NMS Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Basta:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees to express support for designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). This small bay, located on the Maryland side of the Potomac River in Charles County, is a ship graveyard that is home to more than 100 WWI-era wooden vessels constructed in over 50 shipyards in 20 states. These vessels represent a period during which the United States emerged as a world leader in shipbuilding and witnessed the establishment of the Merchant Marines.

The Board understands that the NMS System, administered by NOAA, is designed to recognize and promote the conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, research or aesthetic values of special areas of the marine environment. Designation of Mallows Bay as an NMS would focus national attention on this important resource.

At its April meeting, the Maryland Historical Trust Board passed a resolution in support of the nomination. A copy of that resolution of support is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

Chialith Aug Elizabeth Hughes, **Deputy Director** 

Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary Amanda Stakem Conn, Esq., Deputy Secretary

Maryland Historical Trust - 100 Community Place - Crownsville - Maryland - 21032 Tel: 410.514.7600 - Toll Free: 1.800.756.0119 - TTY users: Maryland Relay - MHT.Maryland.gov



Maryland Department of Planning Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees Resolution

To support the designation of Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be soliciting nominations of areas of the marine environment having nationally significant historical, ecological, research, recreational or aesthetic values for consideration as new National Marine Sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Historical Trust's mission is to preserve and interpret the legacy of Maryland's past; and

WHEREAS, conserving and promoting Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland is important to the Maryland Historical Trust's mission as a place of National significance, rich in America's maritime and cultural history; and

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay is unique, but largely unknown, as the location of the largest and most varied extant collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States from the Revolutionary War to the present, including the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamship remains; and

WHEREAS, these shipwrecks and the related shipbreaking operations that occurred at this site from 1922 -1945 have created a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities for education, conservation, public access, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, a National Marine Sanctuary designation for Mallows Bay would be the first in the Chesapeake watershed and help focus national attention on this treasure and provide a new catalyst for conservation, education, public access and tourism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Maryland Historical Trust hereby strongly supports the nomination and designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary in accordance with Subpart C—Designation of National Marine Sanctuaries § 922.20-.25 (Standards and procedures for designation);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution are sent to the Governor of Maryland, members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation and General Assembly representing Charles County, the NOAA Administrator and the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries,

WITNESS the signature of the undersigned as of this third day of April, 2014.

Charles L. Elson

Charles L. Edson

Chairman, Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees

Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary Amanda Stakem Conn, Esq., Deputy Secretary

Maryland Historical Trust - 100 Community Place - Crownsville - Maryland - 21032 Tel: 410.514.7600 - Toll Free: 1.800.756.0119 - TTY users: Maryland Relay - MHT.Maryland.gov



The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

#### Dear Dr. Sullivan:

The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission of Maryland are writing in support of designating Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) with the caveat that it will not impact current commercial or recreational fishing activities. Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

These two advisory commissions, appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley, advise the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on all recreational and commercial fishing matters. We believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so while not impacting our vital current recreational and commercial activities.

Sincerely,

William boldsbrogh/ nea

William Goldsborough Chairman Maryland Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

William Rice / hze

William Rice Chairman Maryland Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

#### STATE OF MARYLAND Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Martin O'Malley Governor

E. Keith Colston Administrative Director

Commissioners

Chair Robert F. Killen

Vice Chair Ashley Minner

Virginia Busby

Patricia Ward Carson

Rico Newman

Lisa Savoy

Rebecca Stone

Leanora E. Winters



Anthony G. Brown Lt. Governor

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

August 28, 2014

We, the Commissioners of the Maryland Commission Indian Affairs, are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a governor-appointed commission that works to promote the health and welfare of Maryland's indigenous people and that is charged to record and preserve the cultural aspects of Maryland's indigenous people, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. As part of the homelands of Maryland's state-recognized Piscataway tribes, Mallows Bay holds special significance for the thousands of years of sustenance and beauty it has provided in addition to its importance as a part of the Potomac River indigenous corridor for travel, communication and trade. Because Maryland Indians remained through colonization to the present day and because a disproportionately high amount of American Indians have served in the United States military, we further recognize the military history of Mallows Bay. This includes that it is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War submerged archeological sites.

Page Two Mallows Bay Charles County August 28, 2014

It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime and indigenous history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. The rich indigenous cultural landscape that surrounds and includes Mallows Bay attests to the environmentally and culturally rich significance of the area. This critical aspect of the Bay's history and significance further promotes the public's investment in the appreciation and conservation of this area and is recognized as a major national and international tourism draw.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Robs 7 Kill

Robert F. Killen, Chair On behalf of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

June 5, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition, Inc. (N-PEC) is writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay. The unique land and water features of Mallows Bay are important to the history, culture, and environment not only of our local area but also to our nation.

As an educational non-profit organization that works to protect the land and water of Nanjemoy, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War and into the twentieth century, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. It also offers many opportunities for school partnerships to enhance the students' connections with history and environment as well as promote stewardship of public lands.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Deanna Wheeler

N-PEC President

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

And NOAA Administrator

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

This letter, written on behalf of Nanjemoy Vision, is in support of the designation of Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Nanjemoy Vision is a non-profit organization formed by residents of Nanjemoy to protect and promote the natural beauty, historic sites and sensitive ecological resources of the greater Nanjemoy peninsula. Mallows Bay is located on this peninsula, and is a critical part of our preservation efforts.

Just an hour south of Washington, Nanjemoy presents an opportunity to visit vast pristine forests and 10 miles of undeveloped, natural Potomac shoreline. By car, boat or on foot along our trails, people can enjoy nature's beauty and may spot rare and endangered plants, birds, fish and other animals. Nanjemoy Vision has worked with county, state and federal agencies to establish parks along the Potomac River and the Nanjemoy Creek to preserve this environment. Mallows Bay Park is one of these parks and is particularly important because it is both historic and an ecologically unique site. The story of the "ghost" fleet of abandoned wooden ships and the marine environment that has developed around those ships is surely worthy of a special designation as a marine sanctuary.

We hope you will support our community effort to preserve a rare and sensitive ecological site by designating Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nanjemoy Vision, Inc.

Loretta d'Eustachio

Millie Hamman

Vice President

Marsha Back

Secretary/Treasurer

President



August 25, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Re: Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing on behalf of Preservation Maryland to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a state-wide historic preservation organization that works to preserve Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and archaeological sites through outreach, funding and advocacy, Preservation Maryland believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

& Aircangelis)

Margaret DeArcangelis Education and Outreach Director

BOARD of DIRECTORS Henry R. Lord, Esq. President

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August 18, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and *NOAA* Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, with 560 members, promotes bicycling for transportation, recreation, health and physical fitness. As an organization that works to promote bicycle tourism in Southern Maryland, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is one of our favorite cycling destinations and is featured on the t-shirt for the club's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Head 100 Bicycle Ride (the t-shirt design is attached).

Mallows Bay is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Respectfully,

der & Cory 2

Calvin Conyers President





Indian Head, Maryland

The Southern Maryland Century, 2014 Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club - ohbike.org

# **PISCATAWAY CONOY TRIBE**

### TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 638, Bryans Road, Maryland 20616

August 1, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

The Piscataway Conoy Tribe is submitting to you, this letter of support regarding the designation of the Potomac River/Mallows Bay area in Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

The Mallows Bay section of the Potomac River, approximately 30 miles south of Washington, DC., is a very special place to the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, as well as rich in America's maritime and cultural history, and an ecologically important resource for Maryland and the Chesapeake region. There is evidence of Native American occupation of the area dating back 12,000 years. Those findings alone make this area significant to our Tribe and other Native Americans in our region. This was an important historical site before European contact with the Piscataway Conoy People.

It is unique as the location of the largest collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, ranging from the Revolutionary War to the present. It includes a "ghost fleet" of over 100 World War I wooden or composite steamships, as well as archaeological or cultural remains from the Civil War, 19<sup>th</sup> century Potomac River fishing industry, and the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the Nation. It is also a unique ecosystem which, together with the area's historical resources, offers tremendous opportunities for education, research, conservation, recreation, and tourism.

I hope that you will approve the National Marine Sanctuary designation for this nationally significant, ecologically, and historical important resource.

Sincerely,

Mervin Savoy

Tribal Chairwoman Piscataway Conoy Tribe

PORT TOBACCO RIVER CONSERVANCY P.O. Box 104, Port Tobacco, MD 20677 Phone: 301.934.2025 www.porttobaccoriver.org





June 4, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere And NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a non-profit environmental organization that works to clean river water going into the Chesapeake Bay, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II ship breaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Julie Simpson Executive Director Port Tobacco River Conservancy

Jerry W. Forber

Jerry W. Forbes, PhD President of Board of Directors Port Tobacco River Conservancy



September 9, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a river conservation organization that fights to protect the Potomac and its surrounding lands through conservation and advocacy, Potomac Conservancy believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

President

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August 25, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Re: Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing on behalf of Preservation Maryland to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a state-wide historic preservation organization that works to preserve Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and archaeological sites through outreach, funding and advocacy, Preservation Maryland believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

& Aircangelis)

Margaret DeArcangelis Education and Outreach Director

BOARD of DIRECTORS Henry R. Lord, Esq. President

The Hon. Marsha E. Barnes William K. Beard, Jr. Kathryn Washburn Vice Presidents

Theresa T. Michel Secretary

Patricia Schooley Assistant Secretary

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Quantico Yacht Club PO Box 21 Quantico, VA 22134

4 June 2014

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20230

Re: Proposed National Marine Sanctuary, Mallows Bay MD

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing on behalf of the Quantico Yacht Club (QYC) to let you know we wholeheartedly support the designation of Mallows Bay, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

The QYC is an incorporated, nonprofit, self-sustaining, non-Federal, private entity, organized and operating under the authority and sanction of the Marine Corps Base Quantico Base Commander. The QYC can trace its origin back to 1935. The Club's mission is to promote safe, enjoyable recreational boating and competitive sailing activities in support of active and former members of the United States uniformed services and their dependents through a variety of organized events, instructional programs and social activities.

History and heritage are extremely important to the Marine Corps and the membership of the Quantico Yacht Club. The vessels at Mallows Bay and Widewater represent a unique chapter in American shipbuilding history and offers important lessons concerning our nation's shipbuilding industry.

Our club has had two opportunities in the past few years to visit Mallows Bay by boat and learn about the ghost fleet of Mallows Bay. These trips were part of a Professional Military Education program to see how a poorly managed acquisition process can end in disaster. Since several of our members work for the Department of Defense and are involved in the Defense Acquisition Process, this site is of particular interest to them but all members who attended the training found the history of this site to be fascinating and worth preserving.

We hope you will consider the matter favorably and designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hazard Commodore, Quantico Yacht Club



The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

REI works to inspire, educate, and outfit for a lifetime of outdoor adventure and stewardship and we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

The REI Outdoor School leads kayaking tours of Mallow's Bay, and it's an incredibly popular and inspirational program for our participants. Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Matt Liddle REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach Mid-Atlantic Manager <u>mliddle@rei.com</u>

# **Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County**

P O Box K Bryans Road, MD 20616 www.savecharlescounty.com

July 25, 2014

Mr. Thomas Roland Chief, Parks and Grounds Charles County Department of Public Works 1001 Radio Station Road La Plata, Maryland 20646 Via email: <u>rolandt@charlescounty.org</u>

Dear Mr. Roland:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County is pleased to endorse Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. A broad alliance of over twenty local, state, and regional organizations representing both community and environmental interests, we are especially dedicated to the preservation of special places for future generations to enjoy.

Mallows Bay is one of those places – a unique treasure of history and marine resources in a rare natural setting with bald eagles and great blue herons along the Potomac River. We can't imagine a better way to preserve and enhance this gem than to have it added to the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Much of our maritime history is captured only in books and pictures. Mallows Bay provides an opportunity to drift your canoe or kayak right up next to the skeleton of a 100-year-old ship from an era we can only imagine and marvel at. Charles County has a rich historical legacy, but very little of it is preserved where it can be enjoyed up close like at Mallows Bay.

Mallows Bay is surrounded by forests and streams widely recognized as hotspots of biodiversity. Western Charles County is a popular tourism destination for anglers, birders, bikers and boaters. The Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail, a popular on-road bicycling route that links with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trial, passes by Mallows Bay. Unfortunately, the history of this place is largely unknown to visitors to the area and even to many residents.

"Mallows Bay, the newest marine sanctuary and the only one in the Chesapeake Bay watershed." We think that has a nice sound to it. We hope the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will agree.

<sup>•</sup> Mason Spring's Conservancy • Mattawoman Watershed Society • Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition • Port Tobacco

River Conservancy • Potomac River Association • Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter • Sierra Club, Southern Maryland Group • South Hampton HOA • Southern Maryland Audubon Society • St. Mary's River Watershed Association

Sincerely,

Dru Schmidt-Perkins Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Maryland

Kelly Canavan President, AMP Creeks Council

David Curson Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Maryland-DC

Diane Cameron Conservation Program Director, Audubon Naturalist Society

Bonnie Bick President, Chapman Forest Foundation

Alison Prost Maryland Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Julie Simpson President, Citizens for a Better Charles County

Andy Galli Maryland Program Manager, Clean Water Action

Hal Delaplane President, Conservancy for Charles County

Scott Sewell Conservation Director, Maryland Bass Nation

Kirsten Johnson President, Maryland Native Plant Society Ken Hastings Board Member, Mason Springs Conservancy

Jim Long President, Mattawoman Watershed Society

Deanna Wheeler President, Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition

Jerry Forbes President, Port Tobacco River Conservancy

Bob Elwood President, Potomac River Association

Claudia Friedetzky Chapter Conservation Representative, Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter

Frank Fox Chair, Executive Committee, Sierra Club, Southern Maryland Group

Ulysee Davis President, South Hampton HOA

Mike Callahan President, Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Bob Lewis Executive Director, St. Mary's River Watershed Association

cc: Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, NOAA Administrator and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, kathryn.sullivan@noaa.gov



# Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

PO Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637 ph. 301-274-4083 fax. 301-274-1924 Email: <u>SoMdHeritage@tccsmd.org</u> Web: <u>www.DestinationSouthernMaryland.com</u>

May 14, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

As Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium (SMHAC,) I am writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The SMHAC is a non-profit organization created just over a decade ago to help support the three counties of Southern Maryland in an effort to become a preeminent heritage tourism destination. As supporters of heritage, culture and outdoor experiences for both visitors and residents alike we are quite certain that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

This particular site has always been considered to be of significance to outdoor tourism in the region. When the SMHAC's original Tourism Management Plan was created in 2003, one of the Maritime Theme Projects listed in the Plan is this:

Construct a boat launching facility at Mallows Bay using State of MD waterway improvement funds that can include:

-- boardwalk,

-- interpretive exhibit panels and maps detailing sunken ships,

= static exhibits/interpretive panels about estuarine system and marine life.

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Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Yours Sincerely,

Ren Paconto

Roz Racanello Executive Director

Nancy L. Easterling Executive Director



A National Historic Landmark

### Board of Trustees July 17, 2014

lanice L. Briscoe President Donald M. Barber Vice President lames W. Cornelsen Treasurer David G. Brown Secretary Robert B. Aldridge Betty W. Currie Michael F. Clayton Joseph W. Dyer Lynn R. Fitrell Patrick W. Furev Bonnie M. Green M. Arshed Javaid Charles H. "Bert" Johnston RADM, USN (ret) Michael L. Middleton Gregory S. Proctor, Jr. Thomas M. Russell Merideth M. Taylor **Rick Tepel** 

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• Deceased

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a National Historic Landmark Site that works to keep alive the history of our region and our nation, including its waterways, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerelv.

Janice L. Briscoe President of Board of Trustees

The Mission of Historic Sotterley, Inc. is to preserve, research and interpret Sotterley Plantation's diverse cultures and environments, and to serve the world as an educational, cultural and community resource.





July 21, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

It is with a great deal of excitement that I urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary. As you have no doubt heard from many others, Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on the Potomac – the Nation's River – and the first in Chesapeake Bay. And you've no doubt heard the many compelling reasons why Mallows Bay deserves your very strongest consideration for NMS designation.

There's more, though. It is very likely that a large Native American archaeological site on the north shore of Mallows Bay represents Nussamek, one of the "King's villages" visited by Captain John Smith on his voyage up the Potomac during the summer of 1608. Because many of the settlements along the Potomac River visited by Smith have since been destroyed or adversely impacted by 20<sup>th</sup>-century activities, this site becomes especially important for understanding and teaching about that important transformative moment in American history. Indeed, given Mallows Bay's and the site's location in close proximity to Washington DC, the area is surprisingly pristine and undeveloped – for now.

St. Mary's College of Maryland, where I teach, has had a long interest in southern Maryland history and culture. A four-year public honors college, St. Mary's has undertaken both archaeological and oral history surveys in Charles County. This past academic year, my students and I have turned our attention to Nanjemoy and to Mallows Bay, as we seek to link archaeological sites there with important events in American history. To be sure, students can read about history in books (and I make sure they do), but nothing can substitute for that almost-breathtaking awareness that comes from being in the same landscape as our American forbears. The designation of Mallows Bay as a NMS would provide all sorts of new opportunities for making those educational connections and forging that awareness.

From the local level (Charles County) to the national level (Captain John Smith National Historic Trail), Mallows Bay has ignited interest for its historical, archaeological, and ecological significance. I urge you to give this important marine property your very highest consideration in the NMS designation process.

Sincerely,

Amur O. K.C

Julia A. King, Ph.D. Professor of Anthropology

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Brian Loewe, Director



Francis Jack Russell, President Lawrence D. Jarboe, Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones, Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner Daniel L. Morris, Commissioner

June 2, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the St. Mary's County Museum Division we are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a county museum and historic park organization that works to preserve and interpret the cultural, maritime and environmental history of Southern Maryland and its waterways, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Pence, Director St. Mary's County Museum Division

> P.O. BOX 653 • 23150 LEONARD HALL DRIVE, LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650 PHONE 301.475.4200 x 1800 • FAX 301.475.4108 • www.co.saint-marys.md.us



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Ste. 100 Bethesda, MD 20815 tel (301) 897-8570 fax (301) 897-0858 nature.org

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

The Maryland/DC office of The Nature Conservancy is writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Maryland/DC Chapter of TNC has a long history of working in the area around Mallows Bay. TNC currently owns almost 3000 acres in the area along Nanjemoy Creek for the protection of the federally listed dwarf wedge mussel. TNC has also worked with the State of Maryland in the protection of other properties in the area including a property on the south shore of Mallows Bay currently owned and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. TNC is also actively involved in the protection of aquatic systems through our new Chesapeake Bay Initiative with an emphasis on restoration and non-point source pollution reduction.

TNC believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. It would be part of a complex of interpretive natural areas in the Nanjemoy peninsula including the jointly managed BLM/MD DNR Douglas Point property, the TNC Nanjemoy Creek Preserve, the DNR Purse State Park, and the DNR/Charles County Mallows Bay Park, all within a 45 minute drive of Washington, DC.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge NOAA to do so.

Sincerely State Director



108A Mattingly Ave. Indian Head, MD 20640 301-743-3733

To All Concerned:

9 July 2014

We are petitioning the designation of Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As a kayak rental and tour company that strives to give our customers the best panorama of natural and historic experiences, Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States. The ships dated from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. The remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships rest in the waters of Mallows Bay. It is site to the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. Furthermore, the bay is a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay defines a nationally significant and ecologically important resource.

In commemoration of the anniversary of World War I, our maritime history, and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans we urge you to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Mike and Sue Jones Up The Creek Rentals, LLC



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



August, 29, 2014

Dear Charlie,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide early feedback on the Potomac River Mallows Bay Area National Marine Sanctuary (PR-MB NMS) concept. In the Chesapeake region and across the nation, large connected natural areas provide habitat for fish, wildlife and plants and provide jobs, food, clean water, storm protection, recreation and many other natural benefits that support people and communities. To ensure a sustainable future for these resources in the face of climate change, energy development, urban growth and other land-use changes and pressures, managers, scientists citizens and conservationists must work together to strategically conserve these large landscapes and the great rivers and estuaries that flow through them. The PR-MBA NMS concept offers an exciting opportunity for many partners to undertake a monumental, collaborative conservation, cultural interpretation, access to outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation. But is also reflects, quite importantly, a much broader vision for the conservation of the Chesapeake's natural, recreational, cultural and historic riches.

In 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13508 (EO) declaring the Chesapeake Bay "a national treasure" and recognizing the nationally significant assets of the watershed in the form of "public lands, facilities, military installations, parks, forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, and museums." As you know, a broad collaborative effort, reflected in the recently refreshed Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Agreement), is taking place throughout the Chesapeake region to restore water quality, revive and sustain natural resources, protect cultural landscapes, and provide more locations for water access and outdoor recreation. Both the EO and Agreement call for strategies to protect and restore the Chesapeake, including conserving and restoring a network of vital habitats to support sustainable populations of the fish and wildlife that the public value most.

The 14 square mile proposed PR-MBA NMS would confer conservation designation to address rather specific and local historic preservation, natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation and cultural interpretation priorities. But, it also clearly serves as an example of healthy collaboration by successful conservation partnerships, to support a bigger, more substantial vision for interconnected, aligned, and scalable conservation actions throughout the Chesapeake region. The engagement of local stakeholders and regional partners in the development of the PR-MB NMS proposal increases the likelihood of its success. It also reassures partners and stakeholders that conservation



designations such as this needn't, and most often do not, exclude traditional and compatible uses of the land, water and other natural resources that they hold dear. This is essential to expand and align strategic, community-driven conservation action throughout the Chesapeake watershed.

The individual accomplishments of agencies and organizations (and coalitions like yours) operating in the Chesapeake watershed at the project scale, the site scale, and sometimes at larger scales are undeniably successful and worthwhile. And yet, what is still missing is a system-wide connectedness across our communities, across habitat types and across scales. What is needed is a collaborative effort to plan and design a system-wide land and water conservation vision, framework and implementation plan, including expanded recreational opportunities and the conservation of cultural and historic assets, for the entire 64,000 square mile Chesapeake watershed.

To that end, FWS leads the Bay Program's Habitat Goal Implementation Team, and is playing a key role convening a Habitat Strategies Working Group in our role with the Chesapeake Large Landscape Collaboration Partnership. In these roles, we encourage leadership by organizations and agencies at all levels in pursuing innovative approaches to habitat conservation and landscape recognition; attention to addressing the multiple values of the watershed's natural, cultural, historical, economic and recreational wealth; willingness and commitment to collaborate across jurisdictions -- both within specific landscapes and throughout the watershed as a whole; and, citizens, landowners and stakeholders who are dedicated to sustained and strategic conservation action.

The PR-MB NMS proposal is not simply complementary of FWS's role within the Chesapeake watershed conservation community; it is also reflective of a shared vision that is integral to our role. Imagine a network of conservation partnerships – a network of conservation networks - to integrate efforts and build cohesion in contexts, at scales, and at rates, that were individually unimaginable. Imagine that together, we build upon the strength of existing partnerships, forge new relationships, facilitate conservation action, seek and align funding, share information and staff support, influence conservation action, and achieve mutual conservation objectives in support of priority conservation targets. *Just imagine an interconnected system of conserved lands and waters supporting habitat for sustainable fish and wildlife populations, compatible historic uses of the Bay and its resources, and vibrant local natural resource based economies, with a series of connected conservation assets like the proposed Potomac River Mallows Bay Area National Marine Sanctuary at its core!* 

Apparently you have imagined all these things. The Potomac River Mallows Bay Area National Marine Sanctuary proposal, backed by such a broad coalition of conservation, education, fishing, business, Indian and community organizations, and the support of so many local, state and federal officials, is proof of it.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Slattery Chesapeake Coordinator



# MALLOWS BAY-POTOMAC RIVER

# NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NOMINATION

September 2014









## **Contributors:**

Lori Arguelles, *Alice Ferguson Foundation* Tom Roland, *Charles County Parks and Recreation* Charlie Stek, *Chesapeake Conservancy* Don Shomette, *Citizen* Scott Sewell, *Maryland BASS* Kristin Saunders, Matthew Fleming, Catherine McCall, Kelly Collins; *Maryland Department of Natural Resources* Marci Ross, Maryland Department of Tourism, *Department of Business and Economic Development* Susan Langley, *Maryland Historical Trust* Deanna Wheeler, *Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition* Mike Smolek, *Naval Air Station, Patuxent River* Mervin Savoy, *Piscataway-Conoy Confederacy and Subtribes, Inc.* Roslyn Racanello, *Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium* Steve Bunker, *The Nature Conservancy* 

## **Section I - Basics**

Title: Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary Nominator Name/Affiliation: Martin O'Malley, Governor, on behalf of the State of Maryland, Charles County and a broad-based coalition of local, state and regional organizations and individuals.

Point of Contact: Kelly Collins, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; <u>kelly.collins@maryland.gov</u>; 410-260-8912

# **Section II – Introduction**

### **Narrative Description**

The section of the tidal Potomac River in the vicinity of Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland is an area of national significance with unique historical, archaeological, cultural, ecological, and aesthetic qualities, which offers outstanding opportunities for research, education and recreation. It is home to the largest assemblage of historic shipwrecks in the United States and the largest "Ghost Fleet" of World War I wooden steamships built for the U.S. Emergency Fleet -- part of a massive national wartime program that made America the greatest shipbuilding nation in the world. Its archaeological and cultural resources cover centuries of history from the earliest American Indian presence in the region circa 12,000 years ago to the roles that this area played in the Revolutionary, Civil, and two World Wars, as well as in successive regimes of Potomac River fishing industries. Its largely undeveloped landscape and waterscape has been identified as one of the most ecologically valuable in Maryland, providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including rare, threatened and endangered species.<sup>1</sup> As the second largest tributary of the Chesapeake watershed and a river targeted for environmental restoration since the 1960's, the Potomac River, and this tidal section of the Potomac in particular, is critical to the overall health of the Chesapeake. The Mallows Bay-Potomac Rive area is a premier bass fishing, boating and recreation destination and a priority focus area for the myriad federal, state, local and private partners who strongly support this nomination and are working in concert to conserve and promote this section of the Potomac River basin. All these attributes make the Mallows-Bay Potomac River area an outstanding candidate for the National Marine Sanctuary System and offer tremendous opportunities for further scientific investigation, education, recreation, and tourism. In addition to exemplifying the mission of the Sanctuaries program, Mallows Bay could serve as its showpiece. Close to Washington, D.C. and accessible both by land and water, the Mallows Bay-Potomac River area would be an excellent 'ambassador,' providing an important

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mallows Bay and surrounding lands are identified as a "Targeted Ecological Area" for conservation through GreenPrint, Maryland's ecological scoring system. http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/

touch point not only for the cultural and natural treasures of this site, but serve an exemplar of the National Marine Sanctuary System as a whole.

### **Goals Description**

Eight major goals are envisioned for the proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary:

(1) Protect, systematically study, interpret and manage the extensive archaeological and historical resource base therein through cooperative partnerships with extant educational, county, state and national agencies as well as community-based interest groups and professional organizations.

(2) Study, assess, interpret and preserve the unique and evolving ecosystem as a living laboratory, as well as its integral relationship to the archaeological resource base.

(3) Manage and enhance public access, recreation, heritage tourism and eco-tourism.

(4) Develop interpretive programs, exhibits, water trails, and public outreach to schools, community forums, and other interested institutions by relating the pre-history, history and unique ecological evolution of the sanctuary area and its natural and historical resources, and its relationship to the larger landscape of the Chesapeake environment and its maritime heritage.
(5) Provide educational opportunities and field study programs with the Charles County School System, the College of Southern Maryland, St. Mary's College, and other regional educational institutions, as well as general public education and outreach, especially via STEM programs through the site's importance as a living laboratory.

(6) Enhance federal, state, local and private partnerships working to conserve and promote the historic, cultural, natural, archaeological, recreational, educational, scientific and aesthetic resources of the area.

(7) Facilitate and advance the ongoing restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and in particular, that of "The Nation's River"--as President Lyndon Johnson once called the Potomac River--by serving as a hub area for research and documentation of environmental change.(8) Utilize the designation to responsibly market a high quality visitor experience to domestic and international visitors.

### **Location Description**

The Mallows Bay area of the tidal Potomac River is situated 40 miles south of Washington, D.C. off the Nanjemoy Peninsula of Charles County, Maryland. It encompasses an area of submerged lands along the Potomac River that begins at the low water mark off Sandy Point and extends westward to the low water line just east of the Maryland-Virginia border near Clifton Point, Virginia. From there the boundary extends southward following the Maryland-Virginia border to Brent's Point, Virginia. The boundary then extends northeast to Smith Point, Maryland and follows the low water mark north along the Maryland shoreline back to Sandy Point. The district

includes the waters of Wades Bay, Blue Banks, Mallows Bay, Liverpool Cove, and the Mallows Bay "Burning Basin" as far east as the egress for Marlow Creek into the basin itself.



Map 1 &2 - Mallows Bay-Potomac River location and area detail

# **Section III – Criteria Information**

<u>Criteria 1</u> - The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to: biological productivity or diversity; maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function; maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages; maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both; or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.

The Mallows Bay area of the Potomac River is one of the most ecologically significant and undeveloped landscapes and waterscapes remaining in Tidewater Maryland:

- Mallows Bay is identified through Maryland's GreenPrint as one of the most ecologically valuable areas in the State. It is located in a Targeted Ecological Area, those areas prioritized for conservation. GreenPrint is Maryland's land conservation tool that utilizes spatial data such as wildlife and rare species habitat, forests important for water quality, and aquatic hotspots. In addition, the Potomac shoreline and near-shore habitat ranks in the highest tier of Blue Infrastructure in the State, also the most valuable. Blue Infrastructure is a detailed spatial evaluation of coastal habitat, critical natural resources and associated human uses in the tidal waters and near-shore area of Maryland's coastal zone.
- The presence of so many shipwrecks and the construction of the ship-breaking burning basin and canal in the area have created a unique environment that includes miniecosystems aboard many vessels of the embayment, some with thriving populations of fauna and flora. The presence of the wrecks has also resulted in decreased erosion rates and increased accretion rates, creating wetland, woodland and aquatic habitat above and below the waters.



Figure 1 - Osprey nest constructed atop the Benzonia wreck

- This section of the Potomac River provides important spawning and nursery habitat for Striped bass (Morone saxatilis), and myriad other marine species, and harbors large beds of submerged aquatic vegetation that serve as important feeding and nursery grounds for a variety of aquatic organisms. The fish and aquatic invertebrate communities within the bay are of high biological integrity reflecting minimally-disturbed, intact stream ecosystems.
- The Mallows Bay-Potomac River area harbors two fish species that have been identified in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Diversity Conservation Plan as species of greatest conservation need, the Longnose Gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*) and Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*).

• The near-shore area offers wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl, and the shoreline provides habitat for one of the largest nesting populations of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states as well as Osprey -- all critical to the overall health of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake.

As a key segment of the second largest tributary in the Chesapeake watershed and a river targeted for federal, multi-state and local environmental restoration since the 1960's, this tidal section of the Potomac is critical to the overall health of the Chesapeake and the ongoing efforts to restore the Bay and its rivers and streams.

<u>Criteria 2</u> - The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that: individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.

The proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS contains the largest and most varied assemblage of submerged maritime heritage resources in the Western Hemisphere and meets criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its special historical, cultural and archaeological significance. An application is currently pending with the National Park Service for such listing under NRHP Criteria A, C, and D, which target association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The NRHP application contains great detail about the historic, cultural and archeological significance of the site. Please consult

(http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ccs/mallowsbay.asp) for more information. Highlights of what makes the proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary so important include that fact that it:

- Contains the largest and most varied assemblage of historic shipwrecks in the U.S., representing more than three centuries of American history, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling more than 185 archaeologically and/or historically documented vessels;
- Features the largest extant collection -- more than 90 – of wooden and composite steamship remains and represents seven of the eight design types built for the World War I U.S. Emergency



Fleet [USEF] between 1917 and 1919. These ships represented part of a massive national wartime program that made the United States, for the first time in history, the greatest shipbuilding nation in the world, constructed in 41 shipyards in 17 States;

- Contains industrial remains of the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States; including a giant marine burning basin for ship reduction erected by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, four marine railway systems, several steam donkey enginepowered California cable "yarding" operation, adopted from Pacific Coast logging systems, for the mass removal of scrap metal from the water's edge to a truck loading strip on the ridge of the adjacent shoreline;
- Played a critical role in the establishment of the U.S. Merchant Marine;
- Serve important roles the development of our nation including being the site of a land-sea skirmish between Royal Navy forces, the Virginia State Navy, and Maryland Militia during the American Revolution as well as being the site of Pre-Civil War steamboat landings and Civil War camp sites and batteries. The site contains the remains of the Confederate blockade-

runner T.W. Riley, sunk off nearby Wades Bay and the 1859 Cooke's Ferry, a transfer point for Confederate smuggling during the Civil War;

• Contains the archaeological and cultural remains of several regimes of the Potomac fisheries industry from ca.

assemblage sites, domestic



1840-1922 including pound net Figure 2 - Steamship fleet grounded in Mallows circa 1925

structures, net tarring facilities, sturgeon fishery sites and a caviar processing plant;

- Features shipwrecks of numerous historic vessels involved in Potomac River fisheries operations during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries including bugeyes, brogans, centerboard schooners, sharpies, crab scrapes, turtle scrapes, and sturgeon boats;
- Served as President Calvin Coolidge's favorite duck hunting and fishing grounds.

In addition to the items of significance noted above, this section of the Potomac River forms part of the traditional lands and cultural landscape of the Piscataway and Piscataway-Conoy nation. Prominent Native-American occupation of this area of the Potomac, from the Archaic Period to the Post-Contact Period, is strongly evidenced by both archaeological investigation and cultural traditions of the Piscataway people. No fewer than 36 major Native-American sites, forts, occupation areas, and ossuaries, lying on the Potomac shores of the District of Columbia, Prince Georges, and Charles counties, have been archaeologically tested and surveyed. Although no formal archaeology of Native American sites has been conducted yet in the Mallows Bay region, Native American lithics and pottery have been recovered in the area. It is very likely that a large Native American archaeological site on the north shore of Mallows Bay represents Nussamek,
one of the "King's villages" visited by Captain John Smith on his voyage up the Potomac during the summer of 1608.

African-American presence is also evident in the historic record, from as early as the 1640s, when the first African slaves were landed on Maryland shores, and readily employed in the tobacco industry of the colony. By the time of the Civil War, Charles County's population was approximately 50% black, with slaves and black freemen alike engaged in tobacco agriculture and in the Potomac fisheries. During the war, African-Americans were recruited from the shores of Charles County to serve in the Union Army, but many returned to working as watermen for such fishery operations working from stations at Sandy Point and Liverpool Point. During World War I, African-Americans were engaged in large numbers throughout the United States in the shipyards, lumber mills and machine shops engaged in building many of the wooden steamships now resting in Mallows Bay.

Both of these historically under-represented communities have important maritime ties to the natural and cultural landscapes and will benefit significantly by the establishment of a Sanctuary which will provide tremendous and ongoing research and interpretive opportunities.

The proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS would serve as a research laboratory to provide information not recorded in historical documents. The types of information that can be learned from these sites include details about vessel design, use, evolution and adaptation as well as the unrecorded but substantial methodology of the shipbreaking processes and salvage operations. Archaeological evidence will also provide data on the site formation process and alteration of the physical landscape to support the use of the proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS area as a major American ship graveyard.

# <u>Criteria 3</u> - The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Conserving the wealth of natural, historical and cultural resources of this section of the Potomac River, while managing and promoting low-impact economic uses of the area for recreation, education, nature-based and heritage tourism, has been the focus of local, state, regional and federal planning and implementation efforts for many years. The area currently supports a variety of economic uses including nature-based tourism, heritage tourism, recreational fishing and boating that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

• As one of the best tidal largemouth bass fishery destinations in the world, recreational and professional fishing tournaments have become a major economic engine for the local tourism industry generating millions of dollars annually. During season, tournaments are held in this and adjoining stretches of the Potomac River nearly every weekend. This

•

area is highly popular in part due to its proximity to the greater Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and easy access to the river.

- Populations of Striped bass, White perch, Channel catfish, and Blue crab, among other species also make this area popular for recreational fishing. The Mallows Bay-Potomac River waters play a significant role in the region's ability to continually be a desirable fishing destination. Conservation and management of this area as a nursery and feeding ground is important to the continued public use of the area and sustainable recreational fishing.
- Motor boat ramps and kayak soft launches are available at Mallows Bay Park, as well as Smallwood State Park to the north. Quantico also provides a boat ramp, with many recreational fishermen accessing the site from Virginia. Virginia has also just established a new "paddle-in" campsite at nearby Caledon State Park.
- The vast "Ghost Fleet" of Mallows Bay, high concentration of Bald Eagles and natural beauty of this section of the Potomac River, among other assets, are also making the area an increasingly popular destination for kayaking, canoeing, boating, birding, wildlife viewing and heritage tourism -- activities which contribute significant amounts of money to the local economy.



Figure 3 - Mallows Bay County Park boat ramp Figure 4 - Kayaker at one of the "flower pot" wrecks

Tour operators in the area include the national chain REI and local operators such as Up the Creek Rentals. These tours offer interpretation and history of the area, combining eco and heritage tourism with outdoor recreation. With the establishment of two new National Historic "water" Trails that traverse through the waters of the proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS, it is anticipated that public use of the area for these activities will continue to grow.

However, the tremendous potential of the area for attracting new visitors, drawing upon some of the millions of tourists who come to Washington, D.C. each year, and meeting the growing public demands for improved recreational, interpretation, heritage and nature-based tourism

opportunities, has yet to be fully realized. As recently as 2012 a Tourism Destination Study of Charles County identified the county's abundance of natural resources, as well as heritage sites and trails, to be the strongest assets for attracting visitors and called for improvements to maximize Potomac riverfront opportunities and additional investments in maintenance and interactive interpretation of its heritage sites.<sup>2</sup>

From a marketing perspective, the designation of Mallows Bay- Potomac River as a National Marine Sanctuary signifies the highest quality experience and thus branding Mallows Bay as a "must see and do" place to visit. The designation will also provide competitive advantage for local, state and national tourism organization when marketing to domestic and international consumers because it will be the only sanctuary in the mid-Atlantic region. As visitation increases, so does visitor spending, resulting in the fulfillment of key economic goals of expanding local business, creating new jobs and increasing revenue.

# <u>Criteria 4</u> - The publically-derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

No other marine area in the nation affords visitors as unique and aesthetic experience from the water as Mallows Bay does by visually bringing to life the region's maritime history and natural landscapes in a single place. It offers a quiet paddle amongst skeleton shipwrecks that transport the visitor through maritime history from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It brings to life the stories of the natural shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay that have been well described throughout the historical record. It offers a ready opportunity to view the changing seasons and natural environments characterized by osprey nests on shipwrecks and world-class bass fishing. Visitors are consistently rewarded with close encounters with Bald Eagle, osprey, heron and a magnitude of waterfowl. Those who paddle-out to some of the main river shoreline areas can be treated to some extraordinary fossil hunting. Low tide along this section of river often reveal 60 million year old fossilized sharks teeth, turtle shell fragments and crocodile teeth.

The Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS offers a multitude of public recreational opportunities and water access, benefitting local citizens and visitors alike, such as:

• Strategic boating access to the mid-portion of the Potomac River, providing a protected area for launching. Mallows Bay Park is the only public boat ramp between Smallwood State Park and Friendship Landing, thus making it an important river access point for recreational boaters and commercial watermen, with 6,200 estimated boat launches annually.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Zeitgeist Consulting, comp. Charles County Tourism Destination Plan Study. 2012. Print.

- Key soft-launch water access point for to the adjacent Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, including the Lower Potomac Water Trail. Without extensive portage, no other public launch points exist in this portion of the Potomac River. Paddlers have easy and immediate access to the WWI sunken ship graveyard. The "Ghost Fleet" is becoming a significant tourism destination, attracting individual paddlers and organized groups from throughout the Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C./Baltimore region.
- The Nanjemoy, MD community and visitors enjoy shoreline fishing opportunities at Mallows Bay Park. This protected cove offers year-round fishing for sunfish, catfish, crappie, snakehead and largemouth bass. An abundance of submerged aquatic vegetation and remnants of the wooden ships make this a popular fishing area.
- Passive recreational opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing. The naturalsurface hiking trail is approximately one mile in length. Hikers experience a combination of forest and open fields, with occasional elevated views of the main river and backwater tidal marsh. Trail amenities include interpretive signage and picnic shelters. Mallows Bay Park has additional areas for significant future expansion.



Figure 5 - Bald eagle nesting along the Mallows Bay shoreline

Charles County has the second largest population of Bald Eagles in Maryland and hosts one of the densest populations of nesting eagles in the lower 48 states. The following is an observation made by Fermata, Inc's Ted Eubanks (an internationally recognized authority on ecotourism): "In our work throughout the U.S., we have experienced no place, other than Alaska and tidewater Virginia, where Bald Eagles are as ubiquitous as Charles County". With its adjacent nesting locations, Mallows Bay represents one of the best locations along the Potomac River to view this majestic bird. This is a key component of a very nature-based tourism effort.

#### **Section IV – Consideration Information**

<u>Consideration 1</u> - The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.

The proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS is poised to act as a living laboratory to understand changes to natural conditions, shipwrecks, and the interaction between them. The research and educational potential at Mallows Bay is tremendous:

- Non-profit maritime organizations, which undertake extensive research for the State's Maritime Archaeology Program, expect to utilize the site for ongoing training exercises and research. The State's Maritime Archaeology Program is also working with the UK-based organization Nautical Archaeology Society to offer training opportunities and events, and plans to use the site for some of these.
- Professors at St. Mary's College of Maryland foresee research opportunities for students through the Anthropology Department; especially the Introduction to Underwater Archaeology course. Universities and colleges with maritime archaeology programs (TAMU, ECU, UWF etc.) are being invited to work with the State to undertake research and to encourage students to seek thesis and dissertation topics at Mallows Bay.
- The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has provided not only written endorsement of the Mallows Bay program, but has expressed interest in integrating various components of its current and planned curriculum, such as studies in robotics and remote sensing technology, to partner with the archaeological research of submerged sites in the transect.

### <u>Consideration 2</u> - The area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.

Statewide, schools are facing new challenges with changing curriculum requirements and new education standards and practices. Along with increased rigor of science and environmental studies, teachers are called upon more than ever to engage students in taking action to solve problems. Critical to successfully developing environmental literacy in our young citizens is providing places for students to visit for hands-on, experiential learning about their environment and society's interactions with it. The Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS will provide one such unique location, as a benefit to local students from Charles County and other areas within easy reach.

• Mallows Bay offers enhanced multidisciplinary opportunities for local schools. Charles County Public Schools students can be immersed in the local heritage, culture, ecology, and landscapes as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and other content areas. Mallows Bay offers a unique community classroom for

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students to connect to the changing landscape spanning 57 million years. Imagine a fieldtrip that begins when Mallows Bay was part of an ocean, where students can find fossils of shark and crocodile teeth as they walk the beach. Then students walk the land to explore evidence from American Indians and early settlers, to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century caviar packing industry, ferry and shipping industry. They conclude their trip with environmental studies of the land and water as they kayak around the sunken ships observing the ecosystems that have developed, measuring water quality, examining the area for current changes. Ongoing student research projects can further expand the connections to the area and create vibrant partnerships between schools, communities, and National Marine Sanctuary and other educational organizations.

- In 2015, two Charles County public schools will complete environmental service learning projects at Mallows Bay as part of NOAA's Ocean Guardians program. The program will expand to include more schools the following year.
- The Chesapeake Bay region has a strong history of providing opportunities for placebased education, especially in the environmental and historical realms. A number of successful models exist that capitalize on place-based education that would serve to support enhanced educational opportunities at Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. One such program is the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (CB-NERR) which offers research, monitoring, professional training, formal education and public outreach programs. Mallows Bay provides an additional resource and partner for CB-NEER programming, such as a location for its annual Teen Leadership Paddle.

Due to the proximity of Mallows Bay to Washington, D.C., Mallows Bay offers visiting school groups from around the world an opportunity to incorporate into their itinerary a day trip away from the city for an enriched placed-base experience.

### <u>Consideration 3</u> - Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.

The historical and archaeological resources base in Mallows Bay, which lies in relatively close proximity to the urban Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, is currently vulnerable to numerous threats:

- Many of the vessels, which are quite visible and accessible by both land and water, contain countless artifacts and architectural features that can be readily removed by intentional relic hunting, or by unintentional souvenir collecting by the casual visitor.
- Many vessel sites, which serve as rookeries and habitats for mammals, reptiles, bird, and other life forms, may be boarded by visitors, especially at low tide, with resultant negative impacts on the colonies of both flora and fauna.



Figure 6 – Heron amidst the wrecks in Mallows Bay

- The construction of duck blinds aboard several vessels has resulted in physical damage to the vessels as well as the flora and fauna found onboard.
- Exposed vessel remains are also extremely fragile and are easily injured by the casual visitor, often resulting in the destruction of the archaeological integrity of the site.
- Contact by vessels with barely submerged shipwrecks is both dangerous to boaters and the vessel remains. One prominent vessel site, the steel passenger ferry boat *Accomac*, contains substantial quantities of asbestos, which has been observed as employed in the construction of nests by birds such as local osprey, eagles and geese. Moreover, the decaying hulk of the ship itself is a serious hazard to any visitor who attempts to walk upon it.

By encouraging increased visitation to an area with important heritage resources that also pose hazards to navigation and are "attractive nuisances," there are liability issues as well as increased threats to the artifacts through increased access and potential predation through theft and vandalism. Sanctuary status would permit increased awareness and signage as well as addressing the semi-remote aspect of the site from the perspective of preparedness (landline telephone, staff onsite or other comparable means of addressing an injury or accident, or criminal activity).

### **Consideration 4 - A national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for this area or adjacent areas.**

As the Nation's recognized leader in maritime heritage and shipwreck management, the National Marine Sanctuary System is the only program with the breadth of authority, expertise, and the proven track record to help address and connect the full suite of goals envisioned in this unique

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marine environment. The fact is, these nationally-significant resources lie predominantly underwater and, therefore, require different approaches than their terrestrial counterparts to understand and protect them, while also deriving the desired societal benefits. The preparers and supporters of this nomination have looked closely at the successes at Thunder Bay NMS and at other sanctuaries and is aware of programs and infrastructure we believe are relatively unique to the Sanctuary brand and hold promise for application at Mallows Bay.

Some of the most compelling aspects of the NMS System that supplement management of this area include:

- Additional Federal recognition and protection of the shipwreck resources and maritime landscape;
- Unparalleled citizen engagement through public processes and advisory councils that drive local governance and area management;
- A national brand, reserved for few special places, that magnifies public attention, creates a tourist destination, and serves as a catalyst to strengthen partnerships and programs;
- A nationally- and internationally-recognized program for Maritime Heritage, with potential to enhance conservation, science, and education and reach audiences through celebrated venues and through media outlets;
- Connectivity of this area to a national and international network of marine protected areas (through the MPA Center and affiliated Agencies) and access to associated expertise, programs and benefits;
- Access to the newly-formed Business Advisory Council to supplement existing capacity to attract corporate attention and program sponsorship at Mallows Bay-Potomac River;
- Access to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, with potential to supplement priority programs, public engagement events, and to represent Mallows Bay-Potomac River as part of the Sanctuary system in Congressional and Agency processes;
- Access to a network of "Friends" groups to attract local community support and act as a fiduciary agent for grant opportunities;
- Visitor centers, kiosks, and exhibits with opportunity to include messaging and raise awareness regarding Mallows Bay-Potomac River.

This committee also notes specific programs, infrastructure and partnerships that we believe help to further the vision for the Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS and that make the case for benefits to be derived as part of the NMS System. Numerous other examples are cited throughout this nomination package:

- The branding of Alpena, MI as the "Sanctuary of the Great Lakes" and associated outreach (e.g., billboards), tourism (e.g., "Pure Michigan" ads), media and infrastructure enhancements that have transformed the community while maintaining its heritage.
- The growth of small business opportunities aligned with ecotourism and other compatible uses, such as the glass bottom tour boat at Thunder Bay.

- Innovative higher educational partnerships and career training capacities in STEMrelated programs, such as the Associates Degree in Marine Technology at Alpena Community College and access to the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) for robotics engineering.
- Water and heritage trail enhancements, interpretation, and integration with related programs, such as the shipwreck trail at FL Keys NMS and the Outer Banks heritage trail at Monitor NMS.
- An extensive network of volunteer and docent programs, such as Team Ocean at FL Keys NMS.
- Innovative programming and engagement with the recreational fishing community, such as the "Sanctuary Classic."

# <u>Consideration 5</u> - The existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.

Over the past few years, MD agencies (i.e., DNR, Historical Trust, Department of Tourism) and Charles County have joined forces with the community and interested partners to initiate additional conservation and compatible public access strategies in and around Mallows Bay, consistent with numerous planning and implementation documents. In 2010, MD DNR purchased a portion of the land adjacent to Mallows Bay and made it available to Charles County to create and manage Mallows Bay County Park, which is the main launch point for access to the historic shipwrecks. The park is open year-round during daylight hours and operates through limited funding for basic grounds maintenance, permitting of special events and occasional parttime staff supervision. MD Historical Trust has stewardship responsibility for the shipwrecks themselves, although these are among literally hundreds of historical sites around the state for which the agency has oversight. MD DNR manages the water body and associated ecosystem resources, including land use, resource conservation and extraction. The lands on either side of Mallows Bay County Park are held by the U.S. Department of Interior/Bureau of Land Management and a private citizen, respectively.

The success of these efforts is a tribute to multi-jurisdictional collaboration and to the alignment of goals with a proactive community. It has furthered conservation objectives and has started the ball rolling to expand basic recreational access and support limited ecotourism through guided and self-guided paddle boat rentals. The legend of the "Ghost Fleet" is a public draw locally and word is beginning to trickle out through social and traditional media. However, in its current form, it's one of many county parks and special use areas vying for attention along the Potomac and Chesapeake. . . seemingly not fitting for one of the world's most unique marine protected areas as codified by its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The critical components exist, but the help of the NOAA Sanctuaries is needed to stimulate public will,

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elevate the profile and desire to protect this unique resource, and energize partnerships that work toward the larger vision. More specifically, the value added can be described in terms of nearterm actions specific to the Mallows Bay-Potomac River objectives as well as its potential as a new tool to support the larger goals of the Chesapeake Bay:

- NOAA Sanctuaries would expand public recognition of Mallows Bay-Potomac River as a special place and recognition of this local resource as valuable to the Nation. As we approach the 100-year anniversary of the US entry to WWI, the designation as a National Marine Sanctuary would provide a permanent marker, with a national brand in the backyard of and readily-accessible to the Nation's capital. A commemoration, not only of the vessels themselves, but also to the transformation of the Nation's communities, its jobs and infrastructure, its joining as one nation, and its emergence as an industrial leader we suggest these issues remain extremely relevant to our present-day society.
- NOAA Sanctuaries provide the power and stature of a national brand to strengthen partnerships to address issues, including those that transcend jurisdictional boundaries. For example,
  - In the local area, additional strategies will be created to promote conservation, access, tourism and related programs as community visions and planning scenarios increasingly embrace the significance of a place in their own backyard as well as its value to past and future community goals. Interestingly, during the period associated with the drafting of this nomination, we have already witnessed how merely the possibility of a Sanctuary brand has acted as a catalyst for increased dialog, strengthened partnerships, new programming, and the prioritization of the Mallows Bay-Potomac River area among this nomination committee.
  - o The Sanctuary brand also extends the reach, significance and messages beyond the local area. With that comes greater capacity to engage a broader coalition for conservation and programming. By way of example, it's already known that more than 50 shipyards in 16 states were involved in manufacturing the WWI vessels alone. Ship-building is still central to many of these communities, while other communities retain remnants of this period, and still others are the resting place of vessels built as part of this same Emergency Fleet. Interesting to note that the Marine Base Quantico (VA) is among nearly half a dozen of the shipyards in the Chesapeake Tidewater that constructed ships for the program, a number of which are now in Mallows Bay. It demonstrates the ability to engage in conversation with a "non-traditional" conservation partner as a precursor to additional opportunity is greatly enhanced with a Federal brand.
- NOAA Sanctuaries would supplement State authorities through the addition of Federal protection, enforcement and community-based cooperative programs. For example,

- Federal legislation such as the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) provides additional authority for criminal acts (e.g., vandalism and salvaging) than the State's present legislation under which offenses are merely a misdemeanor. Similarly, the National Historical Preservation Act would afford additional protection from adverse effects through permitting and planning requirements, while NEPA would require additional consideration for any endangered species.
- The Maryland Natural Resource Police are the main enforcement body along these lands and adjacent waters, but have limited ability to impose fines or prosecute violators. These officers could be trained and deputized under the federal Cooperative Enforcement Program to enforce Sanctuary regulations.
- The area would benefit from Community-Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS), the Sanctuary system's proactive education and awareness approach to deterring violations and empowering communities to participate in conservation and management.
- NOAA Sanctuaries would expand opportunities for understanding and integrating the history and culture of the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe into conservation and management objectives. From public processes (e.g., scoping) to a potential seat on an advisory council to participation with the National Marine Protected Area Center, these are unique mechanisms to help tell our story and best represent it as an important component of this maritime landscape.
- NOAA Sanctuaries (and their partners) would bring "place-based" programming to the marine environment to the Chesapeake Bay. For example,
  - Special places have special meaning and opportunity. Places are backyards of communities and people tend to care about what they know and by where they live. Citizens will have greater access to the decision-making processes, technical assistance, and information that will help to bring about community renewal as well as conservation of its maritime resources.
  - The expert and proven application of a maritime heritage theme, in an otherwise and oftentimes, ecosystem-dominated dialog. To-date, a lot of the focus in the Potomac has concentrated on water quality issues, pollution sources, and changes to watersheds and ecosystems often without enough linkage to the maritime landscape and the way that society has interacted through time. Mallows Bay-Potomac offers a unique and ready-made opportunity to do just that. Here with the focus clearly on the ship graveyard and related maritime cultural features, we dramatically enhance our ability to attract, involve and maintain a larger crosssection of community groups. Once connected, it facilitates our capacity to extend the dialog to the fully-integrated ecosystem and stewardship actions.

The Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS is reflective of a shared vision among the Chesapeake watershed conservation community, and could catalyze a network of conservation partnerships, as well as a much needed collaborative effort to plan and design a system-wide land and water conservation vision, framework and implementation plan, including expanded recreational opportunities and the conservation of cultural and historic assets, for the entire 64,000 square



Figure 7 – Aerial of Mallows Bay shipwrecks

mile Chesapeake watershed; a systemwide connectedness across communities, across habitat types and across scales. This network could build upon the strength of existing partnerships, forge new relationships, facilitate conservation action, seek and align funding, share information and staff support, influence conservation action, and achieve mutual conservation objectives in support of priority conservation targets. Just imagine an interconnected system of conserved lands and waters supporting habitat for sustainable fish and wildlife

populations, compatible historic uses of the Bay and its resources, and vibrant local natural resource based economies, with a series of connected conservation assets like the proposed Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary

# Consideration 6 - There are commitments or possible commitments for partnerships opportunities such as cost sharing, office space, exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.

In 2000, a cooperative initiative began between Federal, State, County and local agencies to protect undisturbed land along the Lower Potomac River. This initiative resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management, Maryland DNR, Commissioners of Charles County, and the Conservation Fund. The MOU provided for a coordinated strategy for land acquisition, long range planning, community involvement, and ongoing stewardship.<sup>3</sup> To date this partnership has resulted in the protection of 1.8 miles of shoreline, including the 500 acre Wilson Farm parcel, purchased by DNR's Program Open Space, and a portion of which is now Mallows Bay County Park.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. *Nanjemoy NRMA Land Unit Implementation Plan*. Publication no. DNR-08-0205-0047. N.p., 2005. Web. http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/pdfs/nan\_imp\_plan.pdf.

In 2004 these partners worked with the community to develop the Lower Potomac River Proposed Consolidated Management Plan.<sup>4</sup> The plan was informed by the "Nanjemoy Naturally" community vision plan and envisioned a moderate level of development to take advantage of the region's rich natural and cultural resource base, including recreational facility development at Mallows Bay.

DNR leased 185 acres of land to Charles County to manage as Mallows Bay County Park, and the State/County partnership was intended to increase public access and recreational use in the area while minimizing management costs. In recent years, the DNR Boating Unit has supported public access to the water through its Waterway Improvement Fund grant program, providing funding to construct a new single lane boat ramp, boarding pier, vehicle and trailer parking area, access road and storm water management area at Mallows Bay. The State and County development funding expended to date totals over \$400,000.

A diverse number of partners have offered commitments of assistance to the Mallows Bay-Potomac River designation effort, as well as continued support for the programming and management of the proposed Sanctuary:

- Charles County manages Mallows Bay Park. The park operates on a limited budget which includes very basic general grounds maintenance, permitting of special events and occasional part-time staff supervision. Annual operating cost is approximately \$18,300.00. Mallows Bay is open year-round during daylight hours.
- DNR will continue to support management, recreation, and resource protection at this site. The Maryland Park Service stands ready to provide office space at neighboring Smallwood State Park for staff working on this effort, and the Wildlife and Heritage and Boating Services units have offered vessel time as needed.
- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Charles County Government, has developed a mapped water trail along the Maryland side of the Potomac River: "Water Trail Adventures along Charles County's Potomac River". The trail provides access points and over-night camp sites for public enjoyment along the central portion of the river and Mallows Bay serves as one of the main focus points of this effort.



Figure 8 – Charles County Water Trails Map

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. *Lower Potomac River Proposed Coordinated Management Plan.* Publication no. BLM/ES/PT-04/000+1610. N.p 2004. Web. http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/pdfs/coor\_man\_plan.pdf

• The Chesapeake and Coastal Service (CCS) is the state's Coastal Zone Management Program, and as such offers an extensive network of partners to draw on for collaboration and technical assistance at the site. CCS has developed a public website to promote the Mallows Bay NMS designation effort, and will assist throughout the public scoping process. CCS will hold Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS) sessions as needed. PGIS provides stakeholders with computers and "e beam" technologies to map community knowledge of an area.



Figure 9 – Mallows Bay website hosted by the Chesapeake and Coastal Service

The National Park Service, working in close collaboration with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Potomac Conservancy, Chesapeake Conservancy and numerous stakeholders, is developing a short-term strategy to make the three National Trails along the tidal Potomac River more visible and visitor-ready. This strategy, referred to as the Potomac Segment Plan, engages stakeholders along the Potomac to identify the resources that are priorities for protection and the needs and opportunities to enhance visitor experiences at existing public water access sites. These proposed "action items" will leverage the shared interest from multiple partners to identify projects that can be implemented within the next two to five years. As an example, the NPS, Chesapeake Conservancy and Commonwealth of Virginia have recently opened a new paddle-in camping access site at Caledon State Park, located only a few river miles south of Mallows Bay. Building on the successful implementation of the primitive campgrounds at Caledon State Park, the Potomac Segment Plan is working to identify additional paddle-in camping facilities and trailrelated paddling itineraries within close proximity to Caledon. An action item in the plan has identified a need to create a network of new campsites and paddling tours with a

focus on sites and stories that are reflective of the three national trail's themes. This will allow visitors to extend their stay on the Potomac and enjoy an immersive experience when paddling between Great Falls and Smith Point. Multiple action items have been identified at and around Mallows Bay including on-land trail connections to BLM and Maryland DNR parks located within the Nanjemoy Special Recreation Management Area, cultural interpretation of American Indian heritage along the shores of Mallows Bay, interpretive signage installation describing the site's unique character, relationship with and location within context of the overall national trail routes and additional public access amenity improvements.

- The College of Southern Maryland Library and Southern Maryland Studies Center are interested in providing co-operative library infrastructure needs of the future Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS. CSM would host and house the archival database collections that will eventually be emerging, providing a convenient, accessible, academic environment and centralized archival center for the Mallows Bay archives, as well as an established and recognized infrastructure.
- The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park, in Calvert County, Maryland, stands ready to assist in the archaeological conservation, curation, and storage of artifacts recovered during archaeological work at Mallows Bay.
- The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), as the steward of historic cultural resources and the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program, which addresses such remains in submerged or semi-submerged contexts, wishes to be actively involved in the Sanctuary management through the SAC and through education/outreach and research. This will largely be through staff time, some boat time, training opportunities, and public events. MHT is willing to partner for grant applications and occasionally, when possible, may be able to assist with funding some projects. MMAP staff are also able to provide some specific training for staff such as emergency first response (first aid, CPR, AED), diverrelated (oxygen provision), and are qualified to participate in certain federally mandated response activities that threaten resources, such as oil spills

#### Consideration 7 - There is community-based support for the nomination expressed by a broad range of interests.

The nomination of the Mallows Bay-Potomac River area as a new National Marine Sanctuary enjoys virtually unanimous support from a diverse and broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals at the local, state, regional and national levels. The nomination has been endorsed by elected officials and business, American Indian, environmental, recreation, conservation, fishing, tourism, museums, historical societies and education groups throughout the area. Resolutions and/or letters of support from the following organizations and individuals can be found in the appendix to this application:

Conservation & Environmental Orgs.	Archaeological & Historical Orgs.	Business & Tourism Orgs.
AMP Creeks Council	Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology	Capital Region USA, International tourism
Audubon Maryland-DC	Council for Maryland Archaeology	Charles County Chamber of Commerce
Audubon Naturalist Society	Historical Society of Charles County	Charles County Tourism
Chapman Forest Foundation	Institute of Maritime History	Recreation Equipment Inc. (REI)
Charles County Master Gardeners	Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society	Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory	Up The Creek Rentals
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Maryland Historical Society & Maritime Committee	Recreational & Fishing Orgs.
Chesapeake Bay Program Citizens Advisory Committee	Maryland Historical Trust / Archaeological Program Maryland Historical Trust Board of	American Canoe Association
Chesapeake Bay Trust	Trustees	Chesapeake Paddlers Association Gangplank Slipholders
Chesapeake Conservancy	Preservation Maryland	Association
Clean Water Action	Ralph Eshelman, Citizen	Maryland Bass Nation
Conservancy for Charles County	Sotterly Plantation	Maryland Sport Fisheries Commission
Maryland Native Plant Society	Educational Orgs. & Museums	Maryland Tidal Fisheries Commission
Mason Springs Conservancy	Accokeek Foundation	Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club
Mattawoman Watershed Society	Alice Ferguson Foundation	Quantico Yacht Club
Nanjemoy Vision, Inc	Calvert Maritime Museum	Southern Maryland Paddlers
Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition	Charles County Public Schools	Civic Orgs. & Elected Officials
Port Tobacco River Conservancy	College of Southern Maryland	<ul><li>12-Member Southern Maryland</li><li>Delegation, Maryland General</li><li>Assembly</li><li>5-Member Board of the Charles</li></ul>
Potomac Conservancy	Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum	County Commissioners
Potomac River Association	Maryland DNR - Conservation Education & Stewardship	Boy Scouts of America (local troop)
Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter	St. Mary's County Dept of Parks/Museum Division	Citizens for a Better Charles County
Sierra Club, Southern Maryland Chapter	St. Mary's College of Maryland	American Indian Orgs.
Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County*	Federal Orgs.	MD Commission on Indian Affairs
South Hampton HOA	US DOI National Park Service - Chesapeake Bay Program	Piscataway Conoy Confederacy
Southern Maryland Audubon Society	US EPA - Chesapeake Bay Program	International Orgs.
St. Mary's River Watershed Association	US Fish and Wildlife Service - Chesapeake Bay Program	Filey Bay Research Group (England)
The Nature Conservancy 1000 Friends of Maryland		

\* Represents 21 local non-profits including local chapters of national local organizations