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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

April 11, 2019

Sanctuary Protected by Legislation

[Join or Renew](#)

Rotational Harvesting No Longer a Threat

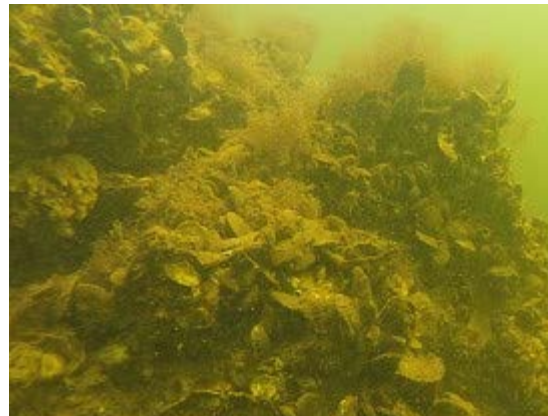
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Last November, we focused a great deal of effort to get permanent protection status for the St. Mary's River Shellfish Sanctuary. We are pleased to announce success in this campaign; as the Maryland legislative session closed on Monday, the final hurdle was crossed when the State Senate voted to override Governor Hogan's veto. The five state restoration sanctuaries - St. Mary's River, Monokin River, Little Choptank River, Harris Creek, and Tred Avon River - all received overwhelming support in the legislature, regardless of Hogan's insistence that "it is bad policy" and watermen should be able to harvest sanctuaries periodically.

"This represents one of our most effective achievements," said our president, Joe Anderson. "We should all thank Bob Lewis and the many partners he assembled for their relentless efforts, first in creating a broad stakeholder partnership, and then building momentum going into this legislative session."



Governor Hogan reconvened the Oyster Advisory Commission in July of 2016 and one of the tasks he presented to them was to find a way for watermen to exploit the sanctuaries. Soon after plans were being developed to harvest 25% of the St. Mary's sanctuary each year, rotating areas so that the entire sanctuary could be harvested every four years. Those plans were shelved when legislation (2017) called for a stock assessment prior to any change in sanctuary designations. That stock assessment, completed last fall by the University of Maryland determined that only 300,000 market size oysters remained on Maryland Bay's public bars.

"It's a great day for St. Mary's countians," said Bob Lewis, executive director for the Association. "This calls for a celebration. Please thank our local public leaders, Delegate Brian Crosby and Senator Jack Bailey, for their support and efforts to pass this legislation. And thanks to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the newly formed Chesapeake Oyster Alliance.



May The Fourth Be With You

OYSTERS
 & 
BEERS 

AN EARTHDAY FUNDRAISING EVENT

 **MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY LOCAL OYSTER GROWERS

HOSTED AT:
TALL TIMBERS MARINA

DATE:
MAY 04, 2019
noon - six

FEATURING:
LOCAL MARYLAND GRUB, BREWS &
**LIVE BLUEGRASS:
15 STRINGS &
THE BAD EXAMPLES**

25% of admissions goes to a local environmental non-profit.

P. 301.994.1508   @TT_OYSTER

Celebrate our
Bay's
Keystone
Species

Organizers have announced that 25% of admission will go to the St. Mary's River Watershed Association for the restoration of the sanctuary.

Oysters & Beers -
Noon to 6 pm
Saturday May 4
Tall Timbers Marina,
Piney Point, MD
20674



OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the well-being of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



Upcoming Events:

- Reef Ball Building - Need Volunteers
Friday April 12 - 9:00 to 2:00 am
Saturday April 13 - 9:00 to Noon
Please [RSVP](#)
For details (email or text 301-904-2387)
- Reef Ball Building - Need Volunteers
Saturday April 20 - 9:00 to 2:00 am
Sunday April 21 - 9:00 to Noon
Please [RSVP](#)
For details (email or text 301-904-2387)
- Oysters & Beer
Saturday May 4 - Noon to 6:00 pm
Tall Timbers Marina
\$5 admission
For details 301-994-1508)
- A River Affair
Monday, May 27
Ruddy Duck Seafood & Alehouse
1:00 to 4:00
Tickets are selling fast
Call us: 301-904-2387
- RiverFest 2019
Saturday, September 28
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Historic St. Mary's City

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