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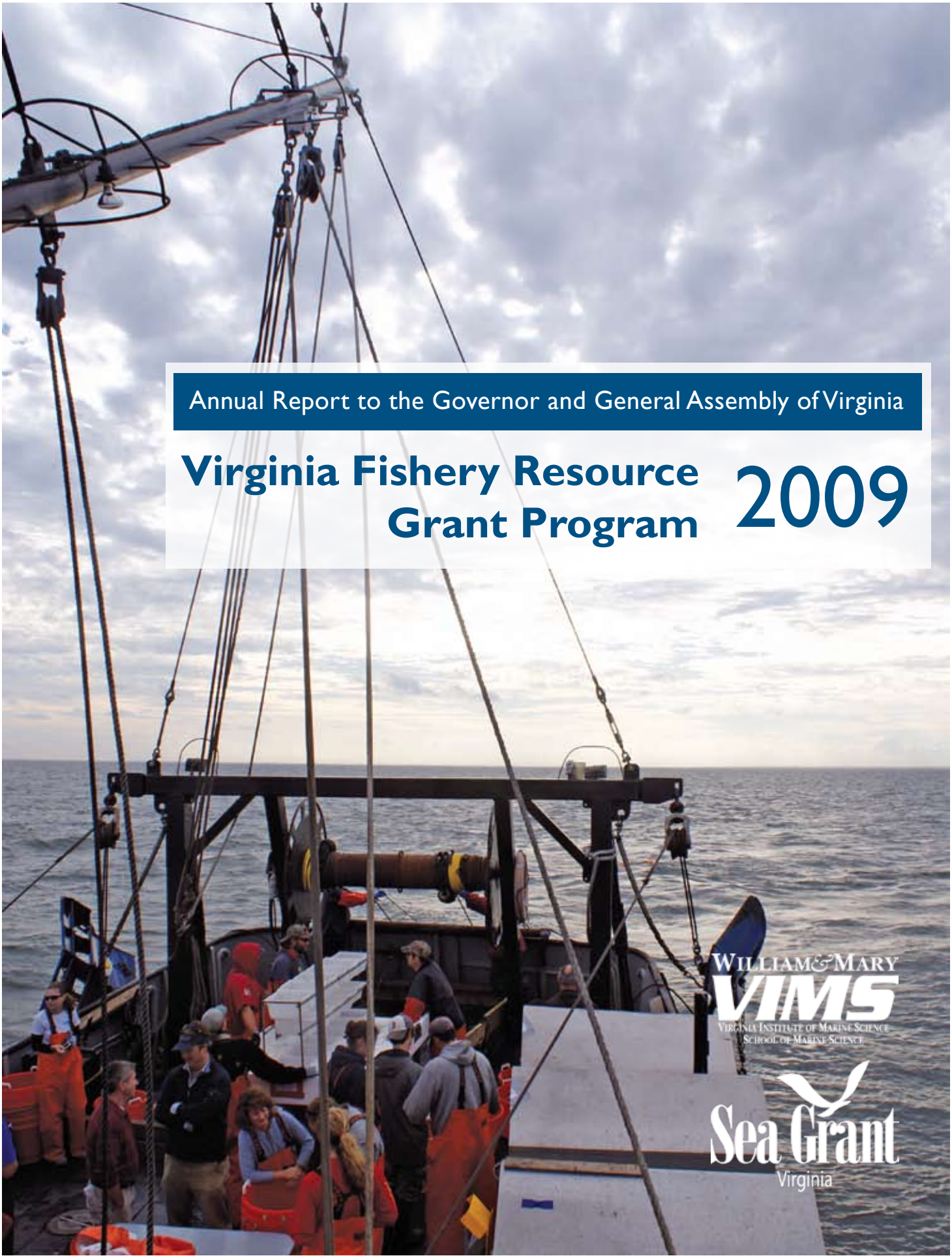

Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly of Virginia

Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program 2009

William & Mary
VIMS
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
School of Marine Science

Sea Grant
Virginia

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Executive Summary

The Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program (VFRGP) enables members of Virginia's seafood industries to develop ideas to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's coastal and marine resources. Since its inception in 1999, the annually-funded program has supported 76 projects, 4 of which were approved to start in 2009. These projects enable members of seafood industries to pursue ideas for increasing efficiency and sustainability that will benefit the entire industry, without personally bearing the cost and high risk. The VFRGP is coordinated by Virginia Institute of Marine Science Marine Advisory Services, in partnership with Virginia Sea Grant, and operates with the aid of an VFRGP Advisory Board.

Background

Since the Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program (VFRGP)'s inception, the program has funded 76 individual 1-or 2-year proposals.

VFRGP was initiated by the Virginia Legislature (House Bill No. 1634) during the 1999 session to "protect and enhance the Commonwealth's coastal fishery resource through the awarding of grants in four areas":

1. New fisheries equipment or gear;
2. Environmental pilot studies on issues including water quality and fisheries habitat;
3. Aquaculture or Mariculture of marine-dependent species; and
4. Seafood technology.

To be eligible for consideration, VFRGP proposals must involve Virginians who are active participants in a seafood industry to be eligible. Involving the seafood industry (1) makes use of the experience and ideas of those who work closely with the Commonwealth's coastal and marine resources and (2) enables these individuals to develop and pursue improvements without personally bearing the cost and high risk to provide a shared industry benefit. Members of the seafood industry include those involved in commercial fishing activities related to coastal or offshore fishery resources, aquaculture/mariculture, or the processing or handling of fishery products.

Implementation

VFRGP is managed by an Advisory Board (See Appendix A). Funds are provided to Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences Marine Advisory Services (VIMS-MAS). Availability of grant funds is advertised through press releases (See Appendix B) and a Request for Proposals (See Appendix C) that is distributed through developed list of industry members who have elected to receive updates about the VFRGP program as well as other channels. Proposals evaluated by members of the Advisory Board and outside reviewers, following the Principles of Operation (See Appendix D). At projects' end, VFRGP receives completion reports. The results of those projects are used to produce informational and educational publications for distribution to industry. Additionally, project reports and results are presented at industry meetings and trade shows when appropriate.

Program implementation is coordinated by Mr. Thomas Murray, Associate Director of VIMS-MAS and Leader of the Virginia Sea Grant Marine Extension Program. The Coordinator partners with Virginia Sea Grant in the handling of proposals and development of VFRGP reports. Staff of VIMS-MAS are responsible for day-to-day management of VFRGP. The day-to-day management requires a small portion of the appropriated funds to partially support salary and operating costs, as foreseen by the enabling legislation.

Fiscal Statement 2009

Funds appropriated by the Legislature for 2009 totaled $195,300 for VFRGP activity in the 2008/2009-proposal cycle. Program administrative costs were set at $36,951 to cover a day-to-day program manager (located within the VIMS-MAS) and secretarial/clerical service functions required to properly administer the grants. These expenditures were covered by residual funds from previous years VFRGP funding in order to provide the maximum amount available for research projects.

Of the $195,300 available for new VFRGP project awards in 2009, four new projects were approved and initiated totaling $139,494.95. Thus, the VFRGP currently has a balance of approximately $55,805.05 available to support projects that will be initiated in early 2010 as a result of the RFP issued in late 2009.

Any funds remaining after the selection of new projects will be carried forward, as called for in the enabling legislation, for use in combination with year 2010 appropriated funds, to support new projects which will be submitted in response to a Request for Proposals that is to be released in summer/fall 2010.

Summary of 2009 Funding Period

As a result of the initial 2008 RFP announcements and follow-up workshops, fishing industry members submitted a total of 12 complete VFRGP proposals. The proposal topics were quite diverse, and each project was subjected to three expert reviews from outside the state. Once the expert reviews were received, a project evaluation and selection meeting was held, and the Advisory Board selected 4 new projects for funding or for further development and negotiation.

Projects Approved in 2009

FRGP 2009-06 "Developing New Value-Added Products from Cow Nose Ray"
L.C. Amory Seafood Company. (Hampton, Virginia)
Duration: 04/2009-04/2010
Funding: $74,640. Ongoing.

FRGP 2009-07 "Characterization of By-catch in Virginia's Spring Striped Bass and Analysis of Gear Alterations on CPUE and By-catch Composition"

George Earl Trice
Duration: 03/2009-06/2009
Funding: $29,696.00. Completed.

FRGP 2009-10 "Feasibility of producing triploid C. virginica larvae via thermal heat shock: Experimental protocol development and assessment"
A.J. Erskine, Cowart Seafood Corp.
Duration: 6/2009-06/2010
Funding: $13,401.00 Ongoing.

FRGP 2009-12 "Channeled Whelk Assessment"
Richard B. Robins, Jr. Bernies Conchs. (Suffolk, Virginia)
Duration: 02/2009-06/2010
Funding: $21,758.00 Ongoing.

2008 Projects Completed in 2009

FRGP 2008-03 "Hedingless Pound Net".
William Haynie. (Reedville, Virginia)
Duration: 03/2008–10/2009
Funding: $19,459.00. Completed

FRGP 2008-04 "Commercialization spat-on-shell production in Virginia".
Thomas E. Kellum, Virginia Shellfish Growers Association. (Weems, Virginia)
Duration: 05/2008-05/2009.
Funding: $50,300. Completed.

FRGP 2008-05 "Alternative Bait Holding Devices"
Scott Troy Hainley. (Wake, Virginia)
Duration: 08/2008-12/2009
Funding: $12,040. Completed

Highlighted in this Report

FRGP 2008-08 "Characterization of By-catch and Potential Reduction in Virginia's Spring Striped Bass and other Gill Net Fisheries."
George Earl Trice. (Poquoson, Virginia)
Duration: 03/2008-04/2009.
Funding: $49,329. Completed
Highlighted in this Report

FRGP 2008-10 "Feasibility Study on Grow-Out of One-year market size triploid C. ariakensis"
Frances Porter, Virginia Seafood Council. (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: 07/2008-07/2009.
Funding: $26,530 Completed

FRGP 2008-13 "Developing Both Commodity and Niche Markets for Cow Nose Ray-Second Year".
Meade Amory, L.C. Amory Seafood Company. (Hampton, Virginia)
Duration: 03/2008-02/2009.
Funding: $50,000. Ongoing

FRGP 2008-14 "Improving Gillnet Selectivity by Altering Mesh Characteristics- Year 2".
Robert Weagley. (Providence Forge, Virginia)
Duration: 10/2008–05/2009.
Funding: $17,188. Completed
Highlighted in this Report

FRGP 2008-15 "Feasibility Study for a Commercial Blue Catfish Fishery".
Kenneth G. Smith, Virginia Waterman's Association. (Heathsville, Virginia.)
Duration: 05/2008-09/2009.
Funding: $4,055. Completed

Preparation for 2010 Funding Period

VFRGP Advisory Board met to discuss plans for 2010 at a meeting at Cherrystone Aquafarms during 2009. The meeting focused upon the review of proposals submitted in response to public solicitations. Additionally, the Advisory Board meeting provided feedback and input with which to enhance overall program effectiveness. Improvements related to developing program informational materials, media exposure, and fishing industry outreach were adopted and will be implemented in 2007.

The Advisory Board again endorsed holding a series of public proposal development workshops at locations throughout coastal Virginia so that all potential participants may learn about the VFRGP. Such public meetings are held between the issuance of the call for proposals and the proposal due date. Additionally, numerous individual meetings are held with industry to discuss the VFRGP and specific project ideas.

Workshop locations for the 2009 RFP included Gloucester Point and Wachapreague Virginia .

Proposals prepared in response to a second RFP issued in 2009 are due to the Virginia Sea Grant Program at VIMS on January 2010, and public workshops related to this RFP were held at Gloucester Point and Wachapreague during December 2009.

Alternative Bait Holding Devices in the Va. Conch Pot Fishery

Goals and Relevance

The goals of this project were to (1) prolong fishing time and (2) cut back on bait use in the conch pot fishery. In this fishery, we have a real problem with bait getting eaten by small snail-like creatures as well as sea lice. If we could cut bait use in half, we could save on bait costs as well as help with the bait (horseshoe crab) shortage we are currently experiencing. It could also increase fishing time due to the bait lasting longer in the pots that should achieve a better catch ratio.

Methods

Two types of bait holding devices were employed: bait bag envelopes and bait cups. The bait bag envelopes were made of plastic bait bag material with 4mm holes. The bag was made with a flap that covered the entire bag. This made the bag completely closed up to the smaller animals that eat bait quickly. The 4mm holes were large enough to let out enough scent to attract the conchs but small enough to keep out the sea lice and snails. I used a 10mm bait bag with 1/2 female horseshoe crab as my control. I used 1/4 female with my envelopes as a comparison.

I used two separate rigs of pots to carry out the experiment, one rig had 80 cups and the other had 80 bait envelopes. I spaced the devices out every third pot so it would be a fair test throughout the lines. I chose four different locations to try the devices throughout the testing time. I made four trips with each of the rigs. This allowed for a fair test due to weather changes, locations, and areas of more or less conch production.

Findings

After carrying out the eight trips with the two different devices it was concluded that the bait cups with various size holes did not seem to be a feasible alternative to the control device. The diameter of the holes seemed to have no affect on the catch. The devices seemed to keep out most of the smaller sea creatures but didn't produce enough conchs to be a viable replacement for the original bait bags.

The bait bag envelopes however were much more promising as a replacement. The complete closure of the envelope and the small size of it seemed to keep out most of the smaller creatures as well as providing an almost equal catch with the control bag. Some of the experimental envelopes actually out-performed the control in areas of a high density of the small snails and sea lice that eat bait. Areas where the bait loss was not an issue, the envelopes seemed to be almost equal to the control. With these results I will continue using and modifying these envelopes to try and make them even more productive.

This project produced better than expected results on the use of bait envelopes by cutting bait use in half. I shared my ideas and devices with some of my fellow fisherman and they too have since tried the envelopes with the same success rate. With continued modifications on the size of the envelopes as well as amount of bait in each one this could well be a way for the industry to cut bait use significantly, therefore hopefully sustaining the resource for years to come. I will certainly be deploying more of these envelopes in the future.

Contact

Troy Hainley
59 Mill Creek Rd.
Wake, Va. 23176

FRG# 2008-05

Characterization of By-catch and Its Potential Reduction in Va.'s Spring Striped Bass and Other Gill Net Fisheries

Goals and Relevance

The main purpose of this study was to evaluate white perch fisheries catch and determine the impact on Atlantic sturgeon. If an impact is noted then fisheries techniques will be analyzed to lower by-catch.

A secondary goal is to evaluate striped bass (Morone saxatilis) bycatch and determine discard mortality. Net set parameters will be evaluated to help reduce mortality by discard, if high mortality occurs. Sturgeon spend several years in natal rivers prior to migration. During pre-migration, the juveniles stage in areas that possibly overlap white perch fisheries areas. Atlantic sturgeon are likely to be federally listed in 2009 under the endangered species list. The juvenile life stage has high natural mortality compared to later life stages. It is paramount to protect Atlantic sturgeon during the pre-migration stage.

Methods

The commercial white perch fishery was mimicked in the James River to determine interactions with Atlantic sturgeon and striped bass. The test employed standard commercial fishing practices, using the same gear, setting in the same areas, and generally mirroring actual techniques of the local white perch fishermen. When the nets were pulled the net set parameters and catch details were recorded. Special attention to Atlantic sturgeon and striped bass was made: life status (live/dead) and how fish was "caught" in the gear (i.e. gilled, entangled). We plan to make 20 trips during the white perch fishing season for data collection. We also plan to ask local fishermen their past experiences with Atlantic sturgeon in the white perch gear.

Findings

With two Atlantic sturgeon collections (only one properly "caught") and no mortalities fishing 600 feet of net for 3348 hours indicates that the white perch fishery might pose little threat to Atlantic sturgeon recovery in the James River. Interactions may change with varying conditions such as salinity, temperature, and strong versus weak Atlantic sturgeon spawning classes. Striped bass mortality could be drastically reduced with short net nets, 24 hours or less. If the 24 hour 6.3% mortality rate was used for the 48, 72, and 96 hour sets 96 less mortalities would have occurred dropping the overall mortality striped bass from 175 to 79. Overall size of striped bass caught in white perch gear may be influenced by net condition. A 3" mesh net with many broken bars would catch more large striped bass compared to a pristine net.

Contact

George Trice
147 Church Street
Poquoson, Va. 23662

FRG# 2008-08

Improving Gill Net Selectivity by Altering Mesh Characteristics

Goals and Relevance

This project was designed to determine the effect of twine size (mesh diameter) and hanging ratio on catch-per-unit-effort of striped bass, American shad, and Atlantic sturgeon. This knowledge is important to improving efficiency in the striped bass fishery while reducing by-catch and of American shad and sturgeon.

Methods

Four nets consisting of four fifty-foot net sections were constructed. They were run for 36 days and every net string was run on every day. The study started on February 26, 2009 and ran until April 6, 2009. Each net set was fished for a standard 24-hour period. Net panels in each net string were not tied together. In 2008, higher catch rates occurred in nets when sections were tied together suggesting that bias could occur as a fish passed from panel to panel until caught. Nets were flipped at each location randomly so that sections were not fished in the same exact location for the whole study. Fishes were enumerated by species and panel and total length measured to the nearest millimeter. Physical characteristics of environment such as water clarity, temperature, and salinity were recorded for potential analysis later. Data sheets were entered and American shad and striped bass catches proofed by fishery scientists at Virginia Sea Grant Advisory Services.

Since all net sections and net strings were fished simultaneously the number of fish caught during each set by each of the four experimental nets sections is equivalent to the panel's catch-per-unit-efforts (CPUE). No sturgeon were taken in 2009.

Findings

This research suggests that all gill nets are not equal with respect to their selectivity. This fact empowers fisheries managers and gives them alternatives to complete closure with respect to controlling bycatch in gill net gear. In our study twine sizes augmentation (0.4 to 0.62 mm) increased striped bass CPUE by number and poundage. Under an ITQ or catch limit management approach increasing CPUE congruently decreases gear soak time and thus risk of interaction with protected species due to the fact that interactions with protected species are most often characterized by a as a rare event. Our findings suggest that increasing hanging ratios will reduce shad bycatch which will further conserve this protected finfish resource. In addition to these conservation benefits fishermen will increase profit margin by incorporating these gear alterations into their approaches. A higher target CPUE lowers harvest costs. Larger twine sizes increase longevity of the gear and hanging nets on a larger hanging ratio result in longer nets given the same quantity of webbing. In addition to these economic benefits, fishers that chose to be responsible stewards and take the steps necessary to improve their fisheries with respect to gear selectivity are increasing the sustainability of their industry with respect to the nature system that controls production and ecological balance and the political system that is all to readily punishes the fisheries for protected species population declines.

Contact

Robert Weagley
10201 Carriage Rd.
Providence Forge, Va. 23140

FRG# 2008-14

Previous Projects, 1999-2008

FRGP 99-02. "Peeler Pot By-catch Reduction."
B. Knight (Saxis, Virginia)
Duration: April 2000 – September 2000.
Funding: $1,527. Completed.

FRGP 99-07. "Enhancement of Seed Oyster Recovery and Redeployment."
W.S. Magann (Chesapeake, Virginia)
Duration: January 2000 – February 2001.
Funding: $15,000. Completed.

FRGP 99-12. "Growing Soft Clams (Mya arenaria) Commercially in the Commonwealth of Virginia."
Ward Oyster Company (Ware Neck, Virginia)
Duration: February 2000 – June 2001.
Funding: $19,827. Completed.

FRGP 99-14. "Efficiency of Haul-Seine Cull Panels-A Comparison of Size Selectivity and Relative Release."
C.H. Hager (Hayes, Virginia)
Duration: February 2000 – November 2000.
Funding: $10,315. Completed.

FRGP 99-20. "Comparing Oyster Seed Growth Rates Using a Floating Upweller System ("FLUPSY") vs. traditional "Taylor" Floats."
R. Bloxom and J.T. Gardner (Wachapreague, Virginia)
Duration: April 2000 – July 2001.
Funding: $12,700. Completed.

FRGP 99-23. "Comparative Growth Rates of Four Strains of the American Oyster Using Two Grow-Out Methods."
A.T. Leggett (Wicomico, Virginia)
Duration: March 2000 – September 2001.
Funding: $21,851. Completed.

FRGP 99-24. "Feasibility of using Croakers to make Large Fillets or Fish Squares."
Wanchese Fish Company (Hampton, Virginia)
Duration: February 2000 – December 2001.
Funding: $19,500. Completed.

FRGP 99-29. "Development of Live Fish Markets Through the Use of New Live Holding Gear."
W. Cosby (New Kent, Virginia)
Duration: February 2000 – November 2001.
Funding: $18,470. Completed.

FRGP 99-30. "Comparisons of Hard Clam Culture Using 'Fenced In' Method vs. Under Nets."
L. Crewe (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: February 2000 – February 2002.
Funding: $7,400. Completed.

FRGP 99-34. "Artificial Reef Oyster Grow-out."
J. Hammer (Accomac, Virginia)
Duration: March 2000 – December 2001.
Funding: $29,700. Completed.

FRGP 99-37. "Comparative Study of Oyster Seed from Northern and Southern Hatcheries."
J.W. Merritt (Chincoteague, Virginia)
Duration: March 2000 – March 2002.
Funding: $25,026. Completed.

FRGP 00-01. "Enhancement of Seed Oyster Recovery and Redeployment."
W.S. Magann (Chesapeake, Virginia)
Duration: March 2001 – May 2002.
Funding: $17,125. Completed.

FRGP 00-03. "Raising Spot (Leiostomus xanthurus) Commercially for Sale as Live Bait in the Commonwealth of Virginia."
John Vigliotta (Gloucester, Virginia)
Duration: February 2001 – November 2001.
Funding: $19,827. Completed.

FRGP 00-05. "Control of Mud Blister Formation in Oysters."
Dennis Gryder (Hampton, Virginia)
Duration: April 2001 – November 2002.
Funding: $1,338. Completed.

FRGP 00-06. "Efficiency of Haul-Seine Cull Panels: A Comparison of Size Selectivity and Relative Release (second season)."
Christian Hager (Hayes, Virginia)
Duration: February 2001 – November 2001.
Funding: $16, 496. Completed.

FRGP 00-08. "Comparative study of four popular grow-out methods."
Jack White (New Point, Virginia)
Duration: February 2001 – December 2002.

Funding: $27,340. Completed.

FRGP 00-10. "Portable Anchor Trap Net Designed with Large Mesh to Harvest Cow Nose Rays."
Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr. (Warsaw, Virginia)
Duration: March 2001 – December 2004.
Funding: $9,883. Completed.

FRGP 00-12. "Taylor Float Tidal Flow Increaser."
Bradley M. Knight (Saxis, Virginia)
Duration: April 2001 – September 2003.
Funding: $3,622. Cancelled and Incomplete due to damage from Hurricane Isabel.

FRGP 00-15. "Scallop Trawl Improvement Program."
Timothy B. Daniels (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: February 2001 – December 2003.
Funding: $44,900. Completed.

FRGP 00-18. "Crab-Pot Buoy Marking Tags."
Diana Gadwill (Kinsale, Virginia)
Duration: April 2001 – November 2001.
Funding: $820. Completed.

FRGP 01-04. "Hydrostatic Oyster Processing Demonstration"
Lake Cowart, Cowart Seafood (Lottsburg, Virginia)
Duration: October 2001 – November 2003.
Funding: $34,600. Completed.

FRGP 2001-12 "Floating Cultivation of Sea-side Oyster"
Jeff Hammer, (Accomac, Virginia)
Duration: March 2002-February 2004.
Funding: $18,575 Completed.

FRGP 2001-13 "Fluke Holding Tank and Live Market Assessment"
Wec Terry, Terry Brothers, Inc. (Willis Wharf, Virginia)
Duration: October 2002-April 2004.
Funding: $17,919. Completed.

FRGP 2001-14 "Marketing Virginia Croaker"
Stuart O'bier, O'bier Seafood. (Callao, Virginia)
Duration: October 2001-October 2003.
Funding: $43,500.

FRGP 02-01. "By-catch and discard reduction concerning selectivity and overall design in the black sea bass trap fishery."
James E. Dawson (Chincoteague, Virginia)
Duration: April 2002 – April 2003.
Funding: $16,100. Completed.

FRGP 02-02. "Growing oysters in suspended bags using ropes, anchors and buoys."
Curtis B. Jenkins (Warsaw, Virginia)
Duration: May 2002 – December 2003.
Funding: $4,445. Completed.

FRGP 02-04. "Virginia oyster replenishment via seed growing operation."
Robert W. Shanley (Cape Charles, Virginia)
Duration: April 2002 – April 2003.
Funding: $38,400. Completed.

FRGP 02-07. "Development of grow out techniques utilizing the water column in growing a non-native oyster (Crassostea ariakensis)."
Andy Drewer (Saxis, Virginia)
Duration: April 2002 – June 2003.
Funding: $22,008. Completed.

FRGP 02-09. "Tenderizing Illex squid so it can be marketed as food rather than bait."
Sam Daniels, Wanchese Fish Co. (Suffolk, Virginia)
Approved for funding but withdrawn at Applicant's Request.

FRGP 02–20. "Growth rate of Ariakensis oysters in different environments."
Richard Wade Harding, Purcell's Seafood Inc. (Burgess, Virginia)
Duration: April 2004 – August 2004.
Funding: $10,854. Completed.

FRGP 02-21. "Profitability analysis of benthic and substrate grow-out techniques for the
Suminoe oyster (Crassostrea ariakensis) in Broad Bay, Virginia."
John C. Ludford, Diversified Marine Services. (Virginia Beach, Virginia)
Duration: Funding: Project Status: Not initiated.

FRGP 02-22. "Development of clear plastic containers for pasteurizing crab meat."
Johnny Graham, Graham & Rollins Inc. (Hampton,

Virginia)
Duration: October 2002 – November 2004.
Funding: $29,770. Completed.

FRGP 02-24. "Grow-out and marketability evaluation of triploid DEBY oysters."
Gustavo Calvo, Sweet Amalia Oyster Farm (Hayes, Virginia)
Duration: October 2002 – May 2004. Funding: $4,650. Completed.
FRGP 02-27. "Juvenile protection."
Willie Andrew Offield – West Point, Virginia.
Duration: Funding: Not initiated.

FRGP 02-28. "Growing of the native and non-native oyster utilizing a long line system."
Tripp Smith, Shores and Ruark Seafood Co. (Sharps, Virginia)
Duration: October 2002 – September 2004.
Funding: $34,810. Completed.

FRGP 02-29. "Modular oil absorbent bilge pump."
Darryl Lilliston, Darryl Lilliston Seafood (Wachapreague, Virginia)
Duration: November 2002 – December 2003.
Funding: $13,117. Completed.

FRGP 03-01. "Validation of IQF freezing process to reduce Vibrio vulnificus to non-detectable levels in raw oysters."
Ron Bevins & Lake Cowart (Kinsale, Virginia)
Duration: August 2003 – December 2003.
Funding: $12,000. Completed.

FRGP 03-03. "Oyster farming cooperative program."
Shawn Stickler (Wake, Virginia)
Duration: January 2004 – August 2004.
Funding: $24,500. Completed.

FRGP 03-06. "Identifying the catch efficiency and incidental marine bird entanglements associated with internally floated and weighted lines on gill nets."
Millard Bryant (Montross, Virginia)
Duration: June 2003 – June 2004.
Funding $490. Not initiated at request of applicant.

FRGP 03-07. "Project management for Virginia Seafood Council's Economic Analysis of triploid C. ariakensis aquaculture."
Frances Porter & Tom Kellum (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: July 2003 – July 2004.
Funding: $57,976. Completed.

FRGP 03-07-2. "Project Management for Virginia Seafood Council's Economic Analysis of Triploid C. ariakensis Aquaculture-Year 2"
Frances Porter & Tom Kellum (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: July 2004 – July 2005.
Funding: $53,649 Completed.

FRGP04-02. "Whale Safe Gillnets."
David C. Walker, FV Nelson Seafood (Chincoteague, Virginia)
Duration: June 2004-June 2005.
Funding: $8,300. Completed.

FRGP 04-03 "Intensive Culture of the Mudminnow (Fundulus heteroclitus) as Live Bait for Recreational Angling."
Rudy Cashwell (Eastville, Virginia)
Duration: April 2004 – November 2006.
Funding: $32,935. Terminated.

FRGP 04-07 "Sea Turtle Friendly Fish Trap."
Emory Lewis, Jr. (Fleeton, Virginia)
Duration: June 2004 – December 2005.
Funding: $21,900.Completed.

FRGP 04-14 "To Develop More Efficient Mechanisms to Harvest, Handle and Transport Catch."
Wec Terry, Terry Brothers, Inc. (Willis Wharf, Virginia)
Duration: June 2004-June 2005. Funding: $30,380. Cancelled as a result of Tropical Storm Ernesto damage to facilities.

FRGP 2004-10. "Alternate methods for haul seine fishery to reduce possible impact on SAV beds."
Matthew Bloxom (Poquoson, Virginia)
Duration: March 2005 – December 2006.
Funding: $4,901. Ongoing

FRGP 2005-01 "Floating Hedging."
William Haynie (Reedville, Virginia)
Duration: April 2005-September 2006.
Funding: $19,995. Completed

FRGP 2005-03 "Feasibility Study on one-year grow-out of triploid Crassostrea ariakensis." Virginia Seafood

Council (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: May 2005 – July 2006.
Funding: $50,435. Completed

FRGP 2006-09. "Assessment of Sturgeon Bycatch, Bycatch Mortality and Other Regulatory Discard Mortality in Virginia Winter/Spring Gill net Fisheries." Year II.
Kelly Place (Williamsburg, Virginia)
Duration March 2005-August 2005.
Completed

FRGP 2005-07. "Value of Cownose Ray: Population Size, Harvesting, Processing and Market Acceptance."
Margaret Ransone (Kinsale, Virginia)
Duration: April 2005- December 2006.
Funding: $21,250. Ongoing

FRGP 2006-04. "Aquaculture Training Program Needs Assessment."
S. Stickler Rappahannock Community College. (Warsaw, Virginia)
Duration: May 2006-March 2007.
Funding: $6,700. Completed

FRGP 2006-06. "Developing an Alternative Fishery for Virginia Waterman."
Casey's Seafood, Inc. (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: May 2006-May 2007.
Funding: $17,732. Final Report in Draft.

FRGP 2006-07. "Alternative Bait for Crab Pots."
L. Haynie (Reedville, Virginia)
Duration: May 2006-May 2008.
Funding: $27,000. Ongoing

FRGP 2006-08. "Project Management: Economic Analysis of C. Ariakensis."
Virginia Seafood Council (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: May 2006 –July 2007.
Funding: $50,435 Completed

FRGP 2006-09. "Assessment of Sturgeon Bycatch, Bycatch Mortality and Other Regulatory Discard Mortality in Virginia Winter/Spring Gill net Fisheries." Year II.
Kelly Place (Williamsburg, Virginia)
Duration September 2005-August 2006.
Funding Year II: $59,217 Completed.

FRGP 2007-01 "Feasibility of converting crab shedding tanks to effectively set single oyster seed for aquaculture and comparison of technique to traditional remote setting setting practices". A.J. Erskine Bevans Oyster Company & Cowart Seafood Corporation. (Kinsale, Virginia)
Duration: March 2007-December 2008.
Funding: $19,000 Ongoing

FRGP 2007-02 "Development of Efficient Cow Nose Ray Harvesting Technology and Associated Data Collection". Frank James West. (Hayes, Virginia)
Duration: February 2007-December 2007.
Funding: $12,146 Cancelled

FRGP 2007-03 "Improving Gillnet Selectivity by Altering Mesh Characteristics". Robert Weagley. (Providence Forge, Virginia.)
Duration: February 2007-May 2007.
Funding: $13,916 Ongoing

FRGP 2007-04 "Characterization of Sturgeon and Other Regulatory Discards in Virginia's Spring Striped Bass and Other Gill Net Fisheries".
George Earl Trice. (Poquoson, Virginia)
Duration: February 2007-May 2007.
Funding: $33,031. Completed

FRGP 2007-05 "Feasibility Study on Grow-Out of One-year market size triploid C. ariakensis." Year II.
Frances Porter, Virginia Seafood Council. (Newport News, Virginia)
Duration: June 2007-July 2008.
Funding: $24,064. Completed

FRGP 2007-06 "Developing Both Commodity and Niche Markets for Cow Nose Ray". Meade Amory, L.D. Amory Company. (Hampton, Virginia)
Duration: March 2007-February 2008.
Funding: $57,000. Completed

FRGP 2007-07 "Cow Nose Ray Product Development".
Ronald L. Jett, Smith Point Seafood. (Reedville, Virginia)
Duration: May 2007-December 2007.
Funding: $40,500. Completed

Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program

Appendices to the Annual Report of Activities 2009

Appendix A

Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program Advisory Board

Program Manager
Mr. Thomas Murray
Associate Director VIMS- and Leader Virginia Sea
Grant-Marine Extension Program
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Dr. James Wesson
– VMRC
P.O. Box 756
Newport News, VA 23607-0756

Dr. Roger Mann
Acting Director Research & Advisory Services – VIMS
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Mike Peirson
President – Cherrystone Aquatic Farm
(Aquaculture Organization Rep)
P.O. Box 347
Cheriton, VA 23316

Marshall Cox
TITLE
(Watermen Organization Rep)
Box 254
Cape Charles, VA 23310

John Wyatt
TITLE
(Watermen Organization Rep)
1409 Walnut Drive
Chester, VA 23836

Appendix B

Sample VFRGP News Release

For More Information, Contact:
Dianne Roberts
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
Phone (804) 684-7173
Fax (804) 684-7161
http://www.vims.edu/adv/frg/

N E W S R E L E A S E

November 21, 2009

MEETINGS FOR VIRGINIA WATERMEN TO LEARN ABOUT GRANTS VAILABLE

The Virginia Sea Grant Program is accepting applications to compete for approximately $200,000 as part of the Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program (VFRGP). The Virginia Legislature created the Fishery Resource Grant Program to "protect and enhance the Commonwealth's coastal fishery resource through the awarding of grants."

Basic to the program is the belief that people in the commercial fishing industry often have valid ideas to enhance and protect fisheries, but may lack the financial resources to experiment with innovations. The Fishery Resource Grant Program invests in such ideas generated by the fishing public through fair and competitive methods.

The legislation established four priority areas for funding as follows:

- New Fisheries Equipment and Gear - focus on the development of less environmentally destructive gear, by-catch reduction, and more effective ways to handle catch.
- Environmental Pilot Studies - focus on ways to restore damaged habitat, create new habitat, prevent habitat impairment, or reduce impact from fishing or aquaculture activities.
- Aquaculture/Mariculture - focus on ways to develop criteria and assessment for permits, increase return from investment in culture activities, or introduce new species to the existing aquaculture list to broaden participation in commercial aquaculture.
- Seafood Technology and Utilization - develop value added products from existing production, the utilization of underused or new fishery resources, develop models for total quality system management programs, or increase returns in the seafood industry by improving packaging and handling.

Eligibility - To be eligible for funding under the Fishery Resource Grant Program, each proposal must sub-

stantially involve Virginians who are actively involved in a fishing industry (which is defined as persons involved in commercial activities relating to fishery resources, aquaculture/mariculture, or the processing or handling of fishery products). Proposals submitted by persons not involved in a fishing industry must have 1) substantial involvement of Virginia fishers as defined above, and 2) include written endorsements from persons or organizations representing fishing industries supporting the project. The work can involve both inshore and offshore fisheries. All proposals submitted within the limits of the Guidelines for Submission will be accepted and reviewed for technical merit and the ability to address one or more of the specific priorities listed above.

Proposal Submission - To be considered for funding in this solicitation, a signed application must be postmarked no later than 5:00 p.m., January 16, 2010. Mailed copies should be sent to: VFRGP - Attention Dianne Roberts, Virginia Sea Grant Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346 Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062. Faxed or electronic proposals will not be considered.

A series of workshops will be held to explain the grants program, including eligibility and funding priorities, how to complete the application form, and where to go for more help when developing a grant proposal package. The time and location of these workshops are listed below:

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Director's Conference Room, VIMS, Gloucester Point, VA

Wednesday, December 17, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Library, VIMS Eastern Shore, Wachapreague, VA

For more information or to receive a copy of the RFP and application forms, contact Dianne Roberts at the Virginia Sea Grant Program, VIMS, 804-684-7173.
This notice is also available at: <http://www.vims.edu/adv/frg>.

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Appendix C

VFRGP Request for Proposals and Application

Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program
Request for Proposals (RFP) November 2009
http://www.vims.edu/adv/frg/index.html

Proposals will be accepted from November 23, 2009 – January15, 2010

The Virginia Sea Grant Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is accepting applications to compete for funding as part of the Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program (VFRGP). The Virginia Legislature created the Fishery Resource Grant Program to "protect and enhance the Commonwealth's coastal fishery resource through the awarding of grants" in four areas: 1) new marine fisheries equipment or gear; 2) environmental pilot studies on issues including water quality and fisheries habitat; 3) aquaculture or mariculture of marine-dependent species; and 4) seafood technology.

A basic principle of the program is that people in the industry often have valid ideas for enhancing and protecting fisheries, but they lack the financial resources to experiment with innovations. The Fishery Resource Grant Program invests in ideas generated by the fishing public through fair and competitive methods.

The legislation established the four priority areas noted above. Specific priorities within the four topic areas have been approved by the Fishery Resource Grant Program Advisory Board and are noted below. All proposals submitted within the limits of the Guidelines for Submission will be accepted and reviewed for technical merit and the ability to address one or more of the specific priorities listed.

New Fisheries Equipment and Gear – This priority area seeks proposals that focus on the development of less environmentally destructive gear, bycatch reduction, improvements in gear selectivity, more effective ways to handle catch and the development of information leading to fishery management plans for key species and groups.

Environmental Pilot Studies – This priority area seeks proposals that focus on ways to restore damaged habitat, create new habitat, prevent habitat impairment or reduce impact from fishing or aquaculture activities.

Aquaculture/Mariculture – This priority area seeks proposals that focus on ways to develop criteria and assessment for permits, increase return from investment in culture activities or introduce new species to the existing aquaculture list to broaden the participation in commercial aquaculture.

Seafood Technology and Utilization – This priority area seeks proposals that develop value-added products from existing production, the utilization of underused or new fishery resources, develop models for total quality system management programs or increase returns in the seafood industry by improving packaging and handling.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under the Fishery Resource Grant Program, each proposal must substantially involve Virginians who are actively involved in a fishing industry (defined as persons involved in commercial activities relating to fishery resources, aquaculture/mariculture or the processing or handling fishery products). Proposals submitted by persons not involved in a fishing industry must have 1) substantial involvement of Virginia fishers as defined (above) and 2) written endorsements from persons or organizations representing fishing industries supporting the project.

Proposal Development

Competitive proposals are developed through discussion of ideas and partnering with interested groups and experts. Every applicant should consult with experts in the targeted priority area(s) and, where appropriate, develop a team of fishers and scientists to conduct the work. Sea Grant Marine Advisory agents and specialists can help assemble a team. Non-fishers could improve chances of funding by collaborating with persons in a fishing industry for proposal development and design and by involving fishers in the execution of the study. The Virginia Sea Grant Marine Extension Program will be responsible for determining the eligibility of each proposal.

Application Forms

The application form at the end of this notice provides an outline for the proposal and additional pages should be used for providing information in the sections listed. Applicants should pay particular attention to items 12-17. These sections should describe the problem and rationale for proposing the research project (12), present the goals and objectives and the proposed work (13) and describe the work that is to be performed to meet the objectives (14). The next three sections should explain how the information gained from the work will help resolve the problem described (15), how the information developed will be transferred to others (16 – Note: It is not enough to say the data will be given to VMRC or another agency.) and who will be responsible for doing the work (17 – Letters confirming participation should be obtained from all cooperators, including VMRC and/or Sea Grant Marine Advisory staff).

A series of workshops will be held to explain the grant program, including eligibility and funding priorities, how to complete the application form and where to go for more help when developing a grant proposal package. The time and location of these workshops will be announced through press releases to the media and in selected newsletters. The workshop schedule is also included in this announcement.

Proposal Submission

To be considered for funding in this solicitation, a signed application must be delivered or post-marked no later than 5:00 p.m., January 15, 2010. Mailed copies should be sent to: VFRGP Manager, Virginia Sea Grant Marine Extension Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062. **No applicant may submit more than 2 proposals for this cycle.** Faxed or electronic proposals will not be accepted.

To ensure competitive project selections, Virginia Sea Grant will subject all proposals to a series of reviews by a panel of experts from outside of Virginia. The FRGP Advisory Board (see appended list of Advisory Board members) will also provide proposal evaluations to the selection process. Virginia Sea Grant will make proposal selection decisions and funding agreements will generally be effective during the second calendar quarter of 2010.

Funding Priorities

The following list of potential research ideas has been reviewed and approved by the FRGP Advisory Board and is provided as ***suggestions*** of the types of subjects that could be appropriate for proposals to the FRGP. These are not intended as a complete listing of all possible projects; nor are the topics listed in order of importance. All proposals received by the submission deadline will receive equal treatment during the review process.

Potential research topics or issues include but are not limited to the following:

I. New Inshore and Offshore Fisheries Equipment or Gear

1. Reduce bycatch by technology development and education.
2. Develop "environmentally friendly" gear.
3. Develop more effective/efficient mechanisms for handling catch.
4. Develop and evaluate mechanisms to release fish to increase their survival.
5. Determine amounts of hook-and-release mortality for important recreational species.
6. Increase efficiency/economic return of fishing.
7. Develop bait and bait substitutes.
8. Develop species-specific gear.
9. Develop information leading to Fishery Management Plans for key species and groups.
10. Develop new gear and/or improve current gear and/or document catch per unit effort ("CPUE").
11. Develop gear to improve selectivity of target species.

II. Environmental Pilot Studies

1. Develop mechanisms to restore damaged habitat or create new habitat.
2. Develop mechanisms to prevent habitat impairment.
3. Reduce habitat impact from fishing activities.
4. Develop recycling and collection programs for used fishing or aquaculture gear.
5. Develop ways to monitor and evaluate habitat alterations or the impacts of aquaculture practices such as moving of seaside shellfish to the bayside.
6. Determine environmental impact of fishing and processing activities.
7. Assess effects of water quality and habitat alteration on fisheries production.

III. Aquaculture/Mariculture

1. Increase return from investment in culture activities including the development of mechanical planting and harvesting technologies.
2. Examine the potential for culture of new species and/or deep-water culture techniques for existing species such as clams and oysters.
3. Determine environmental impacts of aquaculture operations.

4. Improve the efficiency of growth, feeding and nutrition.
5. Demonstrate the best husbandry practices for potential growers.
6. Develop mechanisms for a network for technical monitoring of waters for levels of spat fall, food, predators, etc.
7. Market research for aquaculture products.
8. Develop parameters for apprentice program and training for career aquaculturists.
9. Assess feasibility of augmenting commercially and recreationally important species through hatchery release.
10. Assess regulations that impact aquaculture/mariculture such as submerged aquatic vegetation protection.
11. Assess the potential of shellfish aquaculture to enhance wild populations.
12. Provide the opportunity for watermen, including minorities, to diversify their businesses through aquaculture.

IV. Seafood Technology

1. Develop value-added products from existing or potential production.
2. Increase returns in the seafood industry by improving packaging and handling.
3. Develop models for total quality system management programs.
4. Develop improvements in product quality.
5. Develop mechanisms for reducing effluents and the environmental impacts.
6. Develop alternative uses for processing byproducts.

Contacts

If you have an idea for a project, you may contact the following Virginia Sea Grant Marine Extension representatives for assistance in writing your proposal or to request additional information. These people can also direct you to a research scientist who has expertise related to your project topic. *Sea Grant Marine Extension Program contacts include:*

Vicki Clark	804-684-7169	Marine Education
Bob Fisher	804-684-7168	Commercial Fisheries/Seafood Technology
George Flick	540-231-6965	Seafood Technologies
Chris Hager	804-684-7555	Commercial Fisheries/By-Catch
Mike Jahncke	757-727-4861	Seafood Technology
Dan Kaufman	757-727-4861	Seafood Business Management
Bob Lane	757-727-4861	Processing Engineering
Tom Murray	804-684-7190	MAS Coordinator, Marine Business
Mike Oesterling	804-684-7165	Fisheries; Finfish/shellfish Aquaculture
Mike Schwarz	757-727-4861	Finfish Aquaculture

2009 Fishery Resource Grant Application Workshops

Two workshops will be held to explain the grant program, including eligibility and funding priorities, how to complete the application form and where to go for more help when developing a grant proposal package. The time and location of these workshops is listed below:

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Director's Conference Room, VIMS, Gloucester Point, VA

Thursday, December 17, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Library, VIMS Eastern Shore, Wachapreague, VA

Appendix

Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program – Advisory Board

For Virginia Sea Grant Program

Tom Murray, Program Manager
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
phone: 804-684-7190
fax: 804-684-7161
email: tjm@vims.edu

Dr. Troy Hartley, Sea Grant Director
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
phone: 804-684-7248
fax: 804-684-7161
email: thartley@vims.edu

For VMRC

Dr. James Wesson
Va. Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 756
Newport News, VA 23607-0756
phone: 757-247-2200
fax:
email: jwesson@mrc.state.va.us

For VIMS

Dr. Roger Mann
Research & Advisory Services
VIMS
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
phone: 804-684-7108
fax: 804-684-7097
email: rmann@vims.edu

For the Aquaculture Association

Mike Peirson, President
Virginia Shellfish Growers Association
Cherrystone Aqua-Farms
P.O. Box 347
Cheriton, VA 23316
phone: 757-331-2622
fax: 757-331-4366
email:

For the Watermen's Associations

Marshall Cox
Box 245
Cape Charles, VA 23310
phone: 757-678-5941
fax:
email: mrscox@intercom.net

John Wyatt
1409 Walnut Drive
Chester, VA 23836
phone: 804-530-3194
fax:
email: jwyatt@aol.com

Fishery Resource Grant Program

Application

1. Project title: _____
2. Name of applicant: _____
3. Company (if applicable): _____
4. Telephone: _____
5. Address: _____

_____

_____

6. Priority addressed by project (see list): _____
7. Fishing license/permit number(s): _____
8. Social security or federal tax ID number: _____
9. Funding requested: _____
10. Project dates: beginning _____ completion _____
11. Other project participant(s), affiliation, address and phone:

[Note: Use additional pages as needed to respond to the items below.]

12. Give a brief summary of the situation or problem to be addressed.

13. What is the purpose (objectives) of the project?

14. What work do you intend to do, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

15. Explain how the expected results will address the problem and/or enhance fishery resources.

16. Explain how the expected results will be made available to the fishing industry.

17. Briefly outline who will be responsible for each aspect of the work plan (attach letters from cooperators outlining their participation).

18. Briefly summarize the qualifications of each participant.

19. Provide project budget and cost justification.

ITEM/CATEGORY	AMOUNT
a. Personnel Costs (time x unit cost)	
b. Travel (trip or mileage x unit cost)	
c. Supplies	
d. Equipment (items more than $500)	
e. Contractual Services (itemize)	
f. Other Costs (itemize)	
g. **Total Project Costs**	

20. Provide budget item justification and/or explanations.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fishery Resource Grant Program

Application Guidelines

1. Provide a title that summarizes the project.

2. Give the full name of the applicant; it will be used to issue payments for the project.

3. Give the name of your company or corporation if applicable, or the institution of your employment. If self-employed, say so.

4. Applicant's complete telephone number including area code.

5. Mailing address for correspondence and mailing payments, etc.

6. Which priority are you addressing? The attached listing gives this year's priorities under the four-program areas equipment/gear, environment, aquaculture and seafood.

7. Give fishing license or permit number(s), if applicable.

8. Social security or federal ID number is required for grant payments.

9. Total amount of funding requested (see budget section).

10. Give the date that you plan to begin work and the date that we can expect a completion report.

11. List all other personnel involved n the project and their affiliation. This includes all those who have a major responsibility for some aspect of the work.

**** Use additional pages as needed to fully answer items 12 through 18 ****

12. Describe the nature of the situation or problem that your proposed work will address.

13. What is the purpose of your proposed work?

14. **This section is very important!** Please explain how, where and when you will conduct each work task. Explain how tests will be run and how the data will be analyzed. Describe the tests you plan to conduct, the surveys you will make and/or plans for making something. Your methodology must withstand questions about its validity and/or potential to yield the results you need to solve the purpose of your work (described in number 13 above).

15. Describe how the outcome of your proposed work will help address the problem described in number 12 above.

16. Describe how you plan to get the results of your work to other members of the fishing industry for their use. It is not enough to just discover something. It must also be usable. If you are going to rely on someone else to extend the results, be sure to have an agreement and arrange to cover those expenses.

17. Who is going to be responsible for what? Each participant (including the applicant) must be responsible for some part of the work. You must have letters of endorsement from other participants to confirm their participation in the project. For example, if personnel from VIMS will conduct the statistical analysis, then an agreement letter from VIMS is required.

18. Give a brief statement describing the experience of each participant and the applicant that qualifies them to do the tasks outlined above.

19. Carefully compute the funds needed (rounded to the nearest dollar) for all of the work described in the proposal. Be sure to include any subcontractors (budget item e.) for lab work, consultants, extension, services, etc. The funding for these grants does not permit indirect costs (overhead). Be sure to check your budget total figure.

20. Please justify the budget figures. For example: "We will need a deckhand for 150 hours @ $7/hour," or "We will need to design and build a trawl that requires $1,200 for materials," etc.

- **Be sure to sign the application! Applications without a dated signature will be rejected as incomplete.**

  Mail the signed original to: VFRGP Manager, Virginia Sea Grant Marine Extension Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

- **Applications must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2010. Applications may be delivered to the Virginia Sea Grant Office in Gloucester Point only until 5:00 p.m. on January 15, 2010. Late proposals will be returned to the applicant without being considered.**

- **If you need assistance completing the grant application, a resource list is available from Mrs. Dianne Roberts at the Virginia Fishery Resource Grants Program (phone: 804-684-7173; fax: 804-684-7161) This notice and application form is available at the website below:** http://www.vims.edu/adv/frg/index.html

Appendix D

VFRGP Principles of Operation

Authority: The Virginia Legislature ratified House Bill 1634 in 1999 providing funding to "protect and enhance the state's coastal fishery resources through the awarding of grants."

Administration: The program is administered by the Advisory Services Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with input from an appointed Advisory Board. The Board, based upon rankings from reviews and consistent with priorities, will determine the grants to be awarded.

Priorities: The Advisory Board, with input from members of the fishing industry, develops priorities for each year in the following areas:

1. New fisheries equipment and gear;

2. Environmental pilot studies, including water quality and fisheries habitat;

3. Aquaculture/mariculture; and

4. Seafood technology.

Eligibility: Each proposal shall include substantial involvement of active Virginia persons involved in a fishing industry. The term "fishing industry" includes persons involved in commercial activities related to inshore and offshore fishery resources, aquaculture/mariculture, or handling of fishery products (i.e. seafood dealers and processors). A proposal generated by a person not involved in a fishing industry must have substantial involvement of Virginia fishers (as defined above) as well as written endorsements from persons or organizations representing fishing industries in support of the project.

Technical Assistance: Following the establishment of priorities by the Advisory Board, VIMS Advisory Services shall hold workshops at coastal locations to solicit applications and to assist persons involved in fishing industries in writing proposals. A list of technical advisors will be available throughout the proposal writing process for assistance and participation.

Application: Applications must be completed based on the format provided for that purpose. Additional pages or supplemental materials (diagrams, photos, etc.) are acceptable if they better explain the project. Applications may include technical assistance as part of the project and funds may be budgeted to pay for this. Incomplete applications will not be accepted for consideration. Application forms listing information needed for a proposal are available from VIMS (see listing below for contact details).

Project Duration: Projects must reach conclusion within two years or less.

Geographic Distribution: To the extent practicable, grant funding will be distributed to applicants within Virginia counties that border the Atlantic Ocean or Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to the extent of tidal influence.

Review Procedures: An anonymous outside peer review will be conducted for all applications. At least one of the reviewers shall be a person involved in a fishing industry. Applications shall be confidential until after funding decisions are made. Project quality will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Addresses a priority,
2. Ability to protect or enhance fishery resources;
3. Organization of a work plan leading to conclusions,
4. Plan to extend findings to the fishing industry;
5. Availability of expertise and its application;
6. Familiarity and experience with the problem addressed;
7. Innovation of approach and/or potential findings;
8. Cost-effectiveness of implementation of results; and
9. Reasonableness of budget for work proposed.

Based upon panel reviews and Advisory Board input, proposals will be recommended to the Marine Science Consortium. The Consortium will make all final decisions on grants, including the level of funding for each project.

Restrictions: No member of the Fishery Resource Grant Program staff or the Advisory Board or members of his/her immediate family may benefit financially from a grant. If a grant recipient from a prior year has failed to perform a grant project to the satisfaction of the Consortium, the principal applicant may be denied funding for a new application.

Grant recipients shall provide quarterly progress reports to the VFRGP and shall submit invoices describing expenditures for each quarter. Twenty-five percent (25 %) of the total grant award shall be awarded on the start date and certified upon verification of expenditures. The final 25% of the total grant award shall be held until the recipient has completed and submitted a satisfactory final written report. The remainder of the grant award shall be distributed upon approval of quarterly reports, verification of expenditures and receipt of an invoice.

Questions concerning the Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program may be directed to the following:

Tom Murray,
Associate Director Advisory Services
VIMS
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
Phone 804-684-7190
Fax 804-684-7161
E-mail: tjm@vims.edu

Report of Activities for 2009

This is a report to the Governor and General Assembly of Virginia on Implementation of House Bill No. 1634 (February 6, 1999) - "The Fishery Resource Grant Fund". Funds are adminstered by Viriginia Institute of Marine Science Marine Advisory Services Program in partnership with Virginia Sea Grant.

February 2010

VIMS Marine Resource Report No. 2010-1

Photos © Virginia Sea Grant/VIMS

Copies of this report are available from Virginia Sea Grant Publications Office, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, Va. 23062; e-mail vsgpubs@vims.edu

WILLIAM & MARY
VIMS
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF MARINE SCIENCE

Sea Grant
Virginia