THE DEDICATION OF WATERMEN'S HALL

of the

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
School of Marine Science
The College of William and Mary

June 29, 1984
WATERMEN’S HALL, 1984

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science/School of Marine Science of The College of William and Mary is a unique institution that brings together the expertise of scientists, educators and advisory specialists to provide a sound basis for the proper management of Virginia’s marine resources. During its more than forty years of service, the Institute has been dedicated to studying estuarine and coastal environments while educating marine scientists to serve the Commonwealth and the nation in various fields from basic research to resource management. The Institute is also the Marine Advisory Service for the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing information and technical assistance to coastal and estuarine resource managers, watermen, leaders of marine-related industries and the general public.

Out of the vision of William and Mary Professor Donald W. Davis of the College’s Biology Department, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science was established by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1940 with an annual budget of $5,000 and a staff of fewer than five people. From this modest beginning VIMS has grown to be one of the eight largest marine science institutions in
the nation with a $9 million annual budget, a full-time faculty of 57, and a graduate enrollment of 135.

From the main campus at Gloucester Point and the Eastern Shore Laboratory at Wachapreague, the Institute is well situated to fulfill its triple mission of serving the marine interests of Virginia and the nation through research, higher education and advice on matters relevant to the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and the Atlantic coastal waters. This mission encompasses a diversity of fields including geographical, physical, chemical and biological oceanography, estuarine engineering, fisheries science, and marine resource management research.

The dedication of Watermen’s Hall marks a significant event in the Institute’s history. This new 40,330 square foot facility, designed by VVKR, Inc. and built by American Eastern, will provide modern facilities for the graduate and public education programs of the School of Marine Science, house the Institute’s Department of Advisory Services, afford the Institute the space to properly display and utilize its extensive marine science library, and provide for the centralization of administrative offices. Through these expanded facilities, specific needs can be met for the betterment of the marine environment of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens who depend on that environment for their livelihood.

Today, this facility is being dedicated to and named for those people who are most closely identified with the Bay: the CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERMEN.
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