Appendix 4. Shellfish Sustainability Advisory Committee

**Scope of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

**Shellfish Sustainability Advisory Committee**

The purpose of this document is to summarize the development of a committee at the Virginia Marine Resources to ensure the resource and fishers sustainability of the Commonwealth’s Shellfish.

This committee shall consist of appointed individuals who serve at the discretion and pleasure of the Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

These individuals must have the expertise and experience to meet the qualifications of the stakeholders spelled out in this document with the goal of establishing advice to the Commission on the sustainability of Virginia Shellfish.

The goal of this committee is not to formulate shellfish restoration strategies as that workload rest with the Shellfish Management Committee, rather to promote and define culture that guides the commission in sustainability targets and objectives. This committee will be charged with monitoring ongoing sustainability audits and projects regarding Virginia Shellfish.

Stakeholders:

The Sustainability Advisory Committee, SAC, would consist of appointed stakeholders from the following sources:

VMRC staff, Academia, NGOs and nonprofits, Industry, and Shellfish trade organizations domiciled in Virginia.

These appointed individuals must have expertise in one or more of the following,

1.shellfish biology

2.shellfish management

3. shellfish propagation

4. industry culture

5.shellfish restoration and replenishment

The SAC shall factor in cultural and social elements of shellfish production to ensure a fair and equitable fishery that is supported by sustainable resource, academia and management thereof.

Possible sources of (non VMRC staff) committee appointees:

The Virginia Seafood Council, The Virginia Shellfish Growers Association, the Virginia Waterman’s Association, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Sea Grant, Virginia Tech, The Virginia Marine Products Board, Christopher Newport University, and The Mariners Museum.

All work of this committee shall be made available to any auditing body engaged in a survey of a Virginia shellfish fishery. SAC will be responsible for providing materials as requested by FIP leaders or consultants.

The target date for the establishment of this committee shall be no later than March 31, 2023.