

## Ecotourism Opportunities

### Kayaking & Boating

- The kayak soft launch allows users to enjoy a quiet paddle amongst the shipwrecks and natural beauty of the area.
- Mallows Bay also offers the only public motor boat ramp between Smallwood State Park and Friendship Landing.



### Heritage Tourism

- The skeleton shipwrecks transport the visitor through maritime history from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Mallows Bay is contiguous with the Lower Potomac Water Trail, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.



### Bald Eagle & Osprey Habitat

The area is habitat for one of the largest nesting populations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Ospreys often nest atop the abovewater hulls.

### Fish Breeding & Nursery Habitat



Large beds of submerged aquatic vegetation provide important nursery and feeding grounds for numerous aquatic species, including striped bass, white perch, and blue crab.

Two fish species are identified as those of greatest conservation need:

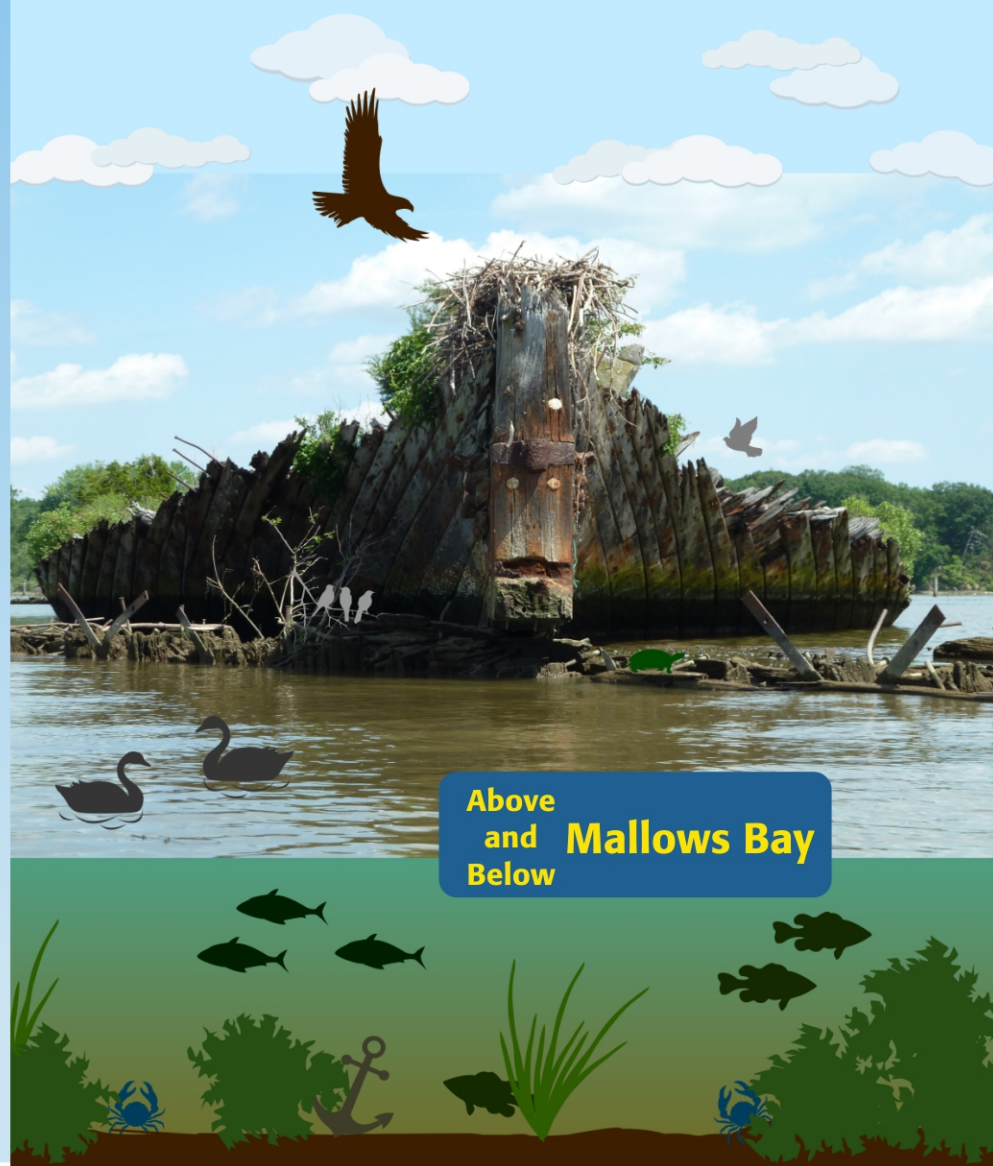


longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*)



warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*)

## Mallows Bay – Potomac River Conservation Opportunities



### Waterfowl Habitat



The shoreline and vessel hulls provide nesting and wintering habitat for birds and waterfowl such as great blue herons, egrets, terns, goldeneyes, canvasbacks, and bufflehead ducks.

### Mini-Ecosystems



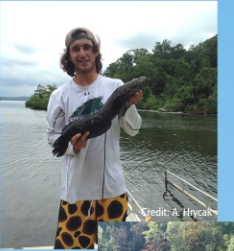
The shipwrecks are now home to unique mini-ecosystems, housing flora from osprey nests above to artificial reefs below.

The wrecks also affect sediment accretion rates, creating unique wetland, woodland, and aquatic habitats in the region.

## Recreation Opportunities

### Fishing

- Mallows Bay offers one of the best tidal largemouth bass fishery destinations in the world.
- Professional fishing tournaments generate millions of local tourism dollars annually.
- The protected cove at Mallows Bay park offers shoreline fishing for sunfish, catfish, crappie, white perch, snakehead and bass.



### Wildlife Viewing

- Bird-watchers and photographers are consistently rewarded with close encounters with bald eagle, osprey, heron, and a magnitude of waterfowl.
- Low-tide along sections of the river often reveal 60 million year old fossilized shark teeth, turtle shell fragments, and crocodile teeth.

