



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

"Maryland's Sportfishing Advocates"

Est. 1981

OPPOSE MAN-O-WAR SHOAL DREDGE PERMIT

Department of Natural Resources' resubmittal of the permit application NAB-2009-61802-M04 to dredge shell from Man-O-War Shoal in Baltimore County

January 12, 2016

Dear Ms. Hopkins,

As Executive Director of the region's largest collective group of recreational anglers, the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA), I am writing to you on behalf of our membership and Maryland's recreational anglers, encouraging the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District (ACEBD) to deny the Man O War dredging permit. The MSSA is adamantly opposed to any dredging of Man O War Shoals for any purpose.

For over 30 years the MSSA has fought for the rights of anglers and also worked with fisheries managers, and the Corp, to enhance and restore the Chesapeake Bay's ecology. One of the most significant impacts we have had is working to protect and expand fisheries habitat such as Man O War Shoals and other reef sites, both natural forming and artificial.

I want to make sure you know how important natural oyster shoals, artificial reefs, and structure are to the sportfishing community and the industries it supports. Maryland has over a half a million resident anglers, and approximately, 80,000 non-resident anglers, generating annual economic activity of \$844 million, nearly \$1 billion. The US Government estimates that Maryland recreational fishing creates annual state and local tax revenue of approximately \$52 million per year. Over 10,000 jobs are created directly from fishing activity and hundreds of thousands more supported by those who fish. Recreational fishing in Maryland is about clean, outdoor, family recreation.

The MSSA believes that protecting, expanding, and creating more marine habitat in the Chesapeake Bay is critical in restoring our once thriving marine resources. We do this not by dredging and destroying habitat such as Man O War Shoals by means of dredging, or investing in the public oyster fishery for commercial purposes; **we do this by following the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District's own evaluation, which concluded that the only strategy for a POSITIVE return is oyster sanctuaries.** Any type of dredging would go against the Corps evaluation and the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of 2003-2008; which identified three main criteria for rebuilding the Chesapeake Bay's oyster population: 1.) expand sanctuaries; 2.) facilitate aquaculture; 3.) more restrictive public fishery.

If the Maryland DNR and the Army Corps are looking for substrate to grow, cultivate and foster oyster restoration; we must turn to alternate materials such as small granite stone, concrete, and fossil shell from other states. These alternate materials are readily available and cost effective with a proven track record of growing oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. Dredging oyster shell from Man O War Shoals will impact sportfishing and once again destroy perfectly good habitat.



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

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We would also like to point out the Maryland DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers have not yet conducted an extensive survey to determine alternate locations of shell deposit within Maryland. If the DNR and ACEBD would like to continue using oyster shell from Maryland, the MSSA would strongly suggest funding an extensive survey of the entire Chesapeake Bay and find alternate locations; locations that aren't so controversial and important to the fishing community.

Finally, the dredge permit states there would be extensive monitoring and surveying of the dredge site. I would like to point out that this is all well and good; however this comes with a pretty hefty price tag. At the moment the Department is looking at a nearly 10% decrease in funding as proposed by Governor Hogan's budget. This cost would only cause further harm to the Department's budget issues. Not to mention that the commercial fishing industry is currently operating in the negative, meaning their license fee revenue does not cover the costs to manage Maryland's commercial fisheries. On the other hand the recreational sector is operating on a surplus. So, in reality the recreational anglers would be funding yet another commercial fishing interest.

We would like to thank the ACEBD for their work and strongly encourage an UNFAVORABLE determination for this dredging permit.

Respectfully,

Frank Holden
President
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association
Association

Respectfully,

Dave Smith
Executive Director
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing

2/5/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: ATTN:CRNAB-OPR-M



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: ATTN:CRNAB-OPR-M

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:46 AM

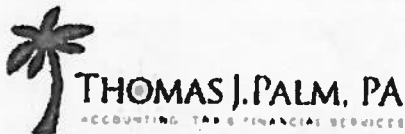
From: Thomas J. Palm Sr. [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 12:13 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN:CRNAB-OPR-M

Ms. Abbie Hopkins

"I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal"

Thank you,

Thomas J. Palm Sr.
President and Founder
Thomas J. Palm, P.A.



Thomas J Palm, P.A is not affiliated with Cetera Advisors LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Advisors LLC, member FINRA / SIPC

2/5/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoals



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoals

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:36 AM

From: Barbara Clark [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:34 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoals

I am a recreational angler and am very much opposed to dredging Man-O-War Shoals!

Doug Clark

[REDACTED]



Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

RE: [EXTERNAL] MOW

Hopkins, Abigail . <ABIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: John schlaffer <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:49 AM

This email is fine. I'm copying MDE so they also have a copy for their consideration. Abbie

From: John schlaffer [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MOW

Dear Abbie

Was in attendance at Sparrows Point High but did not speak.

I am not in favor of the Dredging Project for MOW shoal.....against.

Do I need to send a regular letter or does an e-mail do the trick. ??

John Schlaffer



Thanks.....

2/5/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] ATTN:CENAB-OPR-M - Man 'O War Dredging



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] ATTN:CENAB-OPR-M - Man 'O War Dredging

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:51 AM

From: Jim Cassidy [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:06 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN:CENAB-OPR-M - Man 'O War Dredging

Dear Ms. Hopkins,

I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal.

The science doesn't support this as a net positive to the bay and its citizens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best Regards,

Jim Cassidy

2/5/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-o-War Shoal - Cenab-Opr-M - Baltimore District Corps of Engineers



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-o-War Shoal - Cenab-Opr-M - Baltimore District Corps of Engineers

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:50 AM

From: Patrick Mahoney [mailto:patrick.mahoney@state.md.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:33 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man-o-War Shoal - Cenab-Opr-M - Baltimore District Corps of Engineers

Please do not dredge.

Thank you,

Patrick H. Mahoney



Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

FW: ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:50 AM

From: Rayner, Jeffrey [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Ms. Abbie Hopkins,

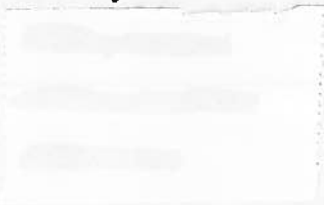
I am against the proposed dredging of the Man-O-War shoal.

Destroying the last ancient major oyster bed in the upper Chesapeake will be a death knell for what is a great fishery in the infant stages of a turnaround.

Please include my comment in the official record.

Thank You for Your Attention to the Matter,

Jeff Rayner





Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: Man Of War Shoals

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:52 AM

—Original Message—

From: Joshua Lashley [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man Of War Shoals

Abbie,

I could not attend the meeting the other night. But I would like to state that I am against the proposed dredging of "Man of War Shoals". I do not understand why this is being considered, when there is little or no data to support that it will work. Also the impact of removing any oysters in that area concerns me being that it represents a filter for the upper bay where a large majority of pollutants start. Frankly I think the risks far out weigh the benefits in this scenario.

Thanks,

Josh Lashley



Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

FW: Say no to dredging of the Man-O-War shoal

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 3:24 PM

From: Niehoff, Michael [mailto:
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 1:36 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Say no to dredging of the Man-O-War shoal

Ms. Abbie Hopkins

ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers

Dear Ms Hopkins- I am writing to express my opposition the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal. Thank you for considering my opinion.

J. Michael Niehoff,

Director of Manufacture
Department of Family Medicine
Medical Center
8101 Franklin Square Dr 210
Baltimore, MD 21287
Phone 443-777-2000
Fax 443-777-2035
Email: jniehoff@... .net



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Re : CENAB-OPR-M, (Dredging Man O War shoal).

1 message

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 3:09 PM

From: captbill [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re : CENAB-OPR-M, (Dredging Man O War shoal).

Ms. Hopkins, and others concerned.

I am a lifelong resident of MD, and one who has observed the Chesapeake's decline for a good portion of my 72 years.

I would like to put my name on record as being against the removal of shell from Man O War shoal.

The thought of that shell being used to grow out "Seeded" Oysters only to have that bed graded flat by Harvesters a couple years later is ludicrous.

Additionally allowing the dredge company to keep, and sell, shell to private concerns, (some of whom may not even be on the same watershed), is just doubling the insults.

Please add my name to the list of those opposed to the dredging of "Man O War" shoal.

Until we solve the problems of Pollution, and over exploitation of the Chesapeake, we are just aggravating the wounds.

Thank you

My regards.

William W. Maguire



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 11:51 AM

From: Dave Nolan [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:55 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Ms. Abbie Hopkins
ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Phone: 410-962-6080
Email: abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Abbie Hopkins,

I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal. Please record my opinion for the record.

Sincerely,

Dave Nolan

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2/8/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] The Man O War Shoal Dredging Project



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] The Man O War Shoal Dredging Project

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 10:51 AM

From: Russ Durbin [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 5:33 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Man O War Shoal Dredging Project

abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil

ATTN:CRNAB-OPR-M

To whom it may concern,

I was present at the hearing in Edgmere, Md Tuesday February 2, 2016.

I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal.

Russ Durbin



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 10:56 AM

From: jason huettner [mailto:jason.huettner@maryland.gov]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 7:37 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

I would like to share that I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoals. I was unable to attend the meeting this past week and would like to make sure my opposition is know. This oyster bar has proved a great a fishing ground with easy access for my family and kids to fish. This oyster bars has had enough struggles without the Corp disturbing it. I ask you please leave our oyster bar alone.

Thank you,

Jason Huettner

2/8/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Atten; CENAB-OPR-M



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Atten; CENAB-OPR-M

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 10:58 AM

From: mertkerr@verizon.net [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 7:07 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Atten; CENAB-OPR-M

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed dredging of Man-O-War Shoal

Mert Kerr



2/8/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] "I'm against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal".



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] "I'm against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal".

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 10:57 AM

From: Mark King [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 10:00 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "I'm against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal".

Hello Abbie

I am a recreational fisherman who spent lots of money on fishing both in and out of Maryland. This dredging is a mistake and will decimate the fishing for years to come. Please do not allow this to happen. We are the stewards of the Bay.

We must protect it for our children.

Mark King

2/8/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoal Dredging



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoal Dredging

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 10:58 AM

—Original Message—

From: John Rigby [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 8:49 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoal Dredging

I am against the dredging of Man-O-War Shoal.

John Rigby



Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Dredging of Man-O-War Shoals

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 11:01 AM

From: John Gasper [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dredging of Man-O-War Shoals

Dear Ms Hopkins,

There are many better ways to enhance oyster populations in Maryland than dredging Man O-War-Shoal. Destroying this productive area to further a failed approach to oyster restoration makes no sense. I am against the proposed dredging. I was unable to attend the recent hearing and express my opinion in person. Please insert my opinion in the public record. Thank you.

John Gasper

2/8/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: Man-O-War Shoal



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: Man-O-War Shoal

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 1:53 PM

From: Debbie [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:56 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War Shoal

I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War Shoal.



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: Man of War Shoals

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 3:23 PM

From: Farmer, V.F., Msgr. James [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:40 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man of War Shoals

Dear Abbie,

The Man of War Shoals is one of the great fishing reefs in the entire Chesapeake Bay. Please do not dredge it! Dredging would destroy the reef! The damage that this would cause may be irreversible. Thank you.

Rev. James P. Farmer

2/10/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Dredging Man O War Shoals



Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Dredging Man O War Shoals

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 1:51 PM

From: Barbara Clark [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:08 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dredging Man O War Shoals

I am deeply opposed to the dredging of Man O War shoals!

Barbara Clark

[REDACTED]

2/11/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War shoal dredging-Attn: CENAB-OPR-M



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War shoal dredging-Attn: CENAB-OPR-M

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 10:11 AM

From: Rob [mailto:rpellegrini@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:12 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man-O-War shoal dredging-Attn: CENAB-OPR-M

Man-O-War shoal dredging-Attn: CENAB-OPR-M

I am against the proposed dredging of Man-O-War shoal

Rob Pellegrini

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: Man of War Shoals

2 messages

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 3:23 PM

From: Farmer, V.F., Msgr. James [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:40 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man of War Shoals

Dear Abbie,

The Man of War Shoals is one of the great fishing reefs in the entire Chesapeake Bay. Please do not dredge it! Dredging would destroy the reef! The damage that this would cause may be irreversible. Thank you.

Rev. James P. Farmer

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 10:32 AM

From: Danny Webster [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:20 AM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man of War Shoals

To whom it may concern; Hi my name is Daniel Webster. I'm a director on the Somerset County Oyster Committee and want to state that the idea of digging shell from Man of War Shoals is a good thing because in the past this system of dredging shells from areas that have a very low spat set and putting them where there is a high setting, take them back to areas that have the low setting is a great idea (SHELL AND SEED PROGRAM). But what concerns me the most is that most(90%) of the shell go to sanctuaries. The ratio of the sanctuaries verses public is only 25% of the oyster beds state wide. I can't see why this has to be and should be changed to 25% of the shell go to sanctuaries and 75% go to public fishery. It's only fair and the right thing to do. If this can't be done, then I'm against digging shell from Man of War Shoals altogether. Thanks Daniel Webster



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] CENAB-OPR-M

1 message

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 5:32 PM

—Original Message—

From: Joe Tomaschko [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 5:14 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CENAB-OPR-M

Miss Hopkins I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed dredging of oyster shell on Man Of War shoal. I am currently a full time charter captain fishing out of Bear Creek in Baltimore County. I have fished this area for over 40 years and especially at this shoal for last couple of years. In my opinion this is 1 of the last natural oyster bars anywhere in this area. I have also experienced the shell dredging of many of our others oyster bars in the upper bay and the fish crabs and life have never come back. I also know this is a bar that the oysters are alive not dead shell and dredging will kill it for the mostly failed procedure of moving shell elsewhere. Hopefully this proposal will not go through. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank You

Captain Joseph J. Tomaschko

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil

2 messages

William Johnson <[REDACTED]>
To: justin.bereznak@maryland.gov, abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 10:30 AM

Dear Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Bereznak:

Thank you for holding the forum at Sparrows Point High School regarding the proposed dredging of Man O'War Shoal. I attended but did not speak. Thank you for the opportunity to enter written comments. I would like to voice my continued opposition to any dredging of Man-O-War Shoals for the purpose of obtaining shell. Once this special structure is gone, it is gone forever.

Please see my comments in the enclosed document. I hope that they can be incorporated into the public record.

 Opposition to Strip Mining Man.docx
127K

William Johnson <[REDACTED]>
To: justin.bereznak@maryland.gov, abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 11:34 AM

Dear Ms Hopkins and Mr. Bereznak-

I just emailed you regarding my opposition to the DNR proposal to dredge Man O'War Shoal. I failed to include my full Name and Address. I apologize for my error.

William S. Johnson
[REDACTED]

I have enclosed the document I sent earlier, for your convenience. Please let me know if you need further information.

Thank you for your attention.

[Quoted text hidden]

 Opposition to Strip Mining Man.docx
127K

Opposition to Strip Mining Man O'War Shoal

February 11, 2016

Ms. Abigail Hopkins, Army Corps of Engineers, <mailto:abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil>
ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M

Mr. Justin Berezna, Tidal Wetlands Division, Wetlands and Waterways Program
Maryland Department of the Environment
<mailto:justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Berezna:

Thank you for holding the forum at Sparrows Point High School regarding the proposed dredging of Man O'War Shoal. I attended but did not speak. Thank you for the opportunity to enter written comments. I would like to voice my continued **opposition to any dredging of Man-O-War Shoals** for the purpose of obtaining shell. Once this special structure is gone, it is gone forever.

Everyone agrees that oyster restoration in the Chesapeake is a worthy goal. Strip mining Man O'War Shoal for shell to continue a failed and short-sighted approach makes no sense.

Here are some reasons:

Oyster Restoration

1. Man O'War has living oysters on it. Does it make sense to destroy a natural oyster reef to build an artificial one? This reef has been there for hundreds if not thousands of years. In contrast, the reefs that DNR has created have lasted but 2-3 years.
2. Shells and other suitable substrate for this oyster "restoration" are available elsewhere without causing such environmental destruction. Check out the way shell from other sources and species has been used in Delaware Bay. Although DNR believes that oyster shell is the best substrate, it is far from the only substrate where oyster larvae will settle.
3. This oyster "restoration" program has been a failure for over 40 years. It has produced only short-term benefits. It seems to require repeated deposits of more shell and seed oysters, which amounts to a "put-and-take" approach that benefits only a few.
4. Once these essential structures like Man O'War are gone, they are gone forever. It would be a shame to sacrifice one of the last large reefs in the upper Chesapeake for a one-time extraction to support a dubious project.
5. The huge success of oyster aquaculture show that there are other more commercially feasible approaches to producing oysters. To destroy even part of this magnificent reef for a project that should be abandoned and is indefensible.

Environmental Impacts

- 1. Man O' War Shoal provides essential structure that attracts congregations of commercial and sport fishes like white perch and striped bass. It also provides habitat for a wide diversity of invertebrates that require a hard substrate. We spend millions each year to create artificial reefs because structure is so critical. Man-O-War is the last remaining 3-dimensional shoal in the upper Chesapeake of any size. In this case a "level playing field" is bad for the Bay.**
- 2. The dredging process produces large quantities of sediment. When the reefs east of Pooles Island were dredged for shell years ago I saw a plume of sediment spreading miles down stream. Since we think that water clarity is a key to restoring bay grasses, it is hard to justify this increased sediment load. The provisions outlined by DNR at the hearing to reduce this sediment plume are untested and lack credibility. The idea that sediments dumped back into the excavation will stay there seems dubious at best.**
- 3. DNR says that it will monitor the program to assess adverse impacts. They provide no methodology for doing this. How do you define adverse effects? In fact, DNR has no demonstrated expertise in this area.**

Thank you for your attention.

William S. Johnson



COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
COURT HOUSE, TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

TODD K. CRANDELL
COUNCILMAN, SEVENTH DISTRICT
COUNCIL7@BALTIMORECOUNTYMD.GOV

DISTRICT OFFICE:
NORTH POINT GOVERNMENT CENTER
7701 WISE AVENUE
DUNDALK, MARYLAND 21222
410-887-3383
FAX: 410-887-5791

February 18, 2016

Ms. Abbie Hopkins
Attn: CENAB-OPR-M
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

abbie.hopkins@usace.army.mil

Re: OPPOSED: Man-O-War Shoal Dredging Application

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

After researching the history and science behind the Man-O-War Dredging Application, I am compelled to inform you of my opposition to the proposal. The proposed project puts a pre-historic, living oyster bar at risk for a program that has been met with little success in the past.

Investing more money into suspect programs that endanger an existing, living bed is a poor use of time and resources. Man-O-War Shoal should remain undisturbed and unthreatened.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd K. Crandell".

Todd K. Crandell

February 12, 2016

Mr. Justin Bereznak
Tidal Waters Division
Wetlands and Waterway Programs
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Ste. 430
Baltimore, MD 21230-3782

RECEIVED

FEB 16 2016

TIDAL WETLANDS DIVISION
WATER MANAGEMENT ADMIN

Mr. Bereznak,

I would like to call your attention to the MPT Presentation I watched on rebuilding the Bounty. There is much controversy over this issue so I would like to clear up any misunderstanding that the Army Corps of Engineers, the DNR, the MDE or the EPA has regarding our opposition to this experiment.

As you know Man O War Shoal is in an area of Baltimore County where our waterways have been allowed to suffer at the hands of Business's and Bureaucrat's that participated in the shake down for the all mighty dollar. We are seeing this shakedown still today.

The Watermen of the lower bay ignored the signs of a troubled industry for years by refusing to admit there was a problem, and continued to over harvest. The Farmers of the lower Bay knew that the chicken manure run off was harmful to the Bay, yet they still continued their conversion from agricultural farming to raising chickens. Now look what we have! They have always despise the people who live on the Northern Bay and now that they need us, they still won't come forward.

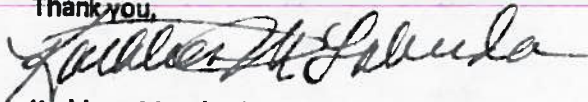
The so called experts and scientists of yesteryear were part of the cover up. I say cover up because they told us there was nothing harmful in our waters. Look what we have now! Toxic waterways and the Chesapeake Bay Recovery has been number one on the agenda since Bethlehem Steel closed. We knew what we were told then was untrue, so I hope you can appreciate our lack of trust in our officials today.

We do not need to dredge and possibly kill off a thriving Oyster Shoal for aquaculture because according to the MPT Outdoors Maryland segment #2602, "Rebuild the Bounty", the current aquaculture program is thriving. This airs again on MPT February 13th at 5:30 am.

<http://www.mpt.org/outdoorsmaryland>

As far as we in Fort Howard are concerned, you do not need our shells. Continue to recycle restaurant shells if you must, but leave ours alone. We as taxpayers in Baltimore County, and the State of Maryland, do not want Man O War Shoal dredged at any cost to us, or for the benefit, financial or otherwise to others.

Thank you,



Kathleen M. Labuda
Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Howard Community Association
9202 Howard Ave.
PO Box 156
Fort Howard, MD 21052

February 2, 2016

Mr. Justin Bereznak
Tidal Waters Division
Wetlands and Waterway Programs
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Ste. 430
Baltimore, MD 21230-3782

Mr. Bereznak,

After speaking with Mr. Russel Spangler, The Executive At Large" of the Maryland Watermen's Association, on Monday February 1, 2016, I felt compelled give input on the Man O War Dredging Project on behalf of our community. At the most southern tip of Baltimore County, at the intersection of the Chesapeake Bay and the Patapsco River, you will find our community. You may not have heard of us, but we are FORT HOWARD MARYLAND 21052, and we do have a voice. Let it be known that we in Fort Howard stand with "Mother Nature". Man O War Shoal has existed in peace for eternity and should left alone. This historic shoal probably helped support the Native Indian population that summered along our shore line. Our community uses our water way for recreation, fishing, crabbing and water sports of all kinds. We also have watermen who make their living on the bay. Our waterman, by not over harvesting its bounty, respect the bay, and the quality of life that it affords us.

There is nothing that I have read in the work described about this project that could possibly be beneficial to my community or the citizens of Baltimore County. Forty years ago when we the citizens of this area tried to call the poor bay conditions, and the poor water quality to the attention of our so called officials, they called in the "Big Guns", the scientists and ecologists. Because of Bethlehem Steel, we were dismissed and told we did not know what we were talking about, that there was nothing harmful in the water. Money talked and BS walked. Look where we are today. We have an ecological nightmare in the toxic silt left behind in the waters all around the Bethlehem Steel property.

Thirty years ago the Port cried it was dying and needed to dredge the channel so that ships could enter the harbor. The Port won and got the channel deepened, the Port realized the profit, and we got the bill in the form of Heart Miller Island, and a continuing tax burden for the ongoing upkeep of the ecological nightmare. Again money talked and BS walked. Our community realized no direct benefit from the HMI project or the deepening of the Harbor. Something isn't natural when you must dump chemicals into the ground water before you can release it into the bay. We were also told that this was a onetime thing! It would never happen again! This is it! We know this was a lie, because you have allowed its level to be raised at least two more times. It has grown exponentially from its original plan. To our knowledge not one cent of the Ports profit has contributed to the HMI upkeep, nor provided tax relief to our community for improvements of any kind, such as storm water management, roads, sidewalks etc..

As I read the plan for Man O War Shoal, I had to laugh. A five year plan harvesting 2 – 5 million bushels and you cannot guarantee will not devastate the existing shoal, or have ecological

consequences. You said in the proposed work that it is a comprehensive research and development effort to monitor the consequences of removing the shells. What happens if the silt plume that is created is toxic and kills off not only the existing shoal, but fish and wildlife that live in the tidal flow you so noted. Now we are possibly poisoning the tidal flow. It's a fact that there are no consequences if the shells are left alone. Your written words confirm this. We in Fort Howard are not willing to take that chance, especially after all the lies we were told in the past. But you are going to test the waters and the shoal, and if you think it is OK, you are going to continue until you take 30% or 30 million bushels of our "Baltimore County Tax Payers" property, and give it away, and to benefit who? People or persons who are not from our area at all? The aquaculture (oyster farms) will be operated by whom? Who will be realizing the profits from these farms? What percentage of their profits will be passed back to the Baltimore County taxpayer? If we are subsidizing a business, I do not think it should be for free.

As for the shoals in the lower bay that were devastated by their own watermen over harvesting, they should simply stop taking a bounty until their shoals restore themselves. The lower bay watermen would take the last crab and the last oyster from the bay without blinking an eye. They always hated having limitations put on them, so they still over harvested, even when they were told the shoals were in trouble. This still exists in some fashion, even today. They simply did not or do not care. They devastated theirs, now they want to devastate ours. Not a good idea. Not only are the watermen at fault, so are the farmers, who have switched from agriculture to raising chickens. Chicken feces are the number one pollutant of the southern bay. This morning, February 2, 2016, the channel 45 Fox News broadcast ticker tape indicated that there was a bill introduced in the Maryland Legislation making the poultry companies responsible for the pollution. Until the true nature of the devastation is controlled, reestablishment of an abundant, self-sustaining oyster population will be impossible. Until we read the bill, we do not know what the enforcement will be. I was once told once by an Eastern Shore Waterman that there is no life west of the Bay Bridge. As it turns out, there really is no life south of the Bay Bridge.

After the lies told about the toxicity of the bay created by Bethlehem Steel forty years ago, and HMI project, do you really think we would believe what you have to say about this project? It is what it is, a study, and it might not be successful. It's just a waste of tax dollars. Do we think you are concerned about our welfare or what we think? I don't think so.

We in the Fort Howard Community say "IT'S NOT NICE TO MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE". Leave Man O War Shoals alone.

Thank you,



Kathleen M. Labuda

Secretary/Treasurer

Fort Howard Community Association

9202 Howard Ave.

PO Box 156

Fort Howard, MD 21052



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Man O War Shoal

2 messages

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 2:44 PM

From: Caroline Clark [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man O War Shoal

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to the dredging of the Man O War Shoal.

Thank you,

Caroline Clark Sigman

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 3:25 PM

From: Adrienne Clark [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man O War Shoal

To whom it may concern -

2/10/2018

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Man O War Shoal

I am opposed to the dredging of the Man O War Shoal.

Thank you,

Adrienne Clark





Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-of-War Shoals Dredging

Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
To: Justin Berezna -MDE- <justin.berezna@maryland.gov>

Thu, Feb 18, 2016 at 11:16 AM

From: Terry Witt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 6:15 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Man-of-War Shoals Dredging

February 16, 2016

Ms Abbie Hopkins
ATTN: CENAB-OPR-M
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers

RE: Man-of-War Shoals Oyster Dredging Permit Application

Position: OPPOSED

Dear Ms Hopkins,

The Anne Arundel County Oyster Committee is opposed to the current application for the dredging of Man-of-War Shoals.

Man-of-War Shoals is a historic oyster bar in the waters of Baltimore County. The Baltimore County Oyster

2/18/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - FW: [EXTERNAL] Man-of-War Shoals Dredging

Committee has actively planted this bar with 52 million spat on shell and plan to make future efforts to restore the bar.

The ramifications of dredging 20 to 30 feet deep around the perimeter of an active oyster bar is unknown. A living oyster bar and especially the edge supports a unique ecosystem of crabs and finfish. Anne Arundel has several oyster bars that potentially could be affected by siltation from dredging under adverse conditions.

We support Baltimore County in their efforts to oppose the application at this time and are open to discuss alternative sites

Sincerely,

Walter R Witt, Jr., Chairman

Anne Arundel County Oyster Committee



Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

RE: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to dredging of Man of War Shoal

Hopkins, Abigail /
To: Kathy Karpers •
Cc: Justin Bereznak -MDE- <justin.bereznak@maryland.gov>

HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 2:11 PM

Hi Ms. Karpers –

Thank-you for your interest in the project and providing your comments. They will be made a part of our project file and given consideration in our evaluation. Just to clarify a statement you made, MD Dept. of Natural Resources (MD DNR) submitted an application for the Man O' War project requesting permits from the Corps and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Should they receive permits from both the Corps and MDE and any other required approvals, MD DNR will be performing the work.

I am providing your comments to MDE for their consideration by courtesy copying them on this email.

Abbie Hopkins

From: Kathy Karpers [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:44 PM
To: Hopkins, Abigail A (Abbie) NAB <ABBIE.HOPKINS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to dredging of Man of War Shoal

Hello Ms Hopkins;

I wish to object to the dredging of Man of War Shoal in the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. This project is to be performed by the Corps of Engineers.

I wish to register my opposition to this activity.

I feel it will destroy a natural feeding ground for fishing and crabbing in the upper region of the Chesapeake Bay.

The transplantation of oyster shells to a lower bay site has not met with success in the past.

2/18/2016

Maryland.gov Mail - RE: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to dredging of Man of War Shoal

I am strongly opposed to this project.

Thank you.

Kathleen S. Karpers,



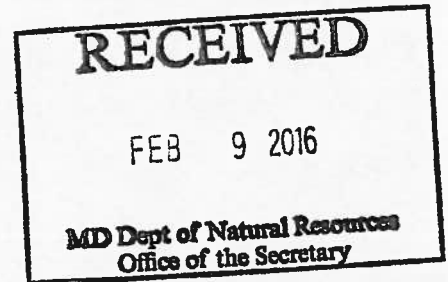


February 16, 2016



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 3, 2016



The Honorable Mark J. Belton
Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Office of the Secretary
Annapolis, MD. 21401-2397

Re: Man O' War Shoals Oyster Spat Dredging

USCAE : MD Tidal Wetlands License # 15-WL-0757

Dear Secretary Belton;

We are writing you regarding our strong opposition to the proposal the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service's application to the United States Army Corps of Engineers to permit dredging of between two (2) to five(5) million bushels of oyster shell from Man O' War Shoals at the mouth of the Patapsco River.

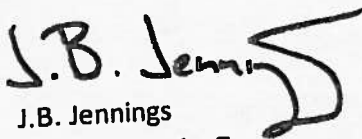
Although each of us strongly supports reseeding the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay, we have several concerns with the current proposal. First, the purpose of this program as stated in the Department's application filed with the Army Corps of Engineers; is to monitor the impact of dredging on the reef over the five year life if the permit. As you may recall a similar permit request by the Department to continue oyster shell dredging at the nearby Poole's Island site was withdrawn in 2010 due to objections from numerous conservation and industry associations because of the negative impacts that dredging had on water quality and aquatic life at that site. We are concerned the impacts over the five year life of this permit will have similar impacts on Man O' War Shoal; thus destroying the one successful oyster spat site in the Chesapeake Bay and damaging an important commercial and recreational fishing location for Baltimore and Kent Counties.

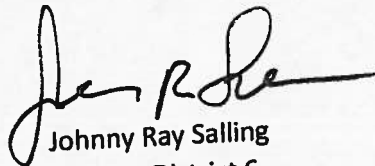
As previously stated we strongly support the goal of reseeding oyster beds in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The permit application filed with the Army Corps broadly states a number of uses for the Man O' War spat, including aquaculture and sanctuaries. It is our opinion that since this reef was constructed with taxpayer dollars, at a minimum the relocation of oyster shell should be heavily weighted to public bottom instead of sanctuaries.

It is important to note this permit faces opposition from the Costal Conservation Association (CCA), Maryland Saltwater Sportsfisherman's Association (MSSA) and the Baltimore and Harford Counties Waterman's Association. As previously stated this opposition is based on concern that this activity will result in lasting damage to the reef and destruction of a valuable fishing ground.

In closing, we realize the Department was required to pursue this permit due to legislation which passed during the 2009 legislative session (SB 179). However, the legislation does not require the Department to follow through with the program. For the reasons outlined in this letter we request you do not pursue the five year dredge program requested in your application filed with the Army Corps of Engineers (MD Tidal Wetlands License # 15-WL-0757). We stand prepared to work with the Department in obtaining the goal of oyster repopulation in the Chesapeake Bay, however we believe the Man O' War dredging project is not the right way to obtain this goal.

Sincerely,


J.B. Jennings
Senator District 7


Johnny Ray Salling
Senator District 6

Dave Gashorn.

... Not sure this needs
a reply.

mark

From Dave G.
No Reply Necessary
To Jodi Baxter