

CHALLENGES FACING VIRGINIA'S SEAFOOD PROCESSORS



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OUTLINE

- H-2B TEMPORARY SEASONAL VISA PROGRAM
- SHELLFISH HATCHERY WATER QUALITY MONITORING
- ANNUAL CRAB SURVEY

H-2B PROGRAM AND SEAFOOD PROCESSORS

- LOCAL LABOR FORCE DECLINE
- HISTORY OF PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM
- COST AND REGULATORY BURDEN
- NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS
- NON-AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

LIMITATIONS OF H-2B PROGRAM

- COMPETITION FROM SERVICE BASED INDUSTRIES
- SEAFOOD PROCESSING PRECLUDES PARTICIPATION IN H-2A
- INCONSISTENT DETERMINATIONS FROM DOL AND DHS
- LOTTERY BASED DISTRIBUTION OF SEASONAL VISAS
- UNSTABLE LABOR FORCE AND IMPACT ON SEAFOOD MARKET

UNIQUENESS OF SEAFOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

- MANUFACTURING NOT SERVICE BASED
- PERISHABLE DOMESTIC SEAFOOD PRODUCT
- COMPETE WITH FOREIGN IMPORTS
- VISA REQUESTS REMAIN STABLE
- CURRENT FEDERAL LAW EXEMPTS SOME SEAFOOD

H-2B CAP EXEMPTION

- DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2005
- FISH ROE PROCESSING RECOGNIZED AS CAP EXEMPT
- SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IS THE ONLY SECTOR WITHIN THE PROGRAM TO HAVE AN EXEMPTION
- STRATEGY TO EXPAND 'FISH ROE' EXEMPTION
- COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM DEBATE

EXAMPLE LANGUAGE:

SEC. 14006. The numerical limitation contained in section 214(g)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(1)(B)) shall not apply to any non immigrant alien issued a visa or otherwise provided status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b)) who is employed (or has received an offer of employment)—

(1) on a commercial fishing vessel or shrimp trawler; or

(2) in the processing of—

(A) fish or fishery products; or

(B) baitfish.

Terms used in this section have the meanings given such terms in section 123.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations.



ASK: H-2B SEAFOOD PROCESSING

***SUPPORT AMENDMENT IF OFFERED BY SENATOR VAN HOLLEN (MD) TO
EXPAND H-2B SEAFOOD EXEMPTION***

***CONTACT U.S. SENATE MEMBERS ON APPROPRIATIONS TO ENCOURAGE
PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT***

OYSTER HATCHERY WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

- PARTNERSHIP WITH VIMS-CB NERR
- INITIATED IN JANUARY 2020
- MULTI-PRONG APPROACH TO MONITOR SEAWATER CHEMISTRY
- IMPORTANT TO ADAPTIVELY MANAGE HATCHERY PRODUCTION
- NEXT STEP IS FUNDING TO ASSESS PARAMETERS IMPACTING SPAWNING FAILURES INSIDE THE HATCHERY

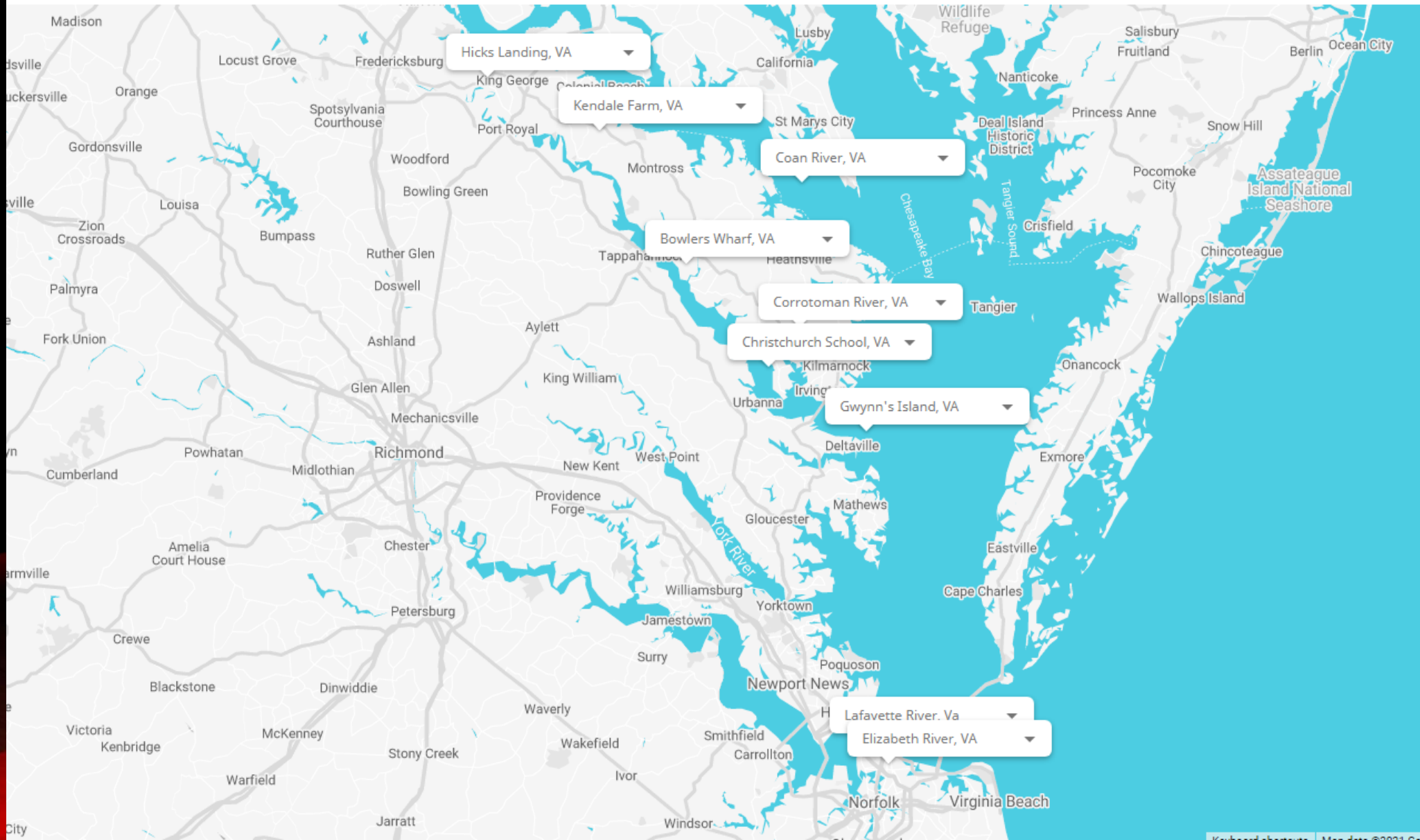


CHESAPEAKE BAY
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VIMS

WILLIAM
& MARY

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE



Result Date	Result Time	EX02(Temp_C)	EX02(SpCond_mS_cm)	EX02(Sal_psu)	EX02(ODO_pctplus_pct)	EX02(ODO_Concplus_mg_L)	EX02(pH)	EX02(Depth_meters)	EX02(Turbidity_NTU)	EX02(Chlorophyll_ug_L)
11/02/2021	07:30:00	17.43	27.24	16.77	97.22	8.42	8.11	1.44	2.63	4.81
11/02/2021	07:15:00	17.43	27.24	16.78	97.76	8.47	8.11	1.43	2.91	4.72
11/02/2021	07:00:00	17.45	27.25	16.78	93.28	8.08	8.08	1.41	2.62	3.61
11/02/2021	06:45:00	17.44	27.26	16.79	94.52	8.18	8.09	1.39	2.72	4.41
11/02/2021	06:30:00	17.45	27.26	16.79	94.04	8.14	8.06	1.38	2.34	3.49
11/02/2021	06:15:00	17.45	27.26	16.79	96.86	8.38	8.1	1.35	2.73	4.42
11/02/2021	06:00:00	17.4	27.27	16.79	96.13	8.33	8.1	1.33	2.89	4.87



CRAB DREDGE SURVEY

- MESSAGING AND HEADLINES THAT INADVERTENTLY HURT CRAB MARKETS
- CRAB DREDGE SURVEY MAY MISS LARGE POPULATIONS OF JUVENILES—
LIMITATION IN SAMPLING GEAR AND VESSEL TO ACCESS SOME AREAS
- ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE NUMBER OF CRAB POTS DEPLOYED PER LICENSE
- BETTER DETERMINE EFFORT IN THE FISHERY