

Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary



Community-Supported Sanctuary Nomination



MALLOYS BAY-POTOMAC RIVER

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NOMINATION

September 2014

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chesapeake Coastal Service

CHARLES COUNTY PARKS AND GROUNDS



Piscataway
Peoples



Nanjemoy Vision



Response from the Public

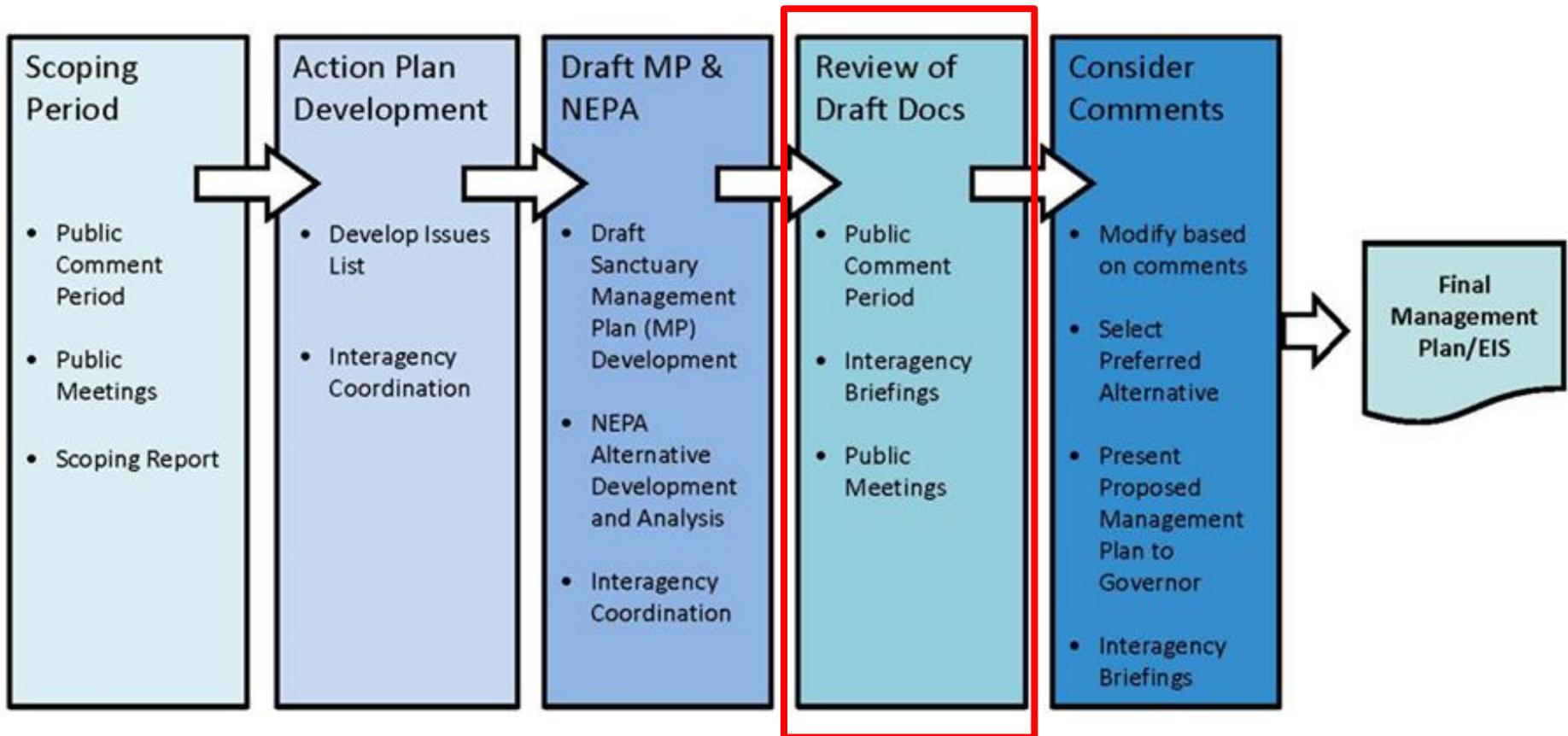


Frequent Comments:

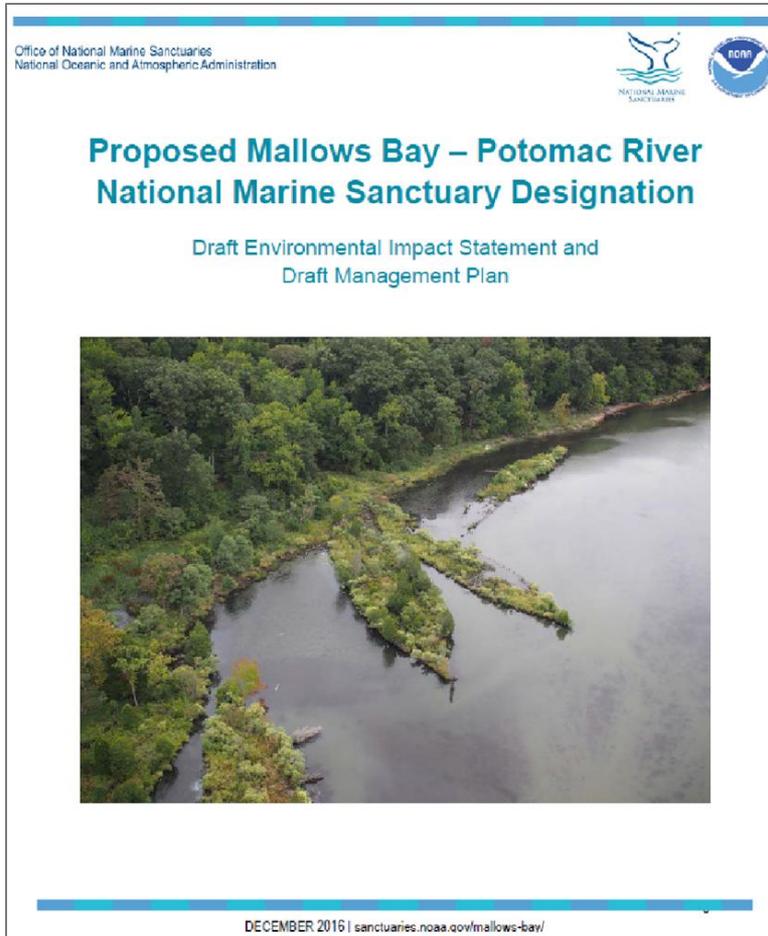
- Boundary Expansion
- Retain Potomac River in Sanctuary name
- No adverse impact on recreational and commercial fishing
- No adverse impact on recreational fossil collection
- No adverse impact on local business and land use planning
- Support for visitor center and/or educational facility
- Designation by April 2017 to coincide with WWI Centennial



National Marine Sanctuary Designation Process



Draft Environmental Impact Statement



States purpose of and need for sanctuary:

- 1) Resource protection of maritime heritage resources**
- 2) Facilitating public access**

Evaluates a range of options – regulatory and non-regulatory - for achieving the purpose and need

Defines a preferred alternative

Evaluates environmental and social consequences of the preferred alternative

Provides the proposed management arrangement and priority programs

Draft Environmental Impact Statement “Alternative B”



Resources Present:

- 118 WWI-era U.S. Emergency Fleet Corporation steamships;
- MD Indian Tribes heritage sites;
- Remains of historic fisheries operations such as sturgeon and caviar industries, Revolutionary and Civil War battlescapes.

Boundaries: Boundaries coincide with the Malloys Bay Widewater Historical and Archeological National Register District

Approximate Total Area (sq. mi.): 18



Draft Environmental Impact Statement

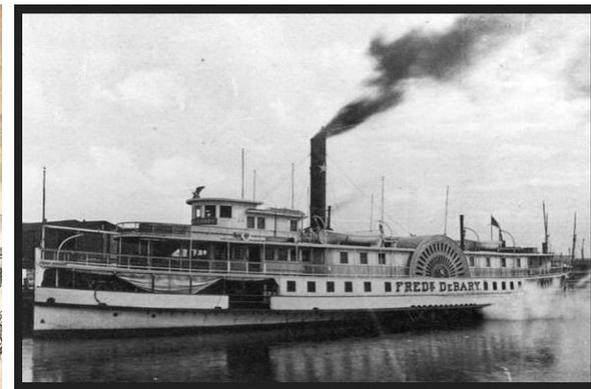
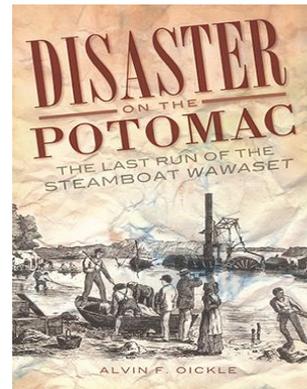
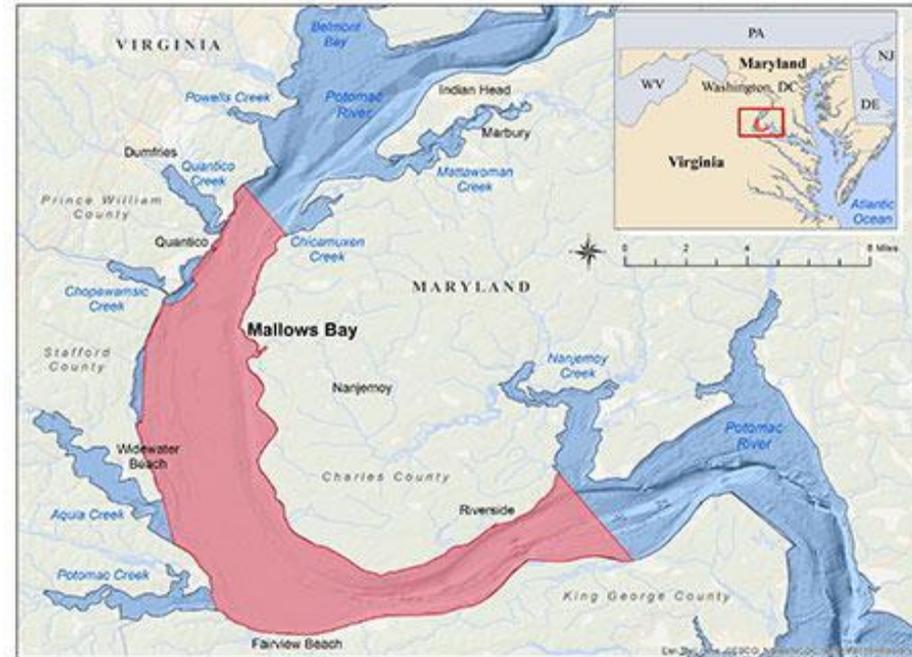
“Alternative C”

(NOAA’s preferred alternative)



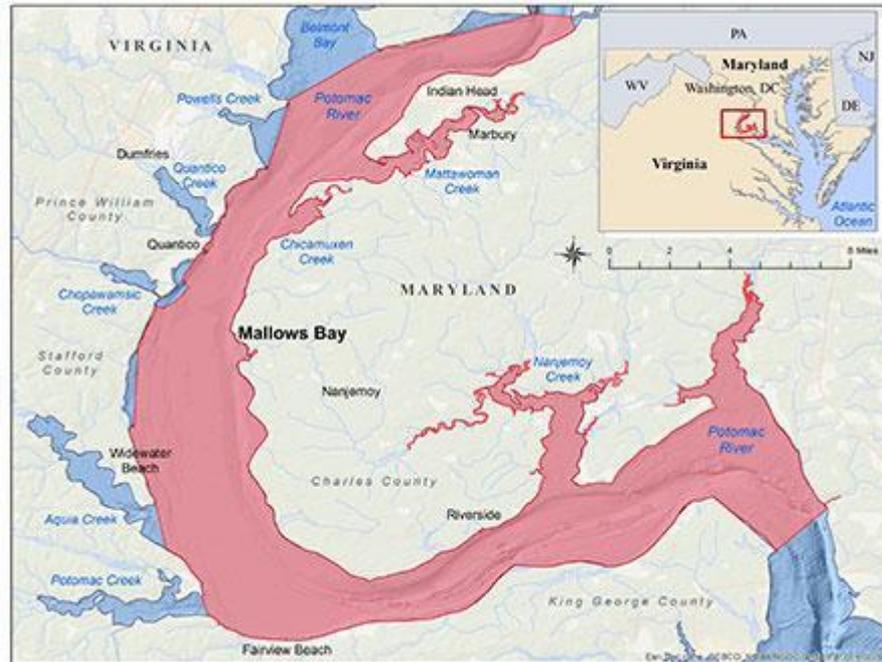
Resources Present:

- Includes Alternative B shipwrecks plus
- 2 additional WWI steamships
- 1873 steamboat *Wawaset*
- Civil War Barge or canal boat, and up to 17 other historic shipwrecks found or identified in records to be located in this area
- Historically significant steamboat landings, ferry crossings, revolutionary war and civil war battlescapes and remnants of the Potomac River’s historic fishing industry
- Facilitates additional recreational access and improvements



Approximate Total Area (sq. mi.): 52

Draft Environmental Impact Statement “Alternative D”



Resources Present:

- Alternative C, plus:
- Records suggest additional maritime assets and water escape route for John Wilkes Booth
- Supports the visitor use and recreational access goals of the sanctuary.

Approximate Total Area (sq. mi.): 100

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking



Proposed Regulations:

1. Damaging Sanctuary Resources [historic / maritime heritage]

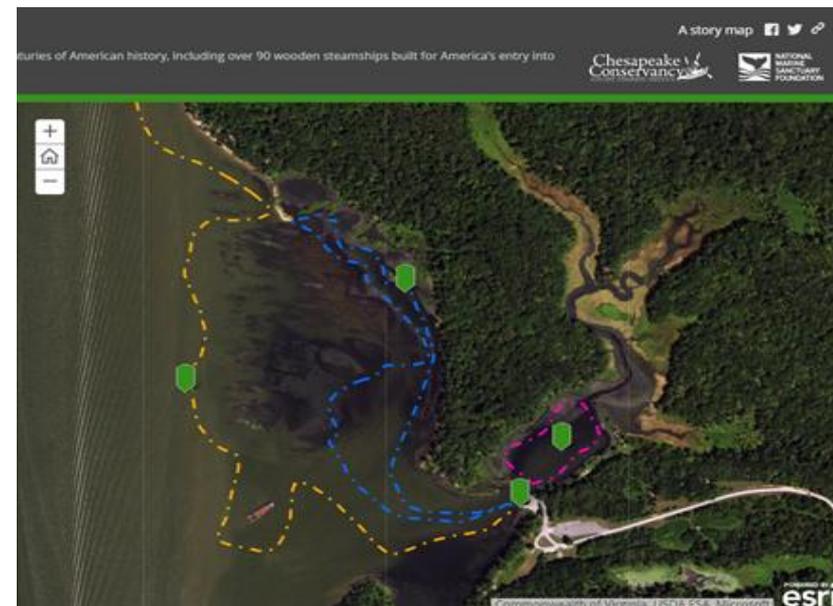
Prohibits moving, removing, recovering, altering, destroying, possessing, or otherwise injuring, or attempting to move, remove, recover, alter, destroy, possess or otherwise injure a sanctuary resource.

2. Damaging Sanctuary Signs

Prohibits damage to sanctuary signs, notices, placards, monuments, stakes, posts, buoys, or boundary markers.

3. Interfering with Investigations

Prohibits interfering with sanctuary enforcement activities.



Sanctuary Operations: Co-Management



- Managed cooperatively by NOAA, State of Maryland and Charles County, MD
- Recreational and commercial fishing would continue, as before, through management by MD DNR and Potomac River Fisheries Commission
- All other recreational uses, including hunting, fossil collecting, birding, wildlife viewing, boating and paddling would continue, as before, through management by MD DNR or other local authorities
- Archaeological research will continue, as before, by permit from MD Historical Trust



Photo: Chris O'Haver



Photo: MD DNR

Public Comment



NOAA is soliciting comments on:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Draft Management Plan

Draft Notice of Proposed Rule

Sanctuary Name

**ON-LINE
Until March 31, 2017**

www.regulations.gov
NOAA-NOS-2016-0149

Public Meetings (6:00p-9:00p)

Date: March 7, 2017

Location: Charles County Government Building

Date: March 9, 2017

Location: Anne Arundel Community College

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-bay>

Questions?



For More Information:

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Mallows Bay page

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-bay/>

Maryland DNR Mallows Bay page

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/mallowsbay.aspx>

MHT Mallows Bay page

http://mht.maryland.gov/archeology_mallowsbay3.shtml

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