

## Smoots Bay Reef Project - Summarized Notes

Drafted by Joe Love (Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

On March 31, 2016, a meeting was held at National Harbor (165 Waterfront Street) to discuss project planning of a reef project in Smoots Bay. In attendance were: Chris Borgal (National Harbor), Christie Blevins (Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.), Anne Colturi (Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.), Roger Trageser (Maryland Bass Nation), Scott Sewell (Maryland Bass Nation), Dick Berich (Maryland Bass Nation), Karl Willey (Chesapeake Bay Foundation), Mary Groves (Maryland Department of Natural Resources), Michael Malpezzi (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) and Joe Love (Maryland Department of Natural Resources).

The agenda topics included: 1) developing materials and supplies list; 2) developing a strategy to encourage and track volunteerism; 3) discussing press relations and outreach; and 4) deciding upon a tentative timeline for the project.

### Materials and Supplies

The materials and supplies include: 7 yards of concrete (or 28,000 pounds); several sheets of 3/4" thick plywood to set the balls on; and stainless steel chains to tether submerged wood to buoys. Trees (6' long and larger) have washed upon the shore and are stockpiled at National Harbor. A chainsaw may be needed to trim trees, and may be supplied with operators by National Harbor or Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Forty reef ball molds will be supplied by Chesapeake Bay Foundation and can be used to build both reef balls as well as anchors, as needed for submerged trees. Several buoys (6) will be required to tether wood and mark the territory. **Joe Love will contact Boating Services for an appropriate buoy type to purchase for the area.**

Heavy equipment includes: pontoon boat to deploy reef balls (National Harbor); bobcat skid loader with forks to move around reef balls (max loading is 3,000 lbs; Wetland Studies and Supplies); concrete mixing truck (Chesapeake Bay Foundation); and a crane and barge for deploying large trees (National Harbor follow-up and/or Maryland Bass Nation identifies other contractors).

A staging area has been identified for the work at the boundary of National Harbor property and property owned by Maryland National Capitol Parks and Planning (MNCPP). This area can be reached by vehicle and allows a mixer truck to pass. **Mary Groves will contact MNCPP for permission to use the area and provide an update regarding the project.**

Additional preparation work will include conducting soundings at the two project areas. **Soundings will be taken at low tide by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.**

### Volunteerism

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation will develop a website to track volunteerism.** Sources of volunteers include: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Maryland Bass Nation, The Bass Federation, National Harbor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the General Public.

**Additional groups should be listed by committee members and provided to Karl Willey, along with a contact person for each of the aforementioned groups.**

Up to 20 volunteers may be needed per day. Days of work may include Wednesday through Sunday, depending on the scope of project (see below). Three periods of work will be needed: late September, mid-October, and beginning of November.

#### Press Relations

Signage on shore will be created to discuss the broader story of Smoots Bay and encouraging the project as an outdoor art museum. **This signage will be initially drafted by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.**

**Joe Love will contact Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Office of Communication and Management to develop a press release regarding the project.** He will also follow up with press who have expressed interest in the project.

#### Timeline

March - June	Purchase supplies, where possible, and stockpile them at Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Southern Region Office.
June	Conduct soundings in project areas at Smoots Bay (Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Southern Region Office). Perhaps deploy anchored buoys.
end of July	Determine dates of project. Provide contact names and groups to Karl Willey for advertising the project and requesting volunteers.
July - September	Develop signage, press relations and releases
August - September	Solicit volunteers by contacting organizations directly and maintain a database of interested persons.
late September	Begin Project as: 1st day preparation for reef balls; 2nd and/or 3rd day build 80 reef balls; 4th day breakdown.
mid-October	In 1 or 2 days, move 80 reef balls tethered to wood (6 feet - 8 feet long) onto pontoon using bobcat; sink tethered wood using reef balls anchors and attach to anchored buoys.  Deploy 40 reef balls to each of 2 project areas, along with buoys (if not done previously). Perhaps build up to 40 reef ball anchors to sink larger trees in the project area.
early November	In 1 to 2 days, use barge and crane to deploy several reef ball anchors and large trees to project areas.