



**YORK RIVER &
SMALL COASTAL BASIN
ROUNDTABLE**

2023 Lunch-and-Learn Series

Speaker Bios and Talk Summaries

Q3: Coastal Wetlands Plan

July 18, 2023; 12-1pm Eastern

Development of the Coastal Wetlands Plan for the York River, Piankatank River, and Mobjack Bay - Andrew Larkin, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and co.

Join members of the Roundtable's Nearshore Habitat Restoration Steering Committee as they walk through the coordination, creation and implementation of our new regional wetlands plan. This plan supports broad collaboration on wetland conservation and research, alongside six long-term strategies:

- Conserve, restore, create, and enhance coastal wetlands in the face of changing conditions,
- Conserve tidal wetlands migration corridors,
- Improve coordination among partners on regional coastal wetlands efforts,
- Increase community members' knowledge and appreciation for the role wetlands play in protecting coastal communities and ecosystems,
- Prioritize partnership building and projects with underserved communities impacted by wetlands losses, and
- Support research and development of guidance to close knowledge gaps for wetlands management and restoration.

Learn and discuss plan details, prospects and next steps.

Andrew Larkin, Senior Program Analyst

Andrew is a Senior Program Analyst at the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. In Virginia, Andrew earned his law degree at the College of William and Mary and his interest in environmental and natural resource issues sparked. After law school, Andrew started working for NOAA in Washington, D.C. in a variety of positions and offices, including the Office of Legislative Affairs and temporary details to the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Senate. In 2005, he relocated to Norfolk to accept his current position with the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO). He feels fortunate to work in support of NOAA 's new Middle Peninsula of Virginia Habitat Focus Area through projects that relate to fish habitat and coastal resiliency, such as oyster reef and wetlands restoration. Andrew also manages NCBO's grants portfolio supporting Chesapeake Bay fisheries research, environmental education and habitat restoration goals.



Pam Mason, CCRM

Pamela Mason is a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Coastal Resource Management at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary. She has a BA in Biology from the University of Delaware and an MS in Marine Science from William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. She has been working on coastal resource issues for several decades with a focus on integrated management of shorelines, wetlands and coastal community resilience. Her current research interest is multiple benefits of natural and nature-based features, including living shorelines, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, environmental policy and coastal management. She currently serves as co-Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Wetlands Workgroup and is on the Virginia Coastal Policy Team.



Kevin Dubois, DOD

Kevin R. Du Bois is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist, Professional Wetland Delineator, Certified Floodplain Manager, and Senior Certified Military Natural Resource Professional. Over his career, Kevin has worked as a state Fisheries Biologist, Sensitive Land Acquisition Specialist, USFWS Endangered Species Biologist, wetland regulator, and environmental educator. Kevin also worked for the Navy for two years, providing Installation and Regional level services as a NEPA, Natural Resources, and Cultural Resources Project Manager. Kevin currently serves as the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator. He has decades of experience in wetland restoration and is a recognized leader in the design and construction of living shorelines. He volunteers for a number of environmental NGOs, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lafayette Wetlands Partnership, Lynnhaven River Now, and the Elizabeth River Project. Kevin graduated Cum Laude from Southampton College in 1983 with a Bachelor's degree in Marine Science; he completed his Master's degree in Marine Environmental Research in 1986 from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Kevin is married with two adult daughters. He is a published writer and photographer and enjoys backpacking, and fly fishing.

