

During the nomination review process NOAA's review panel determined the need to ask the nominators a clarifying question. Below are the question and response.

Question from NOAA:

We are in the process of conducting the significance review for the nomination and would like brief elaboration of your responses to management considerations 1 and 3.

In the goals description on page 2 you cite the importance of the site serving as a "living laboratory" of the ecosystem. In your response to management considerations questions 1 and 3 there is little reference to the living resource research opportunities or current and future resource threats to the ecosystem. Can you provide a short paragraph for each of these questions that we may consider in our review.

Response from Nominators:

Goal 2 - Study, assess, interpret and preserve the unique and evolving ecosystem as a living laboratory, as well as its integral relationship to the archaeological resource base.

Management Considerations:

1) The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.

- The Mollusks Bay-Potomac River NMS is one of the most ecologically valuable areas in the state. It provides important habitat for bass and other marine species, harbors two fish species identified as having the greatest conservation need, and hosts dense populations of Bald Eagles and other shore birds. In addition to their ecological significance, these resources are the foundation of a vital recreational industry and driver of the local economy. The sanctuary would create a living laboratory - a long-term sentinel site – from which to measure, understand, and communicate changes through time related to these fragile resources as well as impacts associated with land use and climate changes.
- As has been observed throughout the Chesapeake Bay, this area has witnessed the decline of once-thriving aquatic resources, the possible resurgence of some species, and the introduction of non-native species. Within the confined footprint of the sanctuary, these changes are more readily observed and hypotheses related to the possible stressors and solutions more directly tested.
- The concentration of shipwrecks provides a unique and fascinating dynamic with the ecosystem. Limited studies to date suggest possible changes to the physical and natural environments that may be linked to the presence of the vessels. Issues of sediment transport, water temperature, ice formation, and water quality are fundamental to species distribution and abundance as well as suitability for life cycle functions. It is also interesting to note observations that suggest wetlands

are increasing in this section of the river and that shipwrecks have become “flower pots” of habitat now vital to other components of the ecosystem. With increasing losses of underwater and nearshore habitats pervasive throughout the Chesapeake, what can we learn about the presence of the physical structure within Malloys Bay-Potomac River and its role as habitat?

- Unlike shipwrecks in deeper waters, those at Malloys Bay-Potomac River are easily accessible to researchers, students, citizen scientists and the general public. More so, their sheer numbers provide ample opportunity to understand the archaeological evolution of the vessels, including the tracking of decay and preservation rates of seven different ship construction types, different wood types, iron, cement and related ship features. In a similar way, this same access affords different experimentation with long-term conservation and laboratory processing of ship artifacts.
- Malloys Bay-Potomac River also has a storied history with local communities, American Indian villages, African American watermen, and commercial fisheries among others. Countless opportunities exist to document historical ecology and the interactions between these communities. As the community itself changes and perhaps places different values on the shipwreck and ecological resources, this site serves as a practical vantage point to observe changes, benefits and consequences from social and economic vantage points.
- Climate change is particularly evident throughout the Chesapeake Bay region, with potential impacts on sea level, inundation, water chemistry (acidification), water and air temperatures and precipitation/drought patterns. Malloys Bay-Potomac River is a window within the larger Chesapeake to track changes, test cause and effect relationships, and explore mitigation strategies related to natural environment, shipwrecks and local communities.

3) Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.

- Charles County experienced a population growth of 22% between 2000-2010, and projections show a potential increase of 32,000 residential dwellings by 2040.¹ These development pressures and land use changes throughout the surrounding coastal zone could result in possible water quality impairments or degradation of vital coastal habitats.

¹ *Charles County Comprehensive Plan, 2014 Draft*. N.p., n.d. Web.
<<http://www.charlescountyplan.org/document-library>>.

Additional Information Provided

The support letters below were identified in the original nomination on page 22 but not included in the original nomination as attachments.



RE: Establishing a National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay

Dear Charlie Stek,

August 28, 2014

The American Canoe Association (ACA) is urging you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as one of the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first NMS on the Potomac River and the first in the Chesapeake Bay, our Nation's largest estuary.

Mallows Bay offers a number of historic, archeological, cultural, ecological, conservation, recreation, scientific, and esthetic values to users groups including paddlers, fishermen, divers, tourists, and school groups. Mallows Bay is home to the largest collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation and numerous Native American, Potomac fishing industry, and civil War archeological sites.

Wildlife

Over 200 scuttled ship now lay in Mallows Bay forming reefs that host an array of native wildlife in the Potomac River. The Potomac River provides fish species vital spawning grounds which have a direct effect on the recreation and commercial fishing industries. Protection is also needed for the anadromous fish species who need a fresh water habitat to spawn. These species have been in decline due to the changing environmental conditions and the impacts on water quality. Creating a NMS at Mallows Bay would reinforce the importance of the Potomac River's past and future industries.

Two endangered plant species are in Charles County including the Long Bittercress, a Federal endangered species, and Sensitive Joint-Vetch, a Maryland's endangered species. Establishing a NMS will bring awareness to these endangered species through educational programs, interpretative sites and help restore these species.

Other important wildlife includes the American Bald Eagle and the Colonial Water Birds. These birds have numerous nesting sites along the Potomac River and have played an important role in our Nation's history. Colonial Water Birds include Herons, Egrets, Terns and, Glossy Ibis, all of which live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These Colonial Water Birds have dramatically declined due to habitat loss and human disturbances. The Great Blue Heron, a Colonial Water Bird, is known to only nest in Charles County making this NMS more important to establish, protect, and bring awareness to these bird species.

Recreation

The majority of recreation happens in or around waterways and establishing the NMS will allow recreationist to experience the historic and cultural significances of Mallows Bay. Constructing the NMS in the Chesapeake Bay will bring in tax revenue to the county and state, add more jobs in the local community, become a tourist

destination, and draw in recreation users from around the world. It is extremely important to protect this space so future generation can experience this unique culturally rich area.

Mallows Bay is part of a Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. This trail begins in Northern Maryland, travels through Baltimore, continues up the Potomac River to Washington D.C. and finally ends in Suffolk, Virginia. This water trail documents John Smith's 1608 expedition and travels 3,000 miles through rivers and bays highlighting the importance of his journey through NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System. Opening this NMS and intergrading it with the National Historic Water Trails will create a tourist destination for all types of recreation users including paddlers.

For 134 years the ACA has been a key player in paddlesports and would like to offer its support in establishing this NMS. The ACA would like to extend a helping hand with:

- Establishing Mallows Bay on the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail
- Educating paddlers on instruction and safety at the NMS
- Promoting exploration of waterways
- Creating accessible waterway access for people with disabilities at the NMS
- Establishing on-water interpretation through buoys and signs at Mallows Bay
- Promoting on-water stewardship through on-water clean-ups
- Educating people on the effects of marine debris on water quality, wildlife, and humans

About the ACA

Founded in 1880, the ACA is a 501 (c) (3) national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling, stewardship support to help protect paddling environments, and sanctioning of programs and events to promote healthy paddlesport competition and recreation. The ACA provides our members throughout all 50 states and 26 countries with the following: safe access to all paddling venues; paddling support for people of all levels and abilities; and the opportunity to influence stewardship issues and public policy that affect paddlers. The ACA works hard to create strategic alliances with organizations that represent the outdoor experience. Those partnerships help expand the awareness of paddlesports and communicate the healthy benefits of canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and stand up paddle boarding as lifetime recreational activities. At the heart of the ACA are the people who paddle, cherish, and protect the rivers, lakes, streams, bays, and oceans of the United States and beyond.

Thank you,



Greg Rolf
Stewardship Coordinator
ACA | Canoe-Kayak-SUP-Raft-Rescue

Citizens for a Better Charles County
P.O. Box 1091, White Plains, MD 20697

July 3, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

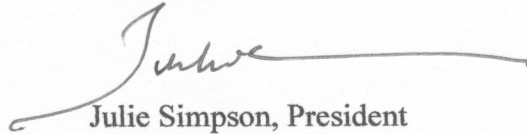
Citizens for a Better Charles County is writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland, as the nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first sanctuary on our nation's river – the Potomac -- and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

Citizens for a Better Charles County is a countywide civic organization incorporated in 1977 to maintain and improve the quality of life for the residents of Charles County, and to engage in activities that promote the principles of good government and the efficient use of tax money and protect and improve the natural environment. CBCC has long been committed to the protection of the Chesapeake Bay, with the understanding that protecting the Bay is the responsibility of all of us who live in its watershed, and that the taxes, fees, and other restrictions needed to achieve that goal benefit all of us in the long run. We believe that adequate public access to the Bay and its tributaries is important to the economy of Charles County and to the well-being of its citizens, as well as being necessary to sustaining support for the long-term effort to protect the Bay as an ecosystem.

We believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States, and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Julie', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Julie Simpson, President
Citizens for a Better Charles County

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

As a cultural resource manager and consultant for over thirty-five years I am very familiar with the historical significance of Mallows Bay. I am writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland, as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

Mallows Bay is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

As a researcher and nominator of scores of successful National Register and National Historic Landmark nominations, including Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Grand Central Station Oyster Bar, I can attest that Mallows Bay is a nationally significant resource that will make an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. I can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history. Designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary will leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans.

I urge you to fully support this nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about this letter of support. I look forward to seeing Mallows Bay appropriately recognized for the significance that it holds to our country's history.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Eshelman, PhD

Gangplank Slipholders Association
600 Water St SW
NBU 9-1
Washington, DC 20024

August 20, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Gangplank Slipholders Association is a voluntary organization that works to support our liveaboard slipholders, protect our waterways, facilitate recreational use of the Potomac River and celebrate the cultural heritage of water uses, we believe that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the National Marine Sanctuary System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Very truly yours,

Karen Anderson, president
Gangplank Slipholders Association

C. Charlie Stek



maryland

historical society

RESOLUTION

To support the designation of Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland as a National Marine Sanctuary.

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be soliciting nominations of areas of the marine environment having nationally significant historical, ecological, research, recreational or aesthetic values for consideration as new National Marine Sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Maritime Committee, is to support the Maryland Historical Society in the preservation, collection, exhibition, and representation of artifacts and documents related to the maritime history of the Chesapeake Bay area; and

WHEREAS, conserving and promoting Mallows Bay on the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland is important to the Maryland Historical Society's mission as a place of National significance, rich in America's maritime and cultural history, and an ecologically important resource; and

WHEREAS, Mallows Bay is unique, but largely unknown, as the location of the largest and most varied extant collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States from the Revolutionary War to the present, including the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamship remains; and

WHEREAS, these shipwrecks and the related shipbreaking operations that occurred at this site from 1922 – 1945 have created a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities for education, conservation, public access, and recreation; and

WHEREAS a National Marine Sanctuary designation for Mallows Bay would be the first in the Potomac River and the Chesapeake watershed and help focus national attention on this treasure and provide a new catalyst for conservation, education, public access and tourism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Maryland Historical Society through its Maritime Committee, hereby strongly supports the nomination and designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to the Governor of Maryland, members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation and General Assembly representing Charles County, the NOAA Administrator and the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries,

WITNESS the signature of the undersigned as of this 8 day of July, 2014.

Frederick Leiner, Chairman
Maritime Committee



maryland
historical society

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing to urge you to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Mallows Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

As Maryland's oldest and leading historical institution and museum of the State's history, the Maryland Historical Society, through its Maritime Committee, believes that Mallows Bay would be an outstanding addition to the NMS System. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

Mallows Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to commemorate the anniversary of World War I and our maritime history and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Americans than to designate Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to designate Mallow's Bay as the nation's newest National Maritime Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Frederick Leiner, Chairman
Maritime Committee

cc. Charlie Stek, Chairman
Mallow's Bay Steering Committee



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Office

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 314
Annapolis, MD 21403

August 28, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Support for the Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary Application

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to express my strong support for NOAA's application for the designation of Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. Such recognition will help protect the incredible resources and maritime heritage found at Mallows Bay.

Protection of Mallows Bay through the National Marine Sanctuary System complements the mission of the National Park Service to "extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world." Mallows Bay is located along the route of three national trails, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

The National Park Service, working in close collaboration with the state of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and numerous conservation partners and stakeholders, is developing a short-term strategy to make the three national trails along the tidal Potomac River more visible and visitor-ready. This strategy, referred to as the Potomac Segment Plan, engages stakeholders along the Potomac to identify the resources that are priorities for protection and the needs and opportunities to enhance visitor experiences at existing public water access sites. Multiple action items have been identified by stakeholders at and around Mallows Bay including on-land trail connections with the Bureau of Land Management and Maryland parks located within the Nanjemoy Special Recreation Management Area, cultural interpretation of American Indian heritage along the shores of Mallows Bay, and installation of signage to interpret each site and orient visitors along the trails.

Mallows Bay is a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. The cultural and natural resources found there are important to residents and visitors, and to future generations. We urge you to protect it through designation as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hunt, Superintendent
National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office
(410) 260-2471

Cc: Joe Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Peyton Robertson, Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
John Ruhs, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office
Charlie Stek, Chesapeake Conservancy

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We are writing in support of efforts to designate Mallow Bay, in Charles County, Maryland, as a National Marine Sanctuary.

As a coordinator for the Southern Maryland Paddlers Kayak Club, we represent over 450 kayakers in the Southern Maryland Region (Charles County, St. Mary's County, Calvert County and Prince Georges County). We promote non-motorized enjoyment of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed rivers and tributaries throughout the region through organizing group kayak trips, and serving as an information clearinghouse for kayaking in the area through social networking. Kayaking is one of the fastest growing water activities and recreational activities of all types in the country. Kayaking is a great way to both promote healthy exercise and gain appreciation for the nature and wildlife around the region.

Mallows Bay is unique in that it is the only place in the Chesapeake Bay region and possibly in the country where kayakers can paddle directly to see a large collection of historic shipwrecks from the Revolutionary War era through World War I. It is a fascinating area to paddle and is a wonderful area for birding as well as history as Mallows Bay and the sunken ships are home to numerous osprey, great blue and green heron, eagles, egrets, kingfisher, cormorant, songbirds, and a wide variety of gulls including laughing gulls. Mallows Bay intrigues our paddlers who make numerous trips to the area in small and large groups each year. We would love to have a marked water trail to label the features of the site for kayak touring through Mallows Bay. Kayak rental is also available through a local vendor, Up the Creek Rentals, who will deliver kayaks to Mallows Bay for visitors to the area to be able to explore the sight. I have also observed Boy Scout Troops and other groups visiting the area for educational tours and believe that the National Marine Sanctuary designation would help many other educational groups to become aware of Mallows Bay.

We encourage you to strongly consider this unique location for this special designation. It would be an honor to have such a National Marine Sanctuary in our area and would support our efforts to promote kayak & canoe paddling as ecologically friendly forms of recreation in the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River area.

Sincerely,

Paula Schiller
Coordinator
Southern Maryland Paddlers
6565 Dobbins Ct. La Plata, MD 20646
301-653-4496
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernmarylandpaddlers/>

THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.
SENATOR, DISTRICT 27

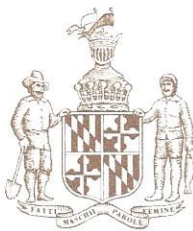
JAMES E. PROCTOR, JR.
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 27A

JOSEPH F. VALLARIO, JR.
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 27B

MARK N. FISHER
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 27B

THOMAS M. MAC MIDDLETON
SENATOR, DISTRICT 28

SALLY JAMESON
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 28
DELEGATION CHAIR



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
SOUTHERN MARYLAND DELEGATION

PETER F. MURPHY
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 28

C. T. WILSON
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 28

ROY DYSON
SENATOR, DISTRICT 29
DELEGATION CHAIR

JOHN F. WOOD, JR.
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 29A

JOHN L. BOHANAN, JR.
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 29B
DELEGATION VICE CHAIR

ANTHONY J. O'DONNELL
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 29C

August 12, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

As members of the Southern Maryland Delegation to the Maryland State Assembly, we are writing to urge you to designate the Malloes Bay segment of the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland as the Nation's newest National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Malloes Bay would be the first Sanctuary on our Nation's river – the Potomac, and the first in the Nation's largest estuary – the Chesapeake Bay.

The Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay are such iconic parts of our landscape and history that we are quite certain the addition of Malloes Bay to the National Marine Sanctuary System would be of great benefit to the region and beyond. It is home to the largest and most diverse collection of historic shipwrecks in the United States, from the Revolutionary War to the present, totaling nearly 200 known vessels. It includes the remains of the largest assemblage of World War I wooden steamships, the largest pre-World War II shipbreaking operation in the United States and numerous Native American, Potomac River fishing industry, and Civil War archeological sites. It is also a unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem that offers tremendous opportunities to educate the public about our nation's maritime history and to promote conservation, research, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism.

The proposed designation enjoys widespread support from Charles County, the many communities and local businesses along the Potomac and from statewide agencies interested in history, conservation, tourism and education.

Malloes Bay is, in short, a nationally significant and ecologically important resource. We can think of nothing more timely to of Americans than to designate Malloes Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Sally Y. Jameson".

Sally Y. Jameson
Chair, Southern Maryland Delegation

Cc: Members, Southern Maryland Delegation



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION III
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 SEVERN AVENUE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21403

September 8, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

This letter expresses our strong support for NOAA's application for the designation of Malloys Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. Designation and protection of Malloys Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary would complement the mission of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CPBO) to coordinate the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Two of the major goals of the proposed designation are directly in line with the CBPO – specifically, goals numbered six (“Enhance federal, state, local and private partnerships working to conserve and promote the historic, cultural, natural, archaeological, recreational, educational, scientific and aesthetic resources of the area”) and seven (“Facilitate and advance the ongoing restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed . . .”).

The proposed Sanctuary's location on the Potomac River is especially important to the overall restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Potomac River is the second largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay and drains the entire District of Columbia and parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Designating Malloys Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary also is consistent with Executive Order 13508, in which President Obama declared the Chesapeake Bay “a national treasure”. Further, the Sanctuary designation supports the goals of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, recently signed by EPA (on behalf of the federal government), the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the District of Columbia and all six states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed with the goals of restoring water quality and protecting natural resources, among others.

As the proposed Sanctuary would support the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed for all of these reasons, we are pleased to support its designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nicholas A. DiPasquale".

Nicholas A. DiPasquale, Director
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeff Corbin".

Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor
Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Joe Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Peyton Robertson, Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
John Ruhs, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office
Chuck Hunt, Superintendent, National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office
Charlie Stek, Chesapeake Conservancy