



July Newsletter 2022

Upcoming Volunteer Events (click on each for more details)

- [Volunteer Calendar](#) (one click shopping for events all year)
- [Horseshoe Crab Recovery Team](#)

Director's Notes



A Note from the Director

I still recall so clearly – and it has been many years ago now – driving the big-refrigerated truck over to West Ocean City Harbor to deliver ice to Martin Seafood. I was barely 18 and there was, at that time, an ice manufacturing plant in Ocean City. What I clearly remember is that a delivery to Martin Seafood would get me out of that freezing cold ice plant. I was thankful. A chance to actually experience the warm sunshine and the ocean's briny breezes – which was why I was here to begin with. Driving over to the commercial harbor was a trip back in time and a chance to experience the

commercial fishing heritage of old Ocean City.

Since then, there's been a number of "improvements" to the commercial harbor. More marinas for recreational boaters and more restaurants to service those boaters and visitors. But the fact remains, West Ocean City Harbor is still a working waterfront. Ocean-going vessels rigged out with fishing gear and nets. Lobster and conch pots lining the docks. Men and women working to catch and prepare fresh seafood for sale locally and in cities up and down the east coast.

Many folks recognize Ocean City as the White Marlin Capital of the World. They know about fishing for flounder, bluefish and tautaug near the inlet. What many do not know is the rich history and heritage of commercial fishing centered in West Ocean City Harbor. And most probably don't know about the diversity of seafood found just a few miles off the coast.

We'd like to change that. And that's why we are pleased to honor that heritage by highlighting the only seaside commercial harbor in Maryland. Check out [Voices of the Coastal Bays](#). It's a new program here at MCBP that highlights the commercial fishing industry and the men and women who ply the waters of the Atlantic to bring us some of the freshest, healthiest and tastiest eats in the world.

We hope you can join us for a Voices of the Coastal Bays celebration, July 18th, at the Ocean City Life Saving Museum. This is a chance to meet some of our local fishers and check out the excellent displays at the museum. We hope you'll join us. But if you can't, buy some local seafood and support the commercial fishery right here in our hometown.

Kevin

Executive Director

Meet Our New Environmental Scientist

We hope you will join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Environmental Scientist, Billy Weiland!

As an Environmental Scientist, Billy is responsible for carrying out MCBP's wetland assessments. He also works with other environmental staff in the collection and analysis of field data, where he researches and participates in numerous topics such as anadromous fish sampling, horseshoe crab surveys, annual stream and water quality sampling, and managing MCBP's numerous properties.

Billy graduated from Salisbury University with a B.Sc. in Earth and Atmospheric Science in 2010 before earning his M.Sc. in Geology from UNC Wilmington in 2012. Billy comes to MCBP with five years experience in water quality monitoring management, as well as experience with wetland delineations, and beach and bathymetric survey projects.

Billy is well known throughout our coastal community, spending the majority of his free time surfing or "playing in the dirt and getting to know the trees." Born and raised here on the eastern shore, he returned from Wrightsville Beach in 2017 to be back with family and the island that he loves, Assateague. A firm believer that to better understand our environments, we have to immerse ourselves in those environments both physically and mentally, he is most in his element in or on the water. This environmental immersion philosophy is the underlying theme that characterized The Marsh, an online journal he founded and produced content for during his time as a Watershed Specialist at Assateague Coastal Trust. Billy comes to MCBP with an energetic, in the field approach to learning more about the physical and ecological processes at play within the watershed



Join Us for a Guided Tour

Evening Paddle on Ayers Creek

with Maryland Coastal Bays Program



Join us for a 1-hour guided evening kayak on Ayers Creek led by Maryland Coastal Bays Program in partnership with Ayers Creek Adventures. While out on the water, we will learn about some of the creatures that call our watershed home, and explore changes in the environment at dusk!

July 12, 2022 from 6:30-8:00pm
Located at Ayers Creek Adventures in Berlin, MD

Program Fees
Single Kayak: \$14
Tandem Kayak: \$23
Bring your own Kayak: Free

REGISTER NOW!
FOLLOW THE LINK IN THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER AND PAY

To register and pay, click [here](#)

Give a Day for the Bay



Looking for a volunteer opportunity to give back to the Coastal Bays this summer?

On Wednesday, July 13 from 7:30-9:00 am, join MCBP staff in an Ocean City beach clean up. We will be meeting at 3rd street at the top of the boardwalk where we can equip you with everything you will need to participate.

Please be aware parking along the boardwalk is not free, but bayside Ocean City is! Also, if you are unable to make this event but want to participate in a clean up, visit our [website](#). Pre-registration for this event is encouraged (but not necessary), and can be found [here](#).

Voices of the Coastal Bays

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is launching a new program titled Voices of the Coastal Bays Monday night, July 18th beginning at 5:30 at the Ocean City Lifesaving Museum located on the boardwalk at 813 S. Atlantic Avenue.

Voices of the Coastal Bays is a fisheries heritage project and consists of three components.

The first component of the project is a virtual, interactive timeline that takes the user through the history of commercial fishing in Ocean City and how the West OC Harbor came to be. This timeline features historic archived photographs donated by the OC Life Saving Station Museum, quotes from fishermen of the past and present, and photographs captured by local photographer, Zach Garmoe, of the present-day commercial fishing industry.

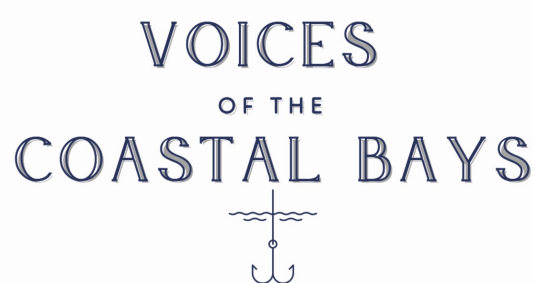
The second component of this project provided local fishermen and women of today a platform to share their stories and highlight the local seafood businesses that keep the legacy of the West OC Harbor alive. Three local fishing companies partnered for this project - Skilligalee Seafood, Martin Fish Co., and Seaborn Seafood.

The third component of the program is a Smart Seafood Guide for Ocean City, Maryland. This guide covers the seafood caught locally in Ocean City and the months they are in season to encourage more informed and localized seafood choices. This guide will be available at the launch and will also be featured on the Maryland Coastal Bays Program's website and at area businesses.

Please join us in celebrating the unique fishing heritage of our area and help support the hardworking fishers to maintain a sustainable and local commercial fishery. continue to keep it alive! Register [here](#) to join us at this event.

If you have any questions about this project, contact [Cailyn Joseph](#).

Funding for this project came from a mini grant from Beach to Bay Heritage.



Nesting Platform Update



We have 103 nests on the nesting platform! Not all of those are currently incubating eggs though. The first 38 pairs have already hatched chicks and are now busily procuring fish for their rapidly growing chicks. The North raft is finally attracting terns and the number of nests has been steadily growing there. The image below shows the terns roosting at night on the North raft.

Last year on the day of this count, the first Common Tern laid an egg in the first nest on the raft. We are way ahead of the first year!

An earlier raft launch and larger raft size have likely both contributed to the success of the raft this year.

MCBP to Launch Turtle Excluder Program

MCBP will be launching a turtle excluder program this month to provide residents and visitors alike with free turtle excluders (also known as by-catch reduction devices, BRD) to help our terrapin population as a component to our marine debris program.

Turtle excluders are required for all recreational pots in the state of Maryland. Unfortunately, recreational crab pots are not sold with these excluders and many people are unaware of the law.

Thanks to EPA funding on the marine debris project, BRDs will be available at no cost through the program by the end of this month. Contact [Sandi](#) for more information.

And here's a little [video](#) on the subject.



Big Thank You Shout Out!



We want to extend a HUGE thank you to Sara Butz, our dedicated spring intern who dove straight into the busy season at MCBP.

During her time with us, she got to dabble in a bit of all we do! Sara assisted on Living Local field experiences, service trips, water quality monitoring, terrapin surveying, horseshoe crab monitoring, writing social media posts and a Creature Feature, Bay Day, leading boat tours, and more!

Thanks for your wonderful work ethic and positive attitude!

Happy Plastic Free July



On World Oceans Day, the U.S. Interior Department [announced](#) the phase out of single-use plastic products on U.S. public lands by 2032. The Department was also directed to identify nonhazardous, environmentally preferable alternatives to single-use plastic products, such as compostable, biodegradable, or 100% recycled materials.

Canada announced a [ban](#) on the manufacture and import of single-use plastics including checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware, ring carriers, stir sticks and straws.

In addition, [Colorado](#) and [California](#) just passed extended

producer responsibility laws for packaging.

Help us support a plastic free July and support our source reduction businesses and join us for our [beach clean up](#) or [Adopt a Street/Adopt a Beach](#)