Coastal Access Survey

1. Participant Information			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Virginia Zip Code*		100.0%	214
Primary City/County/Town to which your answers refer:*		100.0%	214
Other Virginia towns/counties where you seek coastal access:		54.7%	117
	answere	ed question	214
	skippe	ed question	0

2. Is access to the waterways of the I to you?	Middle Peninsula and other Chesapeake Bay coastal beaches and	d waterways a	a concern
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		96.3%	206
No		3.7%	8
	answere	ed question	214
	skipp	ed question	0

3. Please indicate which category(ies) best describes you (check all that apply)		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Private or recreational boater		78.8%	160
Private or recreational angler		68.5%	139
Other private or recreational user		29.1%	59
Tour business or charter operation owner/employee		3.0%	6
Other water-dependent business owner/employee		8.4%	17
Waterfront land owner		36.5%	74
\$0-\$50,000 Household income		12.3%	25
\$50,001-\$75,000 Household Income		24.1%	49
\$75,000 + Household income		51.2%	104
	answere	ed question	203
	skipp	ed question	11

4. What do you see as the biggest threat to access to the waterways of the Middle Peninsula and the Chesapeake Bay by the public? (check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Sea level rise (meaning that beaches and access points will become submerged under water)		14.3%	29
Loss or conversion of existing access sites to private ownership		58.1%	118
Coastal destruction due to storms and other hazards		26.6%	54
Overall lack of public water access sites		79.3%	161
Other (please specify)		22.2%	45
	ans	wered question	203
	si	ipped question	11



	Response Percent	Response Count
Fishing	76.1%	153
Boating	74.6%	150
Swimming	46.3%	93
Sun-bathing	28.9%	58
Hunting	10.4%	21
Walking	34.3%	69
Canoe/kayak	47.3%	95
Sailing	26.4%	53
Birding	13.9%	28
Public Fishing Pier	16.9%	34
Other (please specify)	13.9%	28

answered question	201
skipped question	13

6. What specific conditions(s) are you most concerned about? (check all that apply)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of boat ramps		74.1%	149
Lack of beach access		70.1%	141
Lack of commercial fish houses		11.4%	23
Lack of charter boat activity		5.5%	11
Lack of safe swimming areas		30.8%	62
Lack of public municipal slips		27.4%	55
Lack of public fishing piers		29.9%	60
Lack of public or private boat slips for transient (short-term) use		24.4%	49
Other (please specify)		14.9%	30
	answere	ed question	201
	skipp	ed question	13

7. Public Boat Ramps Rank in order from 1 (biggest problem) to 6 (smallest problem). If you have no opinion, skip to the next question.

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Ramps are closing or being replaced for carry-on boats	4.11	547	133
Ramp sites lack adequate parking	2.55	411	161
There is not enough local and/or regional access	1.72	287	167
Local users have been replaced by visitors	4.32	613	142
Ramp conditions are deteriorating and not being improved	2.83	430	152
The wait time at ramp is too long or multiple ramps needed	3.95	557	141
	answere	ed question	176
	skippe	ed question	38

8. Public Beaches/Swimming Rank in order from 1 (biggest problem) to 5 (smallest problem). If you have no opinion, skip to the next question.

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Public access sites lack parking	2.51	392	156
Parking is too expensive at access sites	4.39	580	132
Traditional, historical (publicly owned or privately available that served as "public") access has been replaced by private homes/businesses	2.56	404	158
There are not enough officially marked beach access sites	2.18	351	161
Lack of public facilities (rest rooms, trash pickup, security etc)	2.78	445	160
	answere	ed question	175
	skippe	ed question	39

9. Public Fishing Piers and Fishing from Shore Rank in order from 1 (biggest problem) to 4 (smallest problem). If you have no opinion, skip to the next question.

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Have been destroyed in storms	2.58	279	108
Have turned to private ownership or private owners now forbid fishing use	2.28	255	112
Have been removed for private development	2.03	217	107
Was never available	2.28	244	107
	answere	ed question	133
	skippe	ed question	81

10. Boat Slips Rank in order from 1 (biggest problem) to 4 (smallest problem). If you have no opinion, skip to the next question. Response Response Response Total Count **Average** Have been turned into private 2.25 173 77 condo-related slips Have been priced above market 1.88 156 83 value Are being demolished 2.84 196 69 Are not available 2.05 170 83 answered question 97 skipped question 117

11. Commercial Seafood Houses (Working Waterfront) Rank in order from 1 (biggest problem) to 3 (smallest problem). If you have no opinion, skip to the next question.

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Are being replaced by private development	2.04	204	100
Property tax is too high for watermen to retain the property	1.89	193	102
Not enough catch for watermen to make a living	1.70	199	117
	answere	ed question	121
	skippe	ed question	93

12. What tools do you think your county or local government should investigate to protect public access to the waterways of the Middle Peninsula and Chesapeake Bay? (Check all that apply.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Transfer of development rights (protect key sites from development or conversion)		62.0%	114
Public financing dedicated to working waterfronts or public access		54.9%	101
Fees or other taxation options (for special projects like dredging, new boat ramps, or land acquisition)		38.0%	70
Zoning (to protect and manage land and water uses)		62.5%	115
Encouraging private donations (land and funding) for the protection of public access		53.8%	99
Working with property owners to save working waterfronts through easements or other partnerships.		57.1%	105
Developing laws and regulations for the protection of public access		67.4%	124
Don't know		3.8%	7
Other (please specify)		9.2%	17
	answere	ed question	184
	skippe	ed question	30

13. Does your county or local government do any of the following? (Check all that apply.)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Track public and private access (maps and information available for public use)		27.7%	51
Have information online dedicated to public access issues		20.7%	38
Educate the public on access issues		12.5%	23
Fund capital investments such as public wharves		26.1%	48
Fund research on causes for diminishing access		3.8%	7
Establish legislation for protecting access		4.9%	9
Facilitate community planning that addresses multiple uses of waterways		17.9%	33
Don't know		56.0%	103
	answered question		184
skipped question		ed question	30

14. If fees were instituted for the use and maintenance of public access sites, which of the following should be included?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
A pass system for annual or seasonal use		63.6%	117
One-time use fee		33.7%	62
Higher fee for non-local residents		44.0%	81
Higher fee for out-of-state residents		44.0%	81
Fee based on parking only		16.8%	31
Don't know		11.4%	21
	answere	ed question	184
	skipp	ed question	30

15. What would your preferred type of public access be? Rank in order from 1 (most preferred) to 3 (least preferred))
		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Boat ramps with adequate parking for multiple users		1.65	293	178
A network of access sites for paddling (car-top use only with limited parking)		1.97	351	178
A network of very small, special purpose access sites (for birding, community access by foot, or hand-carried watercraft only)		2.33	415	178
		answere	ed question	178
	skipped question		36	

16. If you have another preferred type of public access, please describe.		
	Response Count	
	37	
answered question	37	
skipped question	177	

17. Would your favorite public access site benefit from dredging?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		67.4%	120
Yes (please describe location)		32.6%	58
answered question		178	
	skipp	ed question	36

18. Would you consider paying for a dredging project that benefits your use of the water?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		49.4%	88
No		50.6%	90
answered question		178	
skipped question		36	

19. Would you consider allowing a public water access site on your land?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		25.0%	33
No		75.0%	99
Why or why not?			99
answered question		132	
skipped question		82	

20. Would you consider selling, leasi on your land?	ng, or receiving some other compensation in exchange for creati	ng public wate	er access
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (Please call 804-758-2311 to discuss further)		15.8%	18
No		84.2%	96
	Why	y or why not?	70
	answere	ed question	114
	skipp	ed question	100

21. Are you a boater?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.1%	156
No		11.9%	21
answered question		177	
skipped question		37	

22. How far do you typically drive to launch your boat?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5 miles		28.8%	45
5-15 miles		29.5%	46
15-30 miles		15.4%	24
30-60 miles		4.5%	7
60 miles or more		5.8%	9
Don't drive to launch my boat		16.0%	25
	answere	ed question	156
	skippo	ed question	58

23. How do you gain access to the water?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
I lease or own a boat slip		23.1%	36
I lease dry storage for my boat		3.2%	5
I have direct private access		30.1%	47
I trailer my boat from my primary residence		64.7%	101
I trailer my boat from another location (describe)		4.5%	7
	answere	ed question	156
	skipp	ed question	58

24. Have you lost access to a boat ramp in the past 5 years?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		75.0%	117
Yes		25.0%	39
If yes, where? What caused the loss?		34	
answered question		156	
	skipp	ed question	58

25. Do you ever pay to launch your boat?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
No			39.7%	62
Yes			60.3%	94
	If yes, how much do you typically pay?		87	
	answered question		156	
skipped question		58		

26. Where would you like to see a new public boat ramp? (Optional)				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Body of water		98.8%	80	
Closest street/route and general location		64.2%	52	
Second location site		43.2%	35	
	answered question		81	
	skipped question		133	

27. What is the more important priority to you? (Check one)				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Improvement of existing public boat ramps and parking		34.6%	53	
Construction of new public boat ramps and parking		52.3%	80	
Other (please specify)		13.1%	20	
	answered question		153	
	skipped question		61	

28. You have completed the survey. Thank you for your time. If you'd like to submit additional comments, please use the box below.		
	Response Count	
	46	
answered question	46	
skipped question	168	