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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

December 1, 2016

Reef Project Flourishes

[Join or Renew
Membership](#)

St. Mary's City, October 27—Underwater images taken this fall on our reef project:

SANCTUARY BRIEF CALL TO ACTION

Most of our oyster sanctuary remains under threat since the state invited watermen to submit proposals for declassification and open harvest. If you have not already written a letter to DNR Secretary Mark Belton and the Oyster Advisory Commission, please take a few minutes to pen your thoughts to them. Ask your friends and family to sign-on with you. Our waters are cleaner today because of sanctuaries.

[Download a Sample Letter
SMRWA Management Plan
Fact Sheet
DNR's 5 year Report](#)
(see page ix)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

>>Underwater Photos
>>Threat to sanctuary



Close up of a group of three-inch oysters sticking up off the reef.



Reef ball after two summers in the river is covered with 2- to 3-inch oysters.



Reef balls placed in the river summer 2016 - spat too small to see.



Reef with cluster of year-old natural oysters.



Our underwater photographer Meghan Webster.

CALL TO ACTION
Oyster Sanctuary Under Threat
May Be Opened to Public Harvest



St. Mary's City, Nov 9—At the State's invitation, the St. Mary's county oyster committee submitted a proposal to the Secretary of DNR and the Oyster Advisory Committee to open most of the St. Mary's River Oyster Sanctuary to public harvest. In fact, many of Maryland's sanctuaries are under similar threat from relevant county oyster committees. These committees are made up of license watermen only. Yet oysters are a publically-owned resource—the public should be a part of any decision. Therefore the SMRWA has submitted our proposal to manage our sanctuary (see article below).

PLEASE WRITE A LETTER TO SECRETARY BELTON AND THE OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION AND TELL THEM TO PROTECT THE ST. MARY'S RIVER SANCTUARY AND ALL OF MARYLAND'S SANCTUARIES. Ask them to designate the St. Mary's as one of five tributaries to be restored using federal monies.

[Download a Sample Letter](#) [SMRWA Management Plan](#) [Fact Sheet](#)

Write your letter to:

Secretary Mark Belton
Oyster Advisory Commission - Tawes Building
580 Taylor Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401

Upcoming Events:

- No upcoming events
Happy Holidays!



We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



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