

# Write to support the inclusive “Alternative D” for Mallows-Potomac National Marine Sanctuary

The first ever National Marine Sanctuary proposed for Maryland is out for public comment! Please submit comments online in support of Alternative D. Its more inclusive boundary adds much value to the Mallows Bay - Potomac River sanctuary. If you can do more, get others to support Alternative D, too. You can also testify at a public meeting described below.

[Submit online comments here.](#)

**Deadline for written comments: March 31, 2017**

Why is Alternative D superior? You may consider including arguments such as these in your own words. Many comments posted on the NOAA site are one sentence.

The two most important points are 1) support for sanctuary 2) support alternative "D"

- Only this alternative includes the sub-estuaries of Mattawoman and Nanjemoy Creeks and the Port Tobacco River.
- Enhances maritime and cultural heritage with known Native American



occupation sites on all three sub-estuaries, two likely landing locations of Captain John Smith, about 18 additional shipwreck sites dating to the 1700's, seven "lost fisheries" (including a caviar facility), the escape route of John Wilkes Booth to the south, and civil-war naval battlescapes to the north.

- Adds seven additional water-access points in protected waters that afford opportunities for tourism, recreation, and safe school activities.
- Additional water-access points will alleviate possible crowding and overuse of the Mallows Bay site itself.

- Adds high-value ecological resources, like globally uncommon freshwater tidal marshes, fish nurseries, and a broader range of salinity. Hence its value as a Sentinel Site—where NOAA supports long-term research activities—is far superior.
- By encompassing the economically challenged town of Indian Head, it heightens the chance for revitalization as a trail-destination town and location of a sanctuary headquarters.

**In addition to submitting comments, there are two public meetings where you may testify:**

1) March 7, 2017 6 PM - 9 PM  
Charles County Government Building  
200 Baltimore St, La Plata

2) March 9, 2017 6 PM - 9 PM  
Anne Arundel Community College  
CALT Building, Rm 100, 101 College Parkway, Arnold MD

**More information:**

The draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mallows-Potomac sanctuary offers three alternatives for public comment, B, C, and D (alternative A is no sanctuary at all). NOAA has identified Alternative C as its "preferred alternative." However, Alternative D adds many more opportunities for public access, education, tourism, and research.

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