

Audit Report

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

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DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 26, 2026

Senator Shelly L. Hettleman, Senate Chair, Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Delegate Jared Solomon, House Chair, Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Members of Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Annapolis, Maryland

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of the report on the annual examination of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for the year ended June 30, 2025 as prepared by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Commission receives annual grants from the State of Maryland (via the Department of Natural Resources) and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Annual examinations of the records of the Commission are conducted jointly by representatives of the Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Office of Legislative Audits. Pursuant to an understanding between the two Offices, the report is prepared and issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Tanen

Brian S. Tanen, CPA, CFE
Legislative Auditor



POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

REPORT ON AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Auditor of Public Accounts
Staci A. Henshaw, CPA

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AUDIT SUMMARY

Our audit of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, found:

- proper recording and reporting of all transactions, in all material respects, in the Commission's financial system;
- no matters involving internal control and its operation necessary to bring to management's attention; and
- no instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations or other matters that are required to be reported.

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COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission is a bi-state commission established to conserve and improve the fishery resources of the tidewater portion of the Potomac River. The Commission’s leadership consists of eight Commissioners, four representing Maryland and four representing Virginia.

As shown in Table 1 below, when compared to the previous fiscal year, Commission revenues decreased by 0.6 percent; expenses increased by 4.4 percent; and net income decreased overall by 26.5 percent. The Commission’s revenue decrease was due primarily to the dissolution of the Oyster Management Reserve Program. The increase in expenses resulted from an increase in oyster planting and grant activity.

Commission Financial Activity

Table 1

	FY2025	FY2024
Virginia appropriations	\$ 148,750	\$ 148,750
Maryland appropriations	175,000	175,000
Federal and other grants	588,997	589,489
Sport fishing licenses	62,565	68,814
Commercial fishing licenses	84,945	80,765
Commercial crab licenses	70,945	71,552
Commercial oyster and clam licenses	86,478	97,443
Commercial license surcharge	117,150	113,400
Oyster bushel tax	65,806	75,025
Interest and miscellaneous	129,590	119,798
Total revenue	1,530,226	1,540,036
Personnel services	496,419	473,454
Development and repletion	121,702	100,000
Federal and other grants	496,936	513,737
Contractual services	119,134	83,855
Materials and supplies	68,623	75,012
Insurance	9,639	6,792
Capital assets	-	3,399
Operating expenses	1,312,453	1,256,249
Reserve Fund Deposits for:		
Retiree health care	35,000	35,000
Total expenses	1,347,453	1,291,249
Net income	\$ 182,773	\$ 248,787

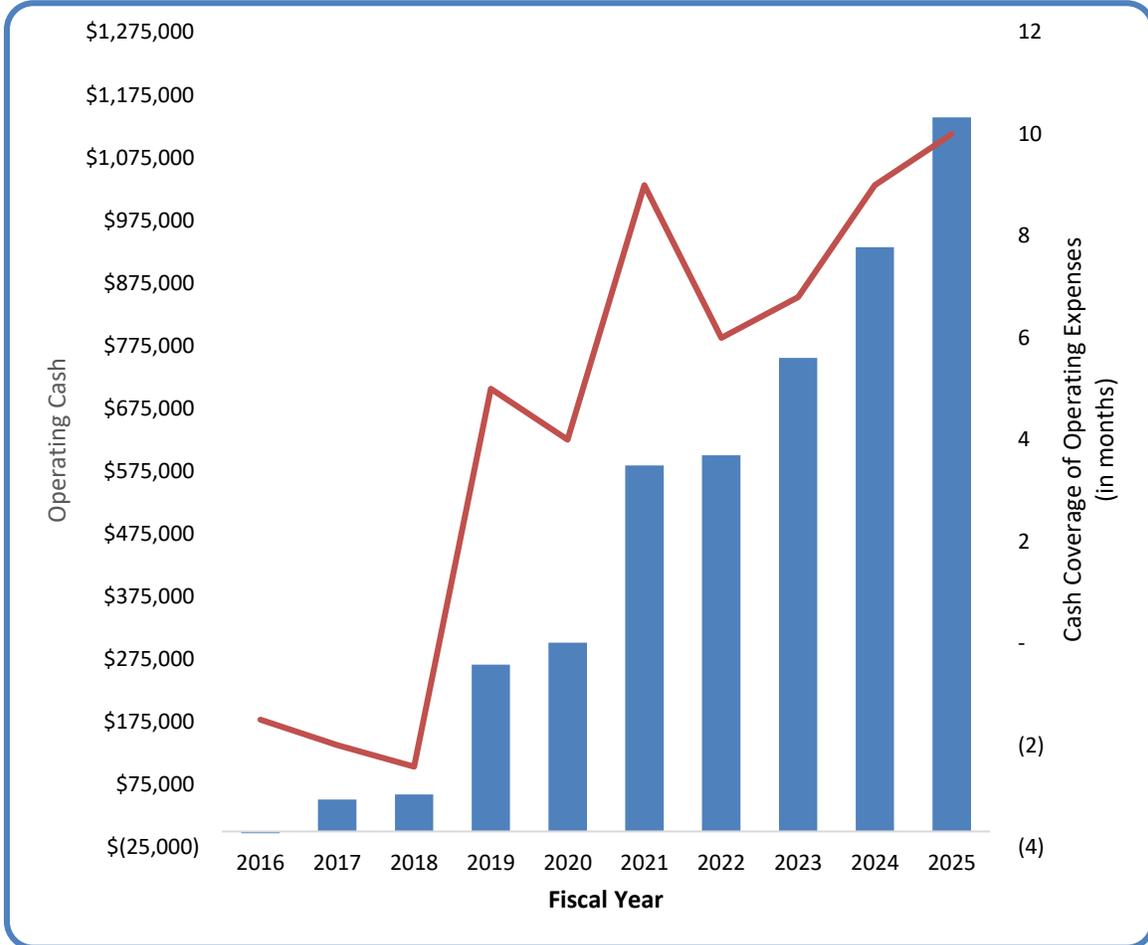
Source: Commission's financial system – cash basis

The Commission closed fiscal year 2025 with an operating profit of \$182,773. The operating cash balance continues to increase and, as of June 30, was \$1,139,192, a 22 percent increase over fiscal year 2024 as shown in Chart 1. As of June 30, 2025, the Commission’s operating cash coverage remains at a

positive rate of ten months' coverage of operating expenses (assuming expenses continue at the current rate).

Operating Cash Balances

Chart 1



Source: Commission's financial system

In addition to its operating cash, the Commission has several reserve accounts. The Commission has \$218,151 in the Virginia and Maryland local government investment pool accounts earmarked to fund future oyster work under the Rotational Oyster Harvest program. The Commission also has \$680,661 in a separate Virginia investment pool account for retiree health care reserves. The retiree healthcare account is managed by a trust and legally cannot be used to fund operations. The Commission contributes to the retiree healthcare account annually based on recommendations from a periodic actuarial funding study.



Commonwealth of Virginia

Auditor of Public Accounts

Staci A. Henshaw, CPA
Auditor of Public Accounts

P.O. Box 1295
Richmond, Virginia 23218

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Governor of Virginia

Joint Legislative Audit
and Review Commission

Commissioners
Potomac River Fisheries Commission

Ronald Owens
Executive Secretary, Potomac River Fisheries Commission

We have audited the financial records and operations of the **Potomac River Fisheries Commission** (Commission) for the year ended June 30, 2025. We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Audit Objectives

Our audit's primary objectives were to evaluate the accuracy of recorded financial transactions in the Commission's financial system; review the adequacy of the Commission's internal controls; and test compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

Audit Scope and Methodology

The Commission's management has responsibility for establishing and maintaining internal control and complying with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Internal control is a process designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

We gained an understanding of the overall internal controls, both automated and manual, sufficient to plan the audit. We considered significance and risk in determining the nature and extent of our audit procedures. Our review encompassed controls over the following significant cycles, classes of transactions, and account balances:

- Federal grant revenues and expenses
- Contractual services expenses
- Payroll expenses
- Appropriations
- Cash receipts
- Capital assets
- Information system security

We performed audit tests to determine whether the Commission’s controls were adequate, had been placed in operation, and were being followed. Our audit also included tests of compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Our audit procedures included inquiries of appropriate personnel, inspection of documents, records, and contracts, and observation of the Commission’s operations. We performed analytical procedures, including budgetary and trend analyses, and tested details of transactions to achieve our audit objectives. We also confirmed bank balances with outside parties.

A nonstatistical sampling approach was used. Our samples were designed to support conclusions about our audit objectives. An appropriate sampling methodology was used to ensure the samples selected were representative of the population and provided sufficient, appropriate evidence. We identified specific attributes for testing each of the samples and when appropriate, we projected our results to the population.

Conclusions

We found that the Commission properly stated, in all material respects, the amounts recorded and reported in the Commission’s financial system. The financial information presented in this report came directly from the Commission’s financial system.

We noted no matters involving internal control and its operation that we consider necessary to be reported to management. The results of our tests of compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Report Distribution

We provided management of the Commission with a draft of this report for review on February 24, 2026.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Governor and General Assembly, management, and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is a public record.

Staci A. Henshaw
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

JCS/vks