



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Norfolk District  
Public Affairs Office  
803 Front Street  
Norfolk, VA 23510-1096  
(757) 201-7606 (Office)  
(757) 201-7133 (Fax)  
[www.nao.usace.army.mil](http://www.nao.usace.army.mil)

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 16, 2007  
#07-06

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Corps of Engineers, Nancy Allen, (757) 201-7059  
City of Virginia Beach, Clay Bernick, (757) 385-4621

***Public Information Briefing – May 30***

### **Citizens invited to learn about Corps' plan for Lynnhaven Native Oyster Restoration**

The citizens of Virginia Beach are invited to the Bayside Public Library on Wednesday, May 30, at 7 p.m. for an informational briefing on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District's plans for **native oyster restoration in the Lynnhaven River**.

The Army Corps, in conjunction with its federal, state and local partners, plan to embark on the first phase of the multi-year restoration efforts this summer. The project will involve the construction of approximately 111 acres of oyster reefs of various dimensions, combined with an aggressive oyster seeding strategy in the Lynnhaven River system. The project will be constructed in two or more phases, depending on funding, with the first phase consisting of 30 – 50 acres of reef construction and the seeding of 20 – 40 million spat on shell oysters on selected restored reefs.

Construction of the reefs using fossilized oyster shell is expected to begin in June 2007. The reefs will be seeded with wild stock Lynnhaven spat-on-shell oysters in later summer 2007, and the Corps anticipates that the first spat set will occur in 2008.

The Lynnhaven River is considered a prime spot for oyster restoration because it is a trap estuary with high salinity, had historically high populations of native oysters and has considerably higher oyster recruitment today than many other sites in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, as represented by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, is the non-federal sponsor for the project. Other partners include the City of Virginia Beach, Lynnhaven River Now, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and NOAA.

The Bayside Branch of the Virginia Beach Public Library is located at 936 Independence Blvd., Virginia Beach. For more information on the Army Corps' native oyster restoration efforts, visit [www.nao.usace.army.mil/oysters](http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/oysters). Questions may be directed to the Norfolk District at (757) 201-7606.