STATE OF THE JAMES 2019

KEY CONCLUSIONS

- The overall score remained steady at 60% and a grade of B-minus, a positive sign for the resilience of the James River despite the record rains of 2018.
- The increased polluted runoff associated with heavier than normal downpours caused setbacks for a number of indicators, including sediment reductions, bacteria pollution, tidal water quality, and oysters.
- While bald eagles and smallmouth bass remained strong, American shad were the lowest scoring indicator, dropping to just 1%.
- We continue to see progress in areas where Virginia has made significant investments, particularly wastewater pollution controls. Virginia’s newest Cleanup Plan provides a blueprint for achieving a Grade-A James River by 2025 and calls for more investment in agriculture and stormwater pollution controls.

STATE OF THE JAMES SHOWS AN IMPROVING TRENDS

BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY RIVER

- **DRINKING WATER**: 2.7 million people rely on the James River for water, making it Virginia’s largest source of drinking water.
- **SEAFOOD PRODUCTION**: 61 million pounds of commercial fish and shellfish were landed from the James River in 2018 with a total dockside value of $214 million.
- **HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES**: 495,918 people purchased hunting and fishing licenses in the watershed in 2018.
- **RIVERSIDE PARK VISITATION**: More than 5 million people visited riverside parks along the James River and its tributaries in 2018. Richmond’s James River Park System saw the most visitation with 1,753,046 guests.
- **PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS**: There are over 250 places to enjoy the James River and its tributaries. 39 new places have been added since 2013.

About the James River Association

The James River Association is a member-supported nonprofit organization founded in 1976 to serve as a guardian and voice for the James River. Throughout the James River’s 10,000-square-mile watershed, the James River Association works toward its vision of a fully healthy James River supporting thriving communities. The James River Association believes that when you change the James, the James changes you. With offices in Lynchburg, Scottsville, Richmond, and Williamsburg, the James River Association is committed to protecting the James River and connecting people to it.

Visit thejamesriver.org to learn how you can help ensure the future health of the James River through our programs.

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River Health: 62% (B)  
River Restoration Progress: 58% (C+)  
Overall: 60% (B)