

American Oystercatcher 2019 State and Country Updates

Virginia

Virginia Partners

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Monitoring for AMOY Statewide

- Long-term monitoring: 1) **June survey** of barrier islands, 2) **reproductive monitoring** as measure of success (50-70% of breeding pairs annually) 3) **winter survey not conducted in 2018 but planned for 2019**
 - TNC – implemented demonstration project on Metompkin Island using cameras to identify nest and chick predators; results to be presented at meeting.
 - TNC/DGIF – expanded monitoring routes in the lagoon system to set the stage for future work addressing SLR issues.
 - Fisherman Island - camera on 8 nests. All hatched successfully. Will attempt to capture chick loss in 2020.

Management

- Extensive management of beach habitats for nesting AMOY and other species. Encompasses about 70 miles of barrier island coastline. Includes various combinations of:
 - Signage and symbolic fencing
 - Predator management (mammals and avian)
 - On the ground outreach

Active Partners in AMOY Management in Virginia

- VDGIF
- USFWS
 - FINWR, CNWR
- TNC
- USDA/APHIS
- NASA

2019 Monitored Sites

SITE	No. pairs monitored	No.yng fledged	Productivity estimate (no. yng/no. pairs)
Assateague (CNWR)	26	6	0.23
Wallops (NASA)	1	0	0.00
Assawoman (CNWR)	35	2	0.06
Gargatha Beach (VDGIF)	2	0	0.00
Metompkin (TNC)	102	61	0.60
Cedar Sandbar	n/s		
Cedar	n/s		
Dawsons (VDGIF)	0		0.00
Parramore (TNC)	9	2	0.22
Ship Shoal	n/s		
Myrtle (VDGIF)	20	24	1.20
Mink (VDGIF)	5	8	1.60
Smith (TNC)	40	13	0.33
Fisherman/sandbar (ESVNWR)	27	10	0.37
	267	126	0.47

2019 Monitoring

DGIF crew monitored AMOY productivity

- Myrtle island (n = 20 pairs; prod. est. = 1.20 fledged yng/pr)
- Mink island (n = 5 pairs; prod. est. = 1.60 fledged yng/pr)
- Wachapreague marsh (n = 27 pairs; prod. est. = 0.78 fledged yng/pr)
- Quinby marshes (n =28 pairs; 0.61 fledged yng/pr).
- Monitored breeding success on the newly formed Gargatha Beach located in Gargatha Inlet between Assawoman and Assateague islands (n = 2 pairs; prod. est. = 0.00 fledged yng/pr.).

USFWS

- Fisherman Island NWR (n=27 pairs; prod. Est. = 0.37 yng/pr) 23% of nest attempts documented as washouts
- Chincoteague NWR monitors 5 sites for a combined 61 pairs and 0.13 yng/pr and one off-refuge site with 15 pairs and 0.33 yng/pr)

2020 – In Development

- Continued investigation of causes of chick loss on Metompkin
- Assessing vulnerability of marsh nesters to SLR
- Dredge project and implications for Virginia – common talking points about dynamic barrier islands