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**Date: Jan. 4, 2010**

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## **News Release**

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### **Jan. 20 meeting to discuss water quality plans for Northampton County streams**

(EASTVILLE) – A public input meeting to discuss drafting a water quality improvement plan for Northampton County stream segments on the state “dirty waters” list will be held in Eastville, Wednesday, January 20, 2010. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the former circuit courtroom at 16404 Courthouse Road. If county schools are closed that day for inclement weather, the meeting will be held January 27 at the same time in the same location.

Portions of Cherrystone Inlet and Kings Creek are on Virginia’s list of impaired or “dirty” waters because they violate bacteria water quality standards for the production of edible and marketable shellfish.

Representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will be on hand to outline a process to develop a bacteria reduction plan for the impaired shellfish growing areas. Local residents and stakeholders will learn how they can be part of the planning process. In addition to the meeting, a comment period will run from January 20 through February 22, 2010.

The development of the bacteria reduction plan follows approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies that were done for Cherrystone Inlet and Kings Creek. The TMDL studies identified the sources of bacteria in the impaired watersheds.

The improvement plan will outline corrective actions needed to reduce bacteria, the actions’ associated costs and benefits, measurable goals and an implementation timeline. Corrective actions will address direct sources of bacteria entering state waters, as well as runoff of bacteria during storm events.

The meeting provides an opportunity for residents to develop a plan to preserve water resources, improve aquatic life, increase farm and shellfish production, and increase property values in the community.

For more information on the meeting or public comment process, contact Todd Herbert, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, at (757) 925-2319 or [todd.herbert@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:todd.herbert@dcr.virginia.gov).