

Rachael Peabody, Director of Coastal Policy

June 13, 2022

Wind Coordination

Central Atlantic Call Area and Fisheries Interactions



VIRGINIA'S FISH ECONOMY 2019



Total Annual Value of VA's Seafood Industry

\$5,284,412,000

Seafood Jobs in VA

23,523



Total Annual Value of VA's Recreational Industry

\$691,000,000

Commercial Fishing Location Quotient (CFLQ)

Virginia has the highest ratio of the size of our seafood economy relative to the size of the of the national seafood economy.

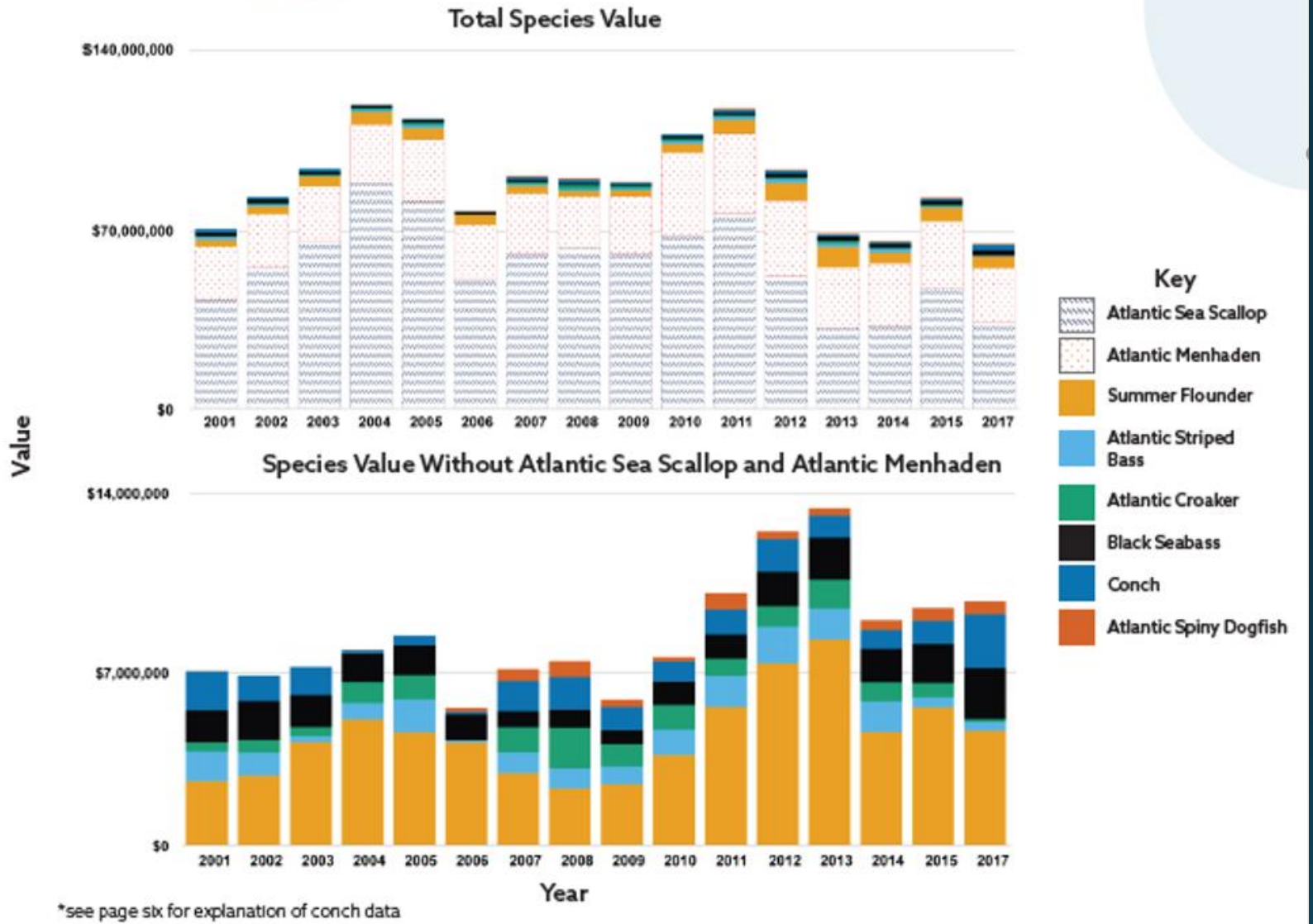


Highest Landings Revenue in the Mid-Atlantic

Sea scallop, blue crab, and eastern oyster have the highest revenues in the Mid-Atlantic region.

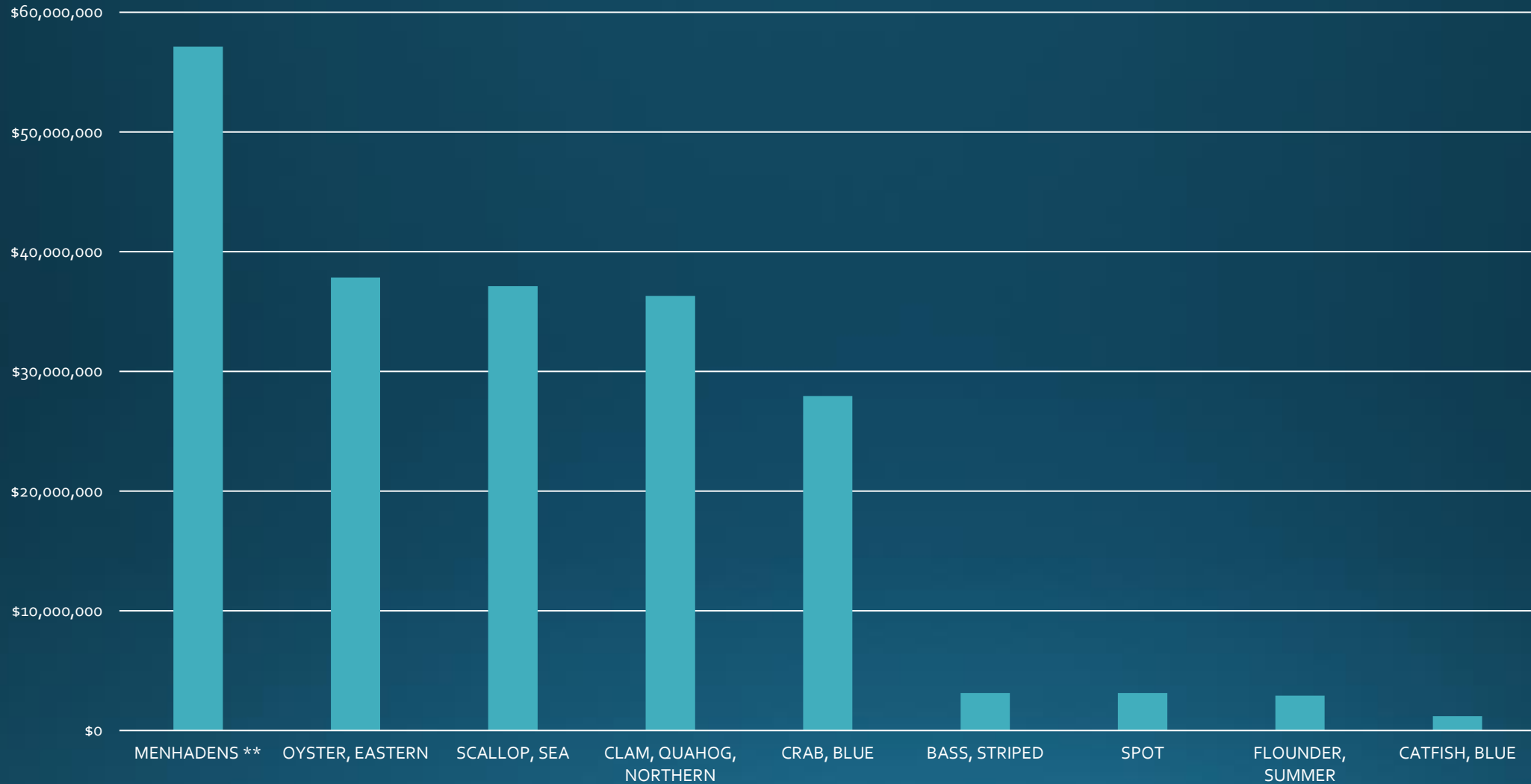
More information at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/fisheries-economics-united-states-report-2019>



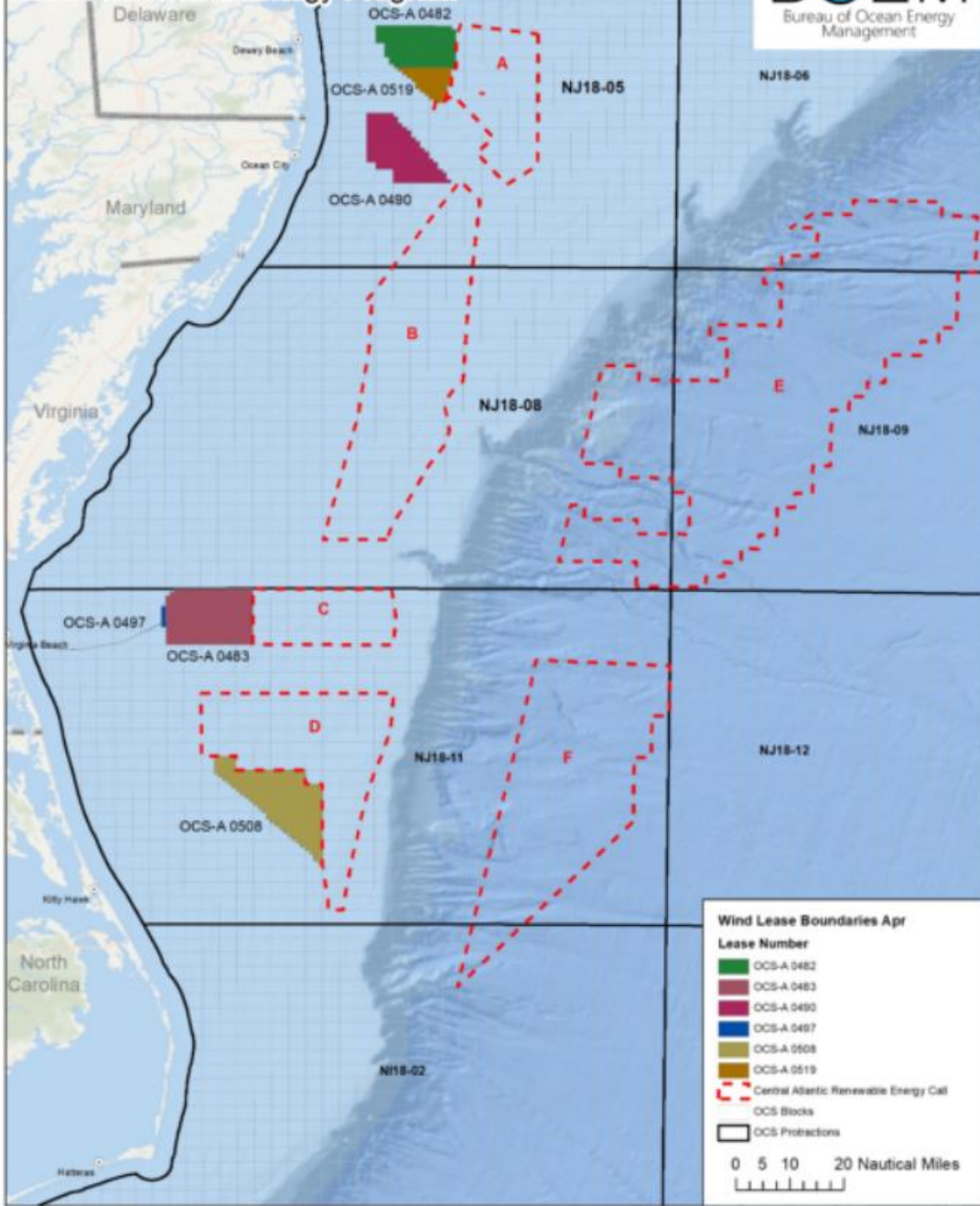
2001-2017 top landed ocean-harvested species in Virginia and the ex-vessel value.

Virginia 2020 Top Ten Valuable Fisheries



Virginia Total Value of all Species = \$214,000,000

Call for Information and Nominations Area 2022 Renewable Energy Program



As part of the Biden-Harris administration's goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced on April 27, 2022, that it will publish a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to assess commercial interest in -- and obtain public input on -- potential wind energy leasing activities in federal waters of the Central Atlantic.

- Compromises 3,897,388 acres from NJ - NC
- Public Comments and Company Nominations Due June 28, 2022.
- VMRC has received concerns from several VA based fisheries about the call area including the scallop, surfclam, whelk, black sea bass, and trawl fisheries.



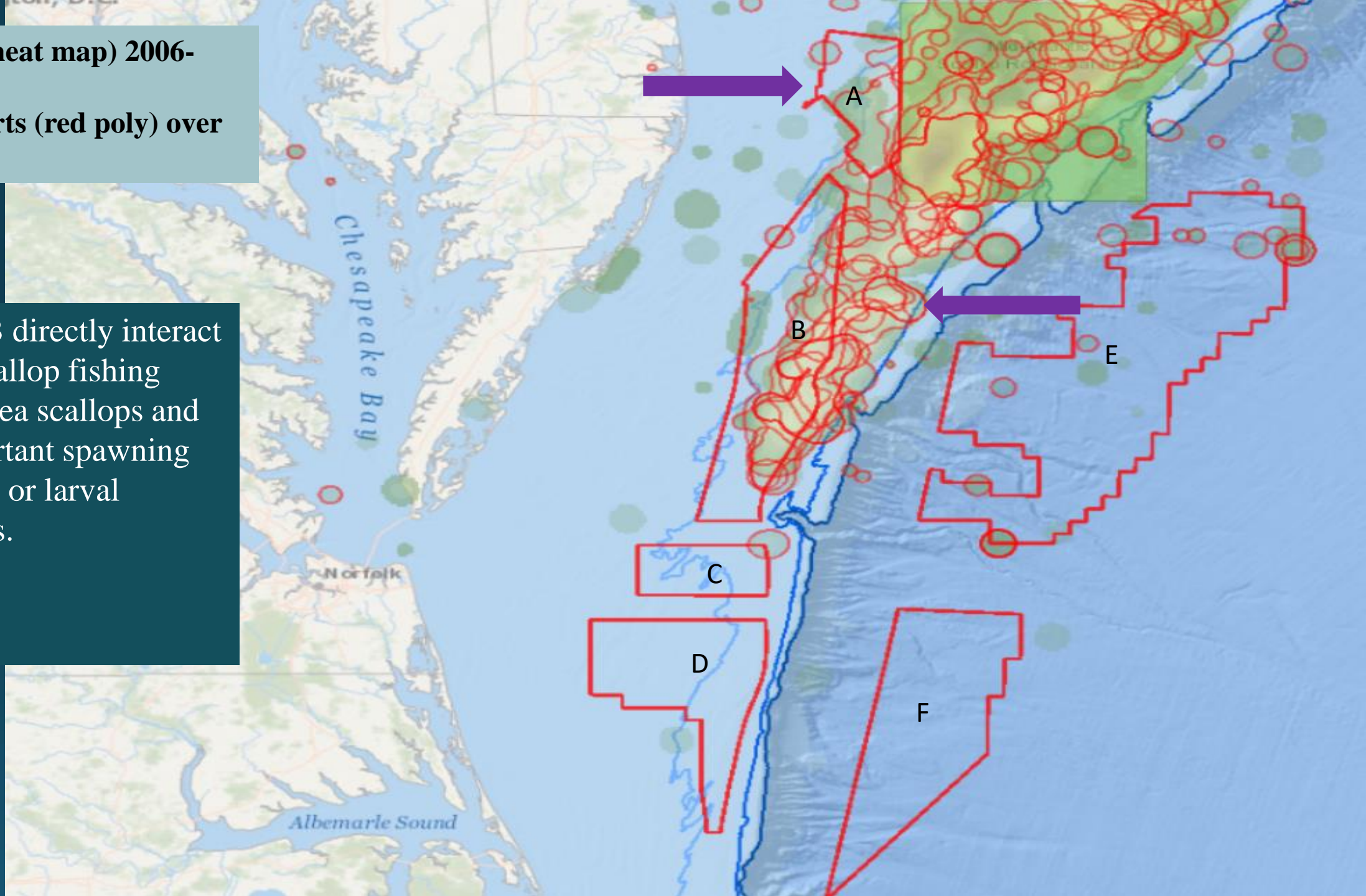
The Virginia Scallop Industry:

- The top earning ocean-caught landing with the greatest geographic reach
- Benefited Virginia by generating more than \$760M for the period of 2006-2020 through landings totaling more than 90M pounds, based on the NOAA NMFS.
- NOAA NMFS reports an annual average of more than \$50M to Virginia's economy at an average of six million pounds but the industry is valued at nearly \$100M to the Virginia economy.

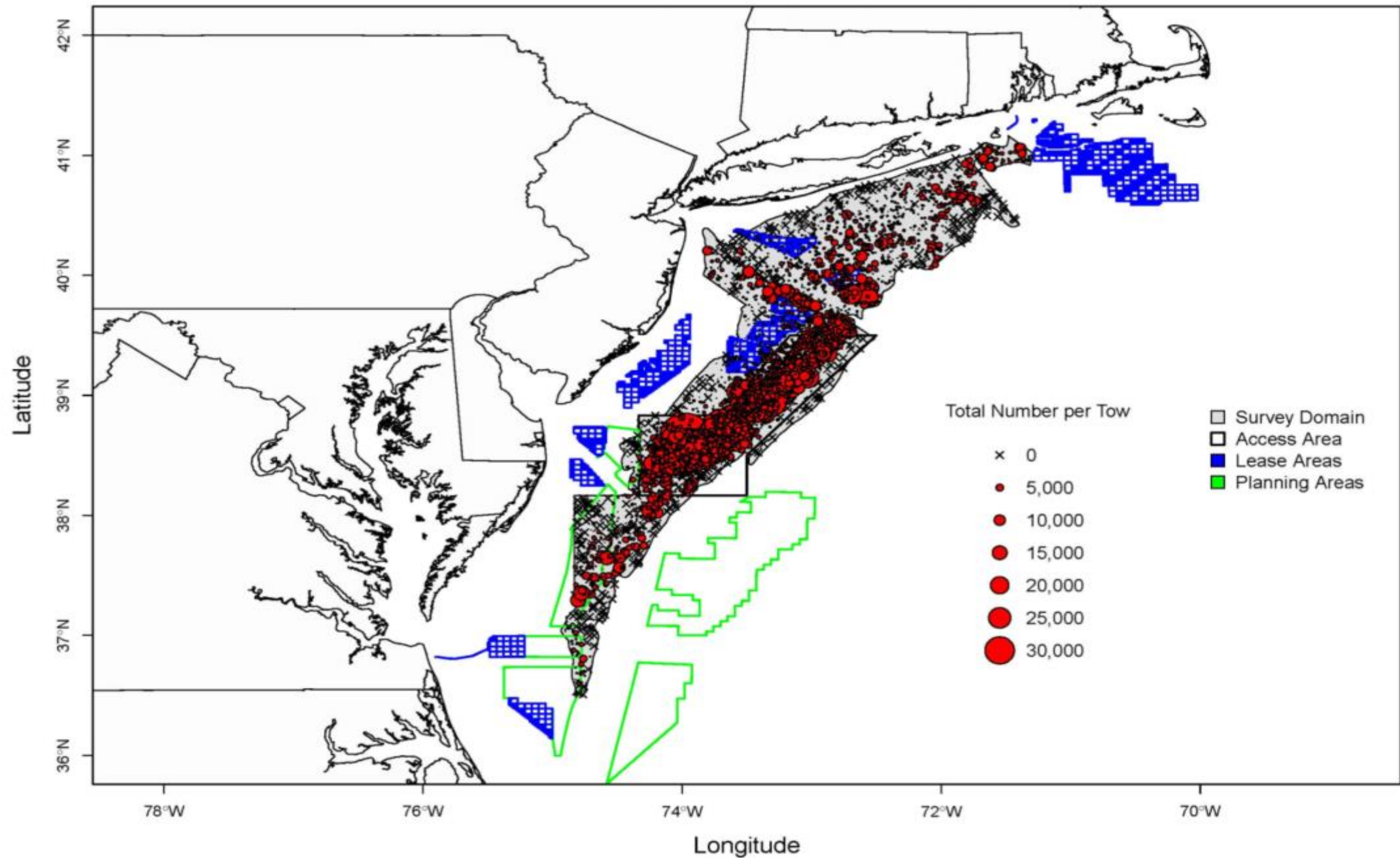


Dredge (green heat map) 2006-2015 and All Virginia Ports (red poly) over reported effort

Areas A and B directly interact with active scallop fishing locations for sea scallops and serve as important spawning resource areas or larval transport areas.



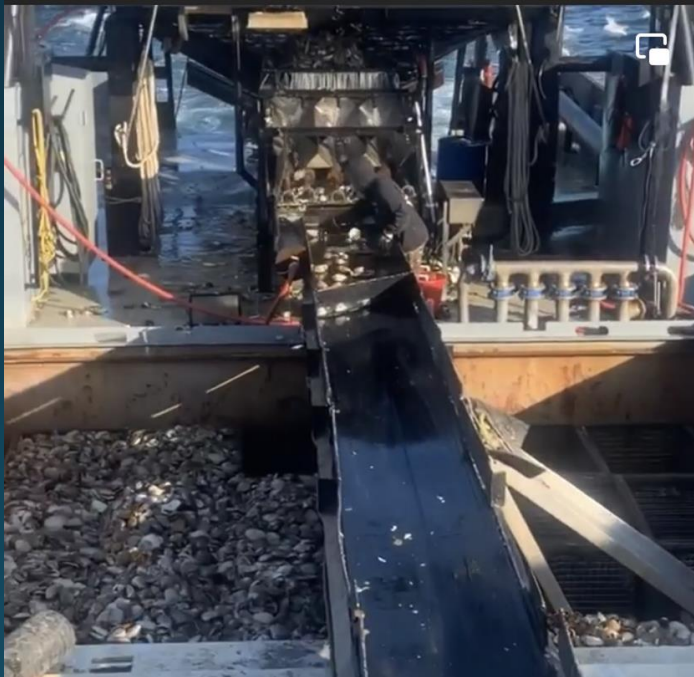
VIMS Sea Scallop Survey Dredge Data (2015–2021)



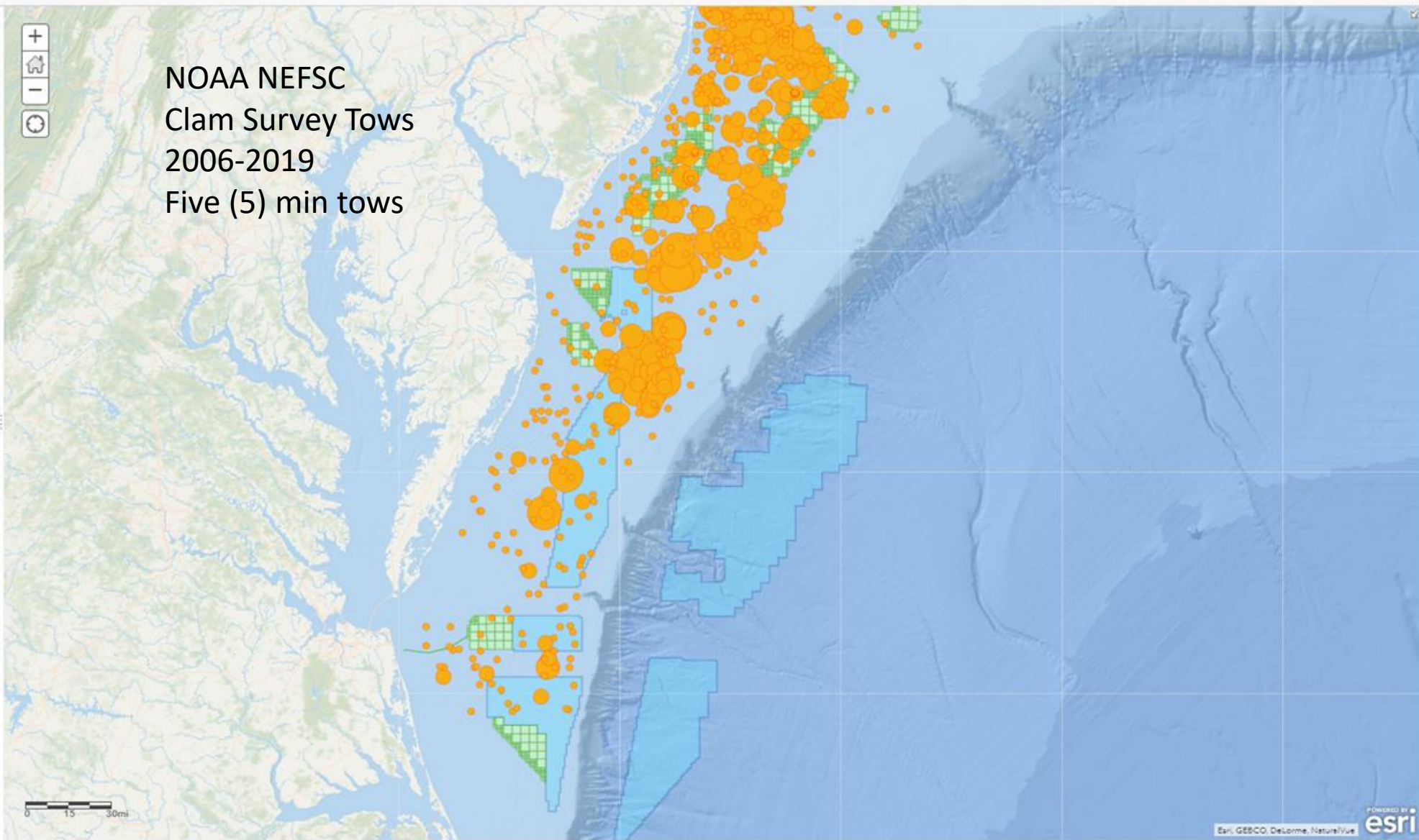


Virginia's Surf Clam Industry:

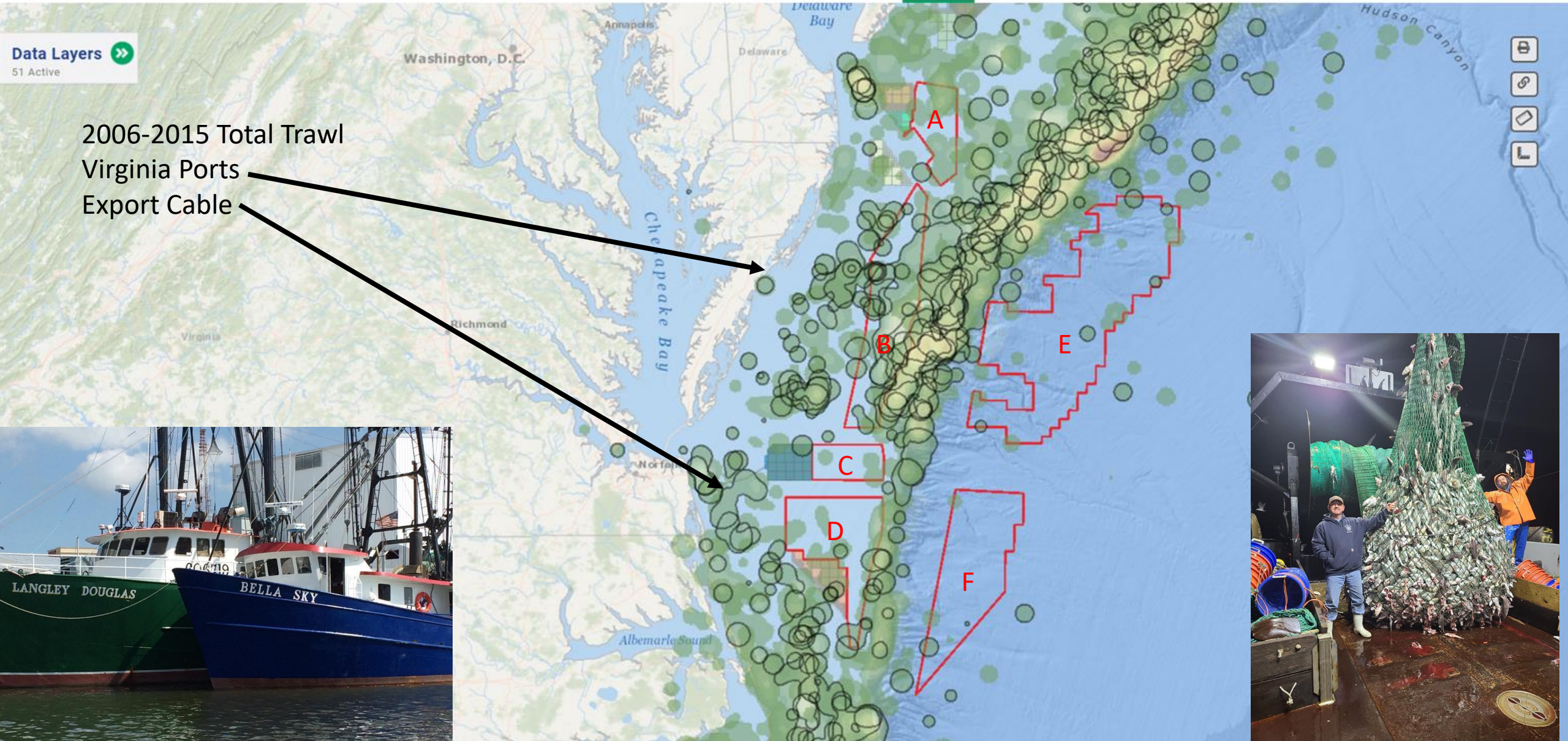
- A major VA industry in the 80s and 90s but consolidation moved the industry out of the state.
- Federal surveys show a large resource off of Virginia that is now available for harvest.
- Since July 2021 Surfside Foods has landed 163,456 bu. of surfclams with an ex-vessel value of \$2,435,494 (\$14.90 per bu.) Total 2021 harvest was valued at \$24M.
- Surfside vessels are experiencing catch rates up to 15 times industry averages for the mid-Atlantic region.



- > 1,955 - 6,255
- > 907 - 1,955
- > 425 - 907
- > 123 - 425
- 1 - 123



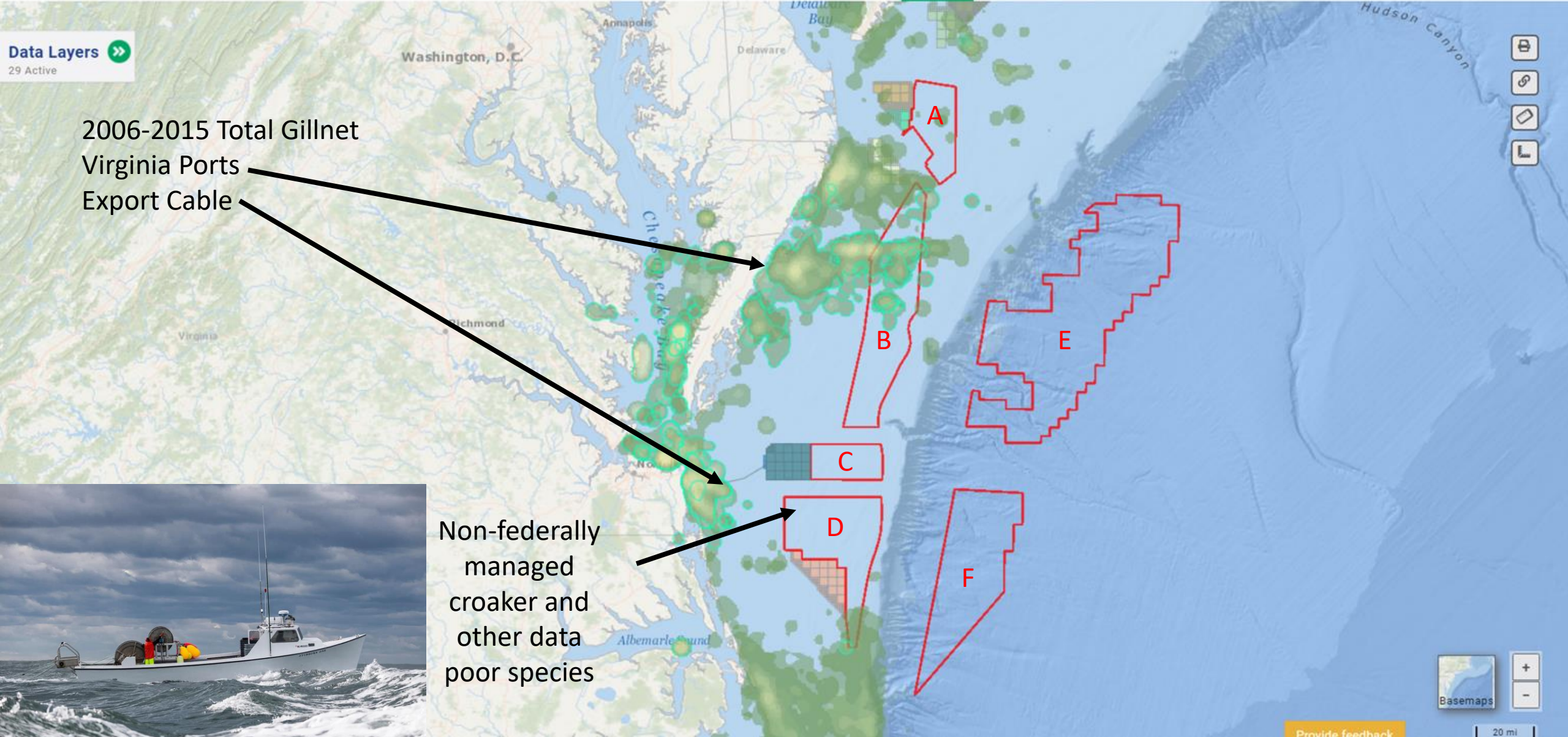
NOAA NEFSC
Clam Survey Tows
2006-2019
Five (5) min tows



Data Layers 51 Active

2006-2015 Total Trawl
Virginia Ports
Export Cable





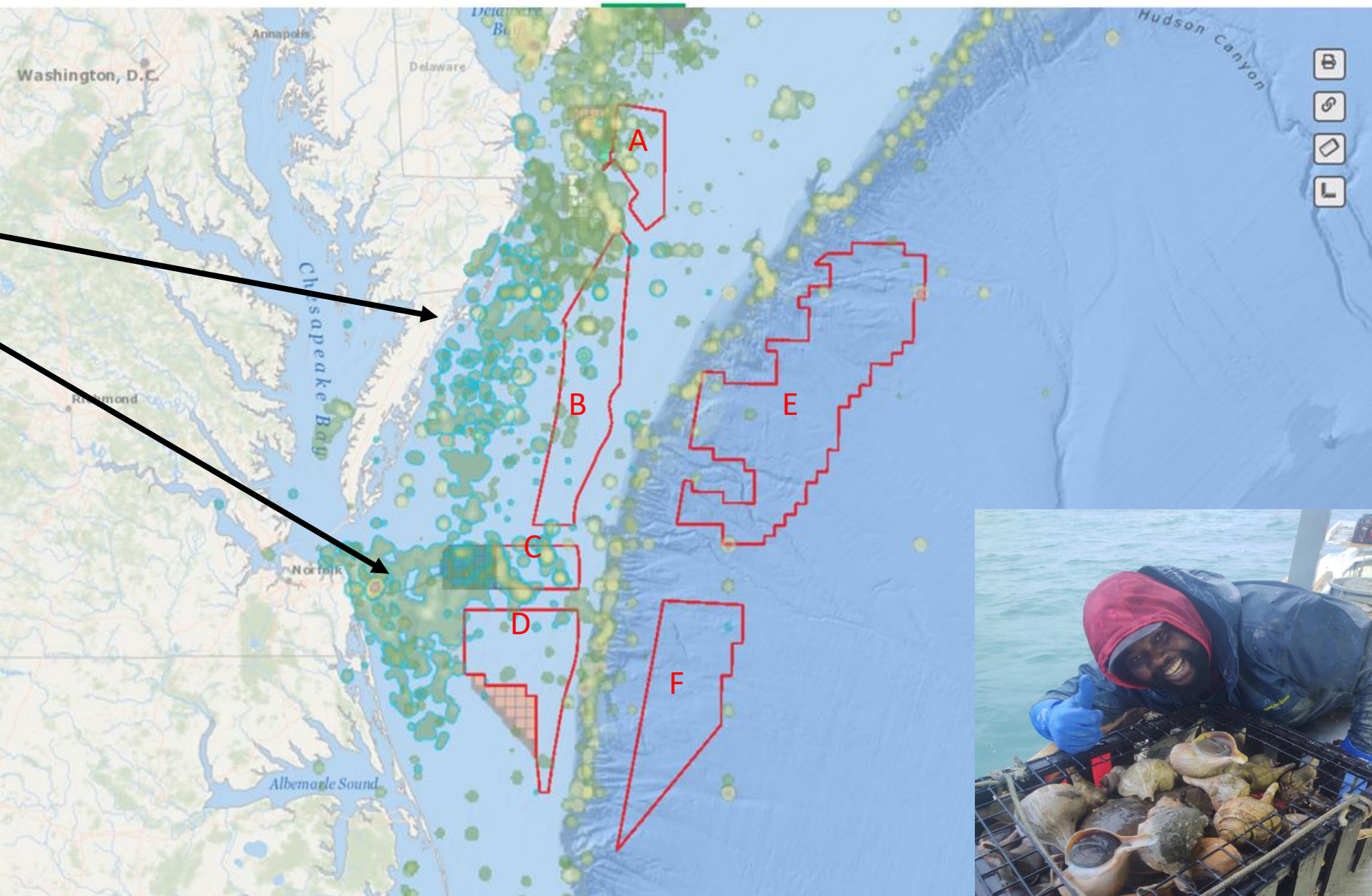
2006-2015 Total Gillnet
Virginia Ports
Export Cable

Non-federally
managed
croaker and
other data
poor species



Data Layers 37 Active

2006-2015 Total Pot/Trap
Virginia Ports
Export Cable



NMFS Fishery Footprint Reports

- AREA A:

- Most Impacted Fisheries – Surf Clam, Scallop, Black Sea Bass, Summer Flounder, Scup.
- Virginia is the second highest revenue holder in this area at \$10,162,000 in revenue.

- Area B:

- Most Impacted Fisheries: Scallop, Squid, Surfclam, Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass.
- Virginia is the highest revenue holder in this area at ~\$32,741,000

NMFS Fishery Footprint Reports

- Area C:
 - Most impacted fisheries: Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, Mackerel, Squid, Sea Scallop
 - Virginia is the highest revenue holder in this area at \$2,050,000
- Area D:
 - Most Impacted Fisheries: Squid, Bluefish, Atlantic Croaker, Summer Flounder.
 - Gears: Bottom Trawl and Sink Gill Nets
 - Virginia is the second highest revenue holder in this Area \$1,132,000

Summary

- Using Marco's Community at Sea Data **Area A** has the biggest interaction with Virginia's most profitable ocean fishery, sea scallops
- **Area B** has the second largest interaction with Virginia's Scallop Fishery
- **Area B** contains the most cumulative interactions with Virginia's Ocean Fleet including trawl, gillnets, scallop dredge, pots and traps.
- **Area C:** contains harvestable surf clam resource, black sea bass, whelk.

The data available for siting new leases is not ideal for spatial planning but was produced for fisheries management purposes. Early fisheries spatial data gathering prior to leasing and construction planning is necessary to truly avoid or minimize impacts to commercial fishing and fishery resources.