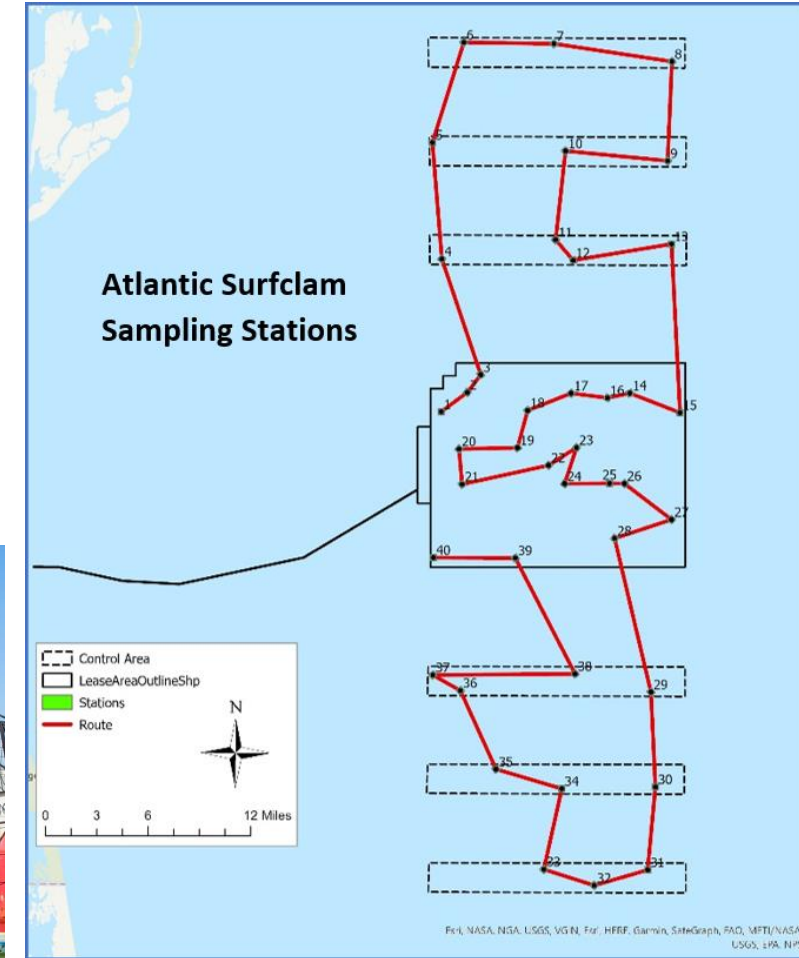
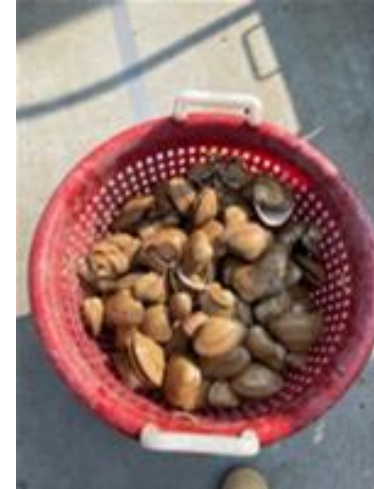


Fishery Resource Assessment and Monitoring

- Approved **Construction and Operations Plan (COP)** includes a **Fisheries Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (FMMP)**
 - https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Public_CVOWC_COP_Appendix%20V-2%20FMMP.pdf
- Developed with inputs from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), and commercial fishermen.
 - Resource assessment and monitoring studies for Black Sea Bass, Channeled Whelk, and Atlantic Surfclam.
- Implemented in partnership with VIMS, consists of both fishery-dependent and fishery-independent monitoring
 - Collaborative efforts with commercial fishermen to utilize their knowledge in study design and commercial fishing vessels for implementation



- **Atlantic Surfclam:** VIMS with support from Rutgers support, utilize survey dredge and F/V Joey D study design consistent with previous studies
 - 20-stations inside lease and 20-station outside (40-sample tows in total)
 - Data collected on catch/effort and bycatch
 - Benthic grab sampling and other environmental data collection (e.g., water temperature, salinity, etc. via CTD cast)
 - Aging & genetics work ongoing
 - Final report preparation in progress



- **Black Sea Bass:** Before and After Gradient (BAG) design, 8-strings with 6-ventless traps, 1 sampling event/month, 48-hour soak time w/acoustic release buoys.
 - Gear in the water June 2023, fishermen support with study design and gear configuration;
 - Utilize VIMS R/V Bay Eagle.
- **Channeled Whelk:** BAG design, 18-strings w/7-pots, 48-hour soak time w/acoustic release buoys; 1 sampling event/month
 - Gear in the water FEB 2024, fishermen support with study design and gear configuration;
 - Utilize commercial fishing vessels
- **Duration:** Sampling ~2-years before construction and 3-years post construction.

