



## YORK RIVER & SMALL COASTAL BASIN ROUNDTABLE

## 2023 Lunch-and-Learn Series

### Speaker Bios and Talk Summaries

### Q1: Public Access

January 19, 2023; 12-1pm Eastern

#### **Facilitating access through signage in the York River watershed and its adjacent basins - Abril Hunter**

In order to provide place-based experiences that ultimately elicit effective stewardship of the York River watershed, federal, state, local and non-profit organizations use signage to enhance public access and the watershed experience in various ways. The purpose of this project was to assess public access in the York River watershed with the aim of 1) determining how signage enhances public access and 2) determining if signage throughout the watershed serves the needs of visiting and local audiences.

#### **Abril Hunter**

Abril attends Florida State University where she majors in Environmental Science and Policy and minors in Urban and Regional Planning and Social Welfare. Growing up Black in the Midwest, Abril was exposed to the inextricable correlation between environmental injustices and race through the Flint, Michigan Water Crisis and now she dedicates her time to researching environmental racism. Throughout college, Abril has interned at the Tyson Research Center and Chesapeake Bay Research Consortium. In her sophomore year, Abril was recognized as a 2021 NOAA Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Award Recipient and has recently been honored as a 2022 Harry S. Truman Scholar. Abril aspires to make changes in the life of minorities through advocacy, grassroots action, and policy changes.



## Using Anonymous Cell Phone Data to Characterize Visitor Use Patterns in the Middle Peninsula, Virginia - Seann Regan and Heidi Burkart

This project will use technological advances in smartphone technology to estimate visitor use trends within the Middle Peninsula in Virginia. Information will be used by managers to understand human pressures on reserve sites and potential barriers to access for underserved communities

### Seann Regan

Seann is a human geographer with CSS, supporting NOAA NCCOS's (National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science) social science portfolio. He is passionate about interdisciplinary science and analyzing the world through a spatial lens. His work is primarily focused on the vulnerability and resilience portfolio, Human Use Mapping and NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, as well as providing geospatial expertise to the social science team.



### Heidi Burkart

Heidi is a marine scientist and geospatial analyst, supporting NOAA NCCOS's (National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science) social science portfolio. She holds technical expertise in the application of tools, such as geographic information systems (GIS), to compile, process, analyze, and visualize data that supports informed decisions linked to the sustainable use and management of natural resources and the communities that rely upon them. Her work is primarily focused on the vulnerability, human use, and ecosystem services valuation portfolios.

