

PRESS RELEASE

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The St. Mary's River is no stranger to interesting projects; from the Watershed Association's oyster recovery program to the Governor's Cup, the river attracts people from all walks of life. The river's newest partner, the Institute for Marine History's team led by Captain Dave Howe and powered by volunteers, has been searching Maryland waterways and uncovering vessels dating back to the Civil War era.

In 2009, the team will continue work in the St. Mary's River, studying vessels destroyed in 1776 that had been commanded by Lord Dunmore, the last royal governor of Virginia. Scattered between the natural and historic treasures that lie on the floor of our river, the team has located abandoned crab pots. Finding and removing these artifacts is a possible river restoration project and would reduce these threats to marine life.

More information on these projects is available on the Institute for Marine History website, <http://www.maritimehistory.org>, and the St. Mary's River discussion group on <http://www.chesapeakenetwork.org>.

Visit the St. Mary's River Watershed Association's web site:

<http://www.SMRWA.org>

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