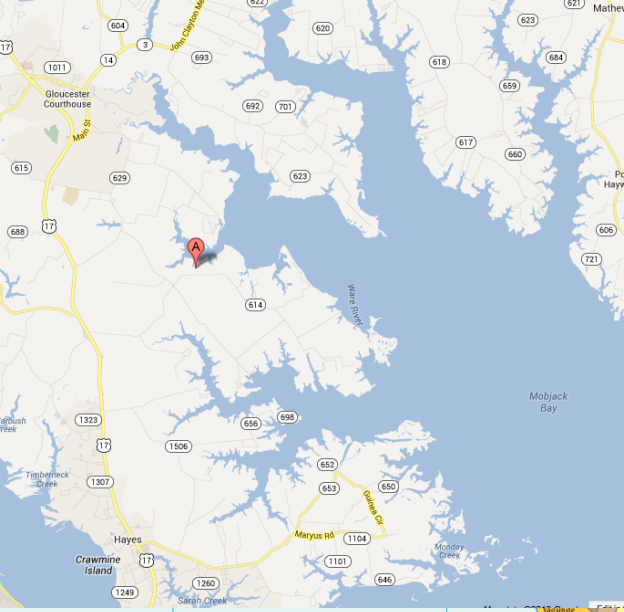


Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

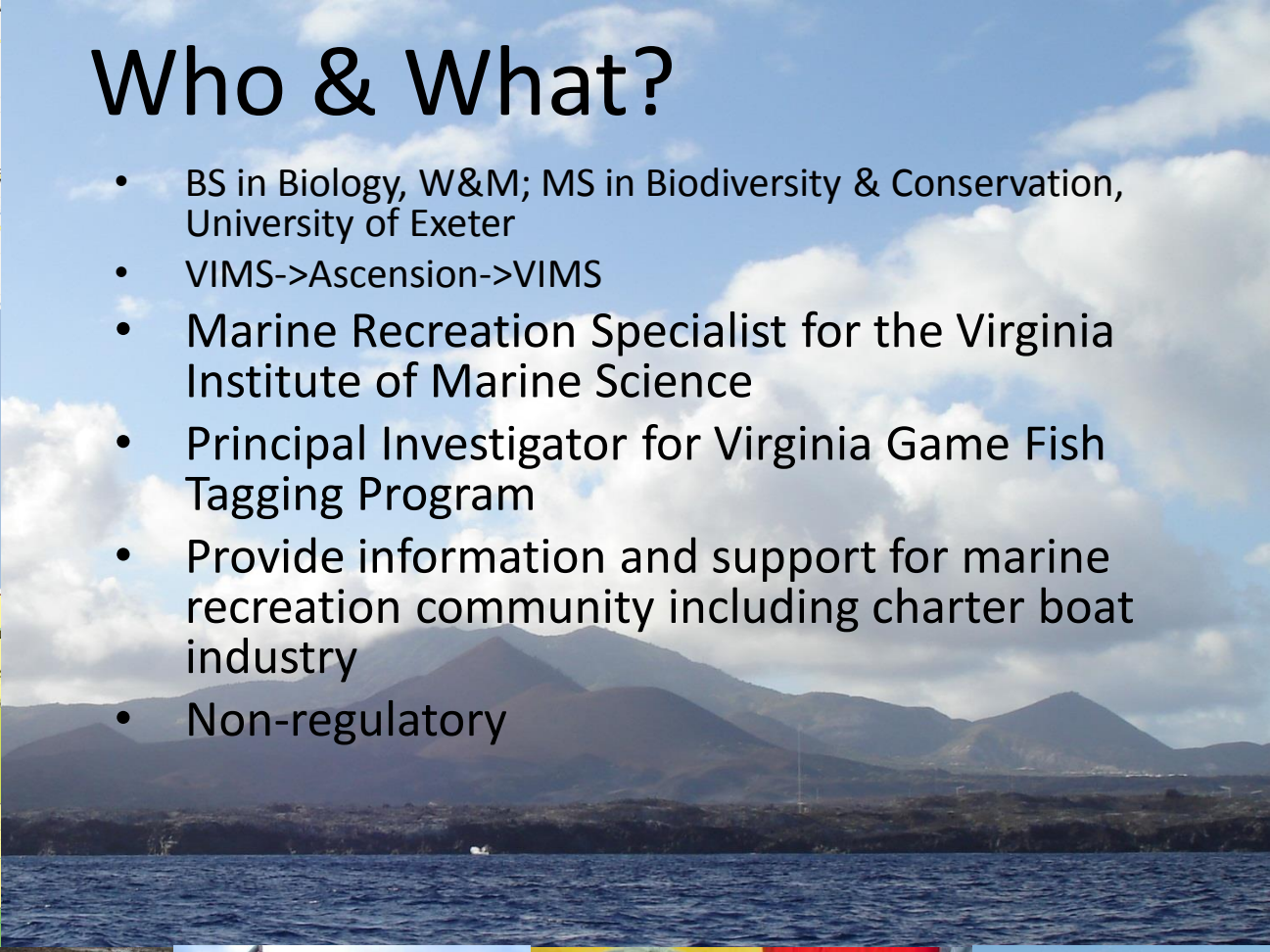


Susanna Musick
Marine Advisory Program
Virginia Institute of Marine Science



Who & What?

- BS in Biology, W&M; MS in Biodiversity & Conservation, University of Exeter
- VIMS->Ascension->VIMS
- Marine Recreation Specialist for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Principal Investigator for Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program
- Provide information and support for marine recreation community including charter boat industry
- Non-regulatory





Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

PARTNERS:

- VA Saltwater Fishing Tournament-Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Marine Advisory Program-Virginia Institute of Marine Science

FUNDING:

- Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science





Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

GOALS:

- Train volunteer anglers to tag and release marine finfish
- Target recreational finfish species that aren't tagged by other programs
- Promote the proper techniques and benefits of catch and release fishing
- Provide data on the movement and habitat use of recreational marine finfish in Virginia's waters



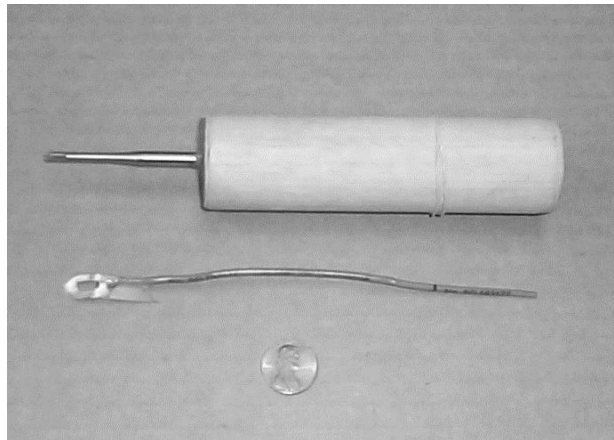
VGFTP Training & Equipment

TAGS:

- TB tags
- SS tags

APPLICATORS:

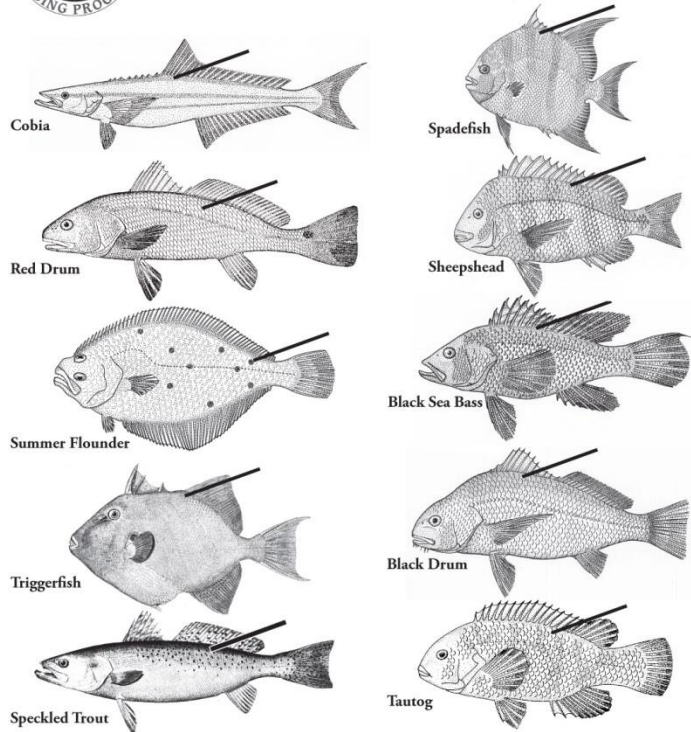
- Guns
- Sticks



VGFTP Research-Target Species



Report Tags on Target Species



- Cobia
- Spadefish
- Red drum
- Sheepshead
- Summer flounder
- Black sea bass
- Triggerfish
- Black drum
- Speckled trout
- Tautog

ANGLERS, LOOK FOR TAGS IN YOUR CATCH!!

REPORT TAGGED FISH TO
VA Saltwater Fishing Tournament office in
Newport News:
https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php
or by phone 757-491-5160.

CHECK BOTH SIDES OF THE FISH
Some fish may have more than one tag. Please
report all tags.

REWARDS FOR REPORTING TAGS
caps, t-shirts, pins, tackle boxes, etc. Rewards
are subject to availability.





VGFTP Top Tagging Sites in 2012



VGFTP Tag & Recapture Results

Year	Black Drum		Black Sea Bass		Cobia		Flounder		Red Drum		Sheepshead		Spadefish		Speckled Trout		Tautog		Triggerfish		Total	
	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags	Recaps	Tags
2012	8	144	166	1,382	11	431	98	1,772	1,426	18,351	0	31	31	493	283	7,874	99	1,035	16	89	2,138	31,602
2011	9	204	303	1,590	8	158	190	2,684	264	1,219	0	18	2	28	761	12,723	77	698	3	13	1,616	19,335
2010	2	84	237	1,003	15	108	434	5,251	274	1,866	2	19	11	87	163	7,285	77	683	17	95	1,232	16,480
2009	5	169	656	3,272	8	36	1,098	9,328	506	3,110	8	225	20	390	97	3,194	108	540	45	133	2,545	20,395
2008	6	186	294	2,684	7	64	769	7,874	456	4,504	2	40	36	300	183	3,275	139	745	69	211	1,959	19,883
2007	33	546	252	1,875	13	71	947	8,615	483	3,353	28	229	69	433	59	2,880	227	954	37	262	2,148	19,219

VGFTP, 2007-2012 TOTAL NUMBER OF RECAPTURES/FISH



VGFTP-Data Application

Benefits for Management

-VMRC: used data for tautog, red drum compliance reports

-ASMFC: black drum stock assessment

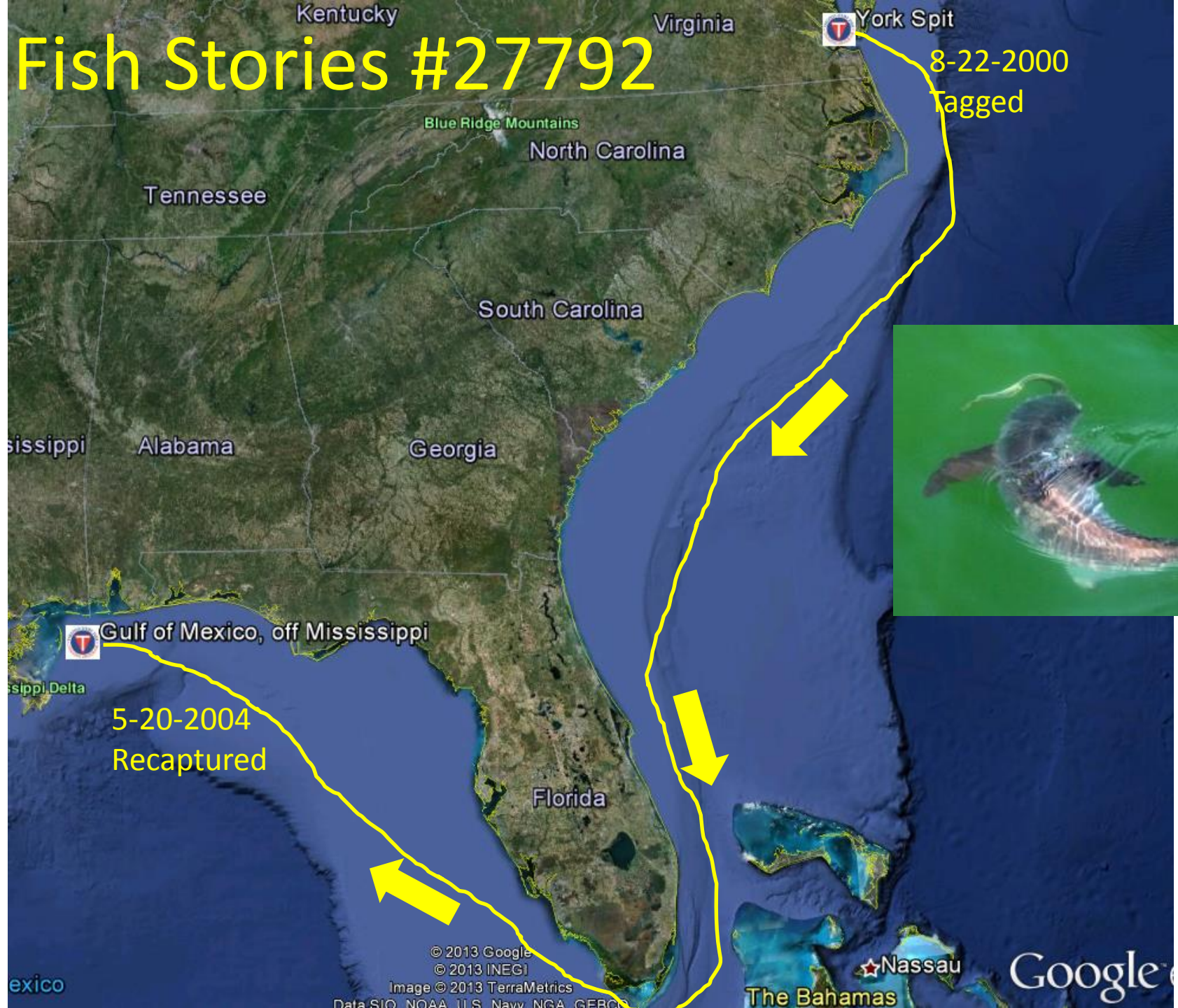
-SEDAR: cobia

OVERALL:

- Data may highlight pattern shifts for recreational fish
- Data may document changes in relative abundance of various year classes of fish
- Data show size distribution of sub-legal fish released in VA fishery
- Data show patterns of seasonal migrations and habitat use of key fish
- **when managers use VGFTP data, it enhances importance of the program**



Fish Stories #27792



Fish Stories #174669

off Rhode Island

1-10-2008
Recaptured

11-18-2007
Tagged

CBBT, Small Boat Channel



News

April 11, 2012

Tagger Ken Neill sets a new record for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

Neill's tautog was at large for 2,826 days, only 94 days short of 8 years.

By *Newswire*

Related Tags: News, tautog fishing

Email

Print

Share

Comment

Tweet 0

Share



Enlarge

Tagger Ken Neill sets a new record for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

Fish Stories #121136

5-1-2012
Recaptured

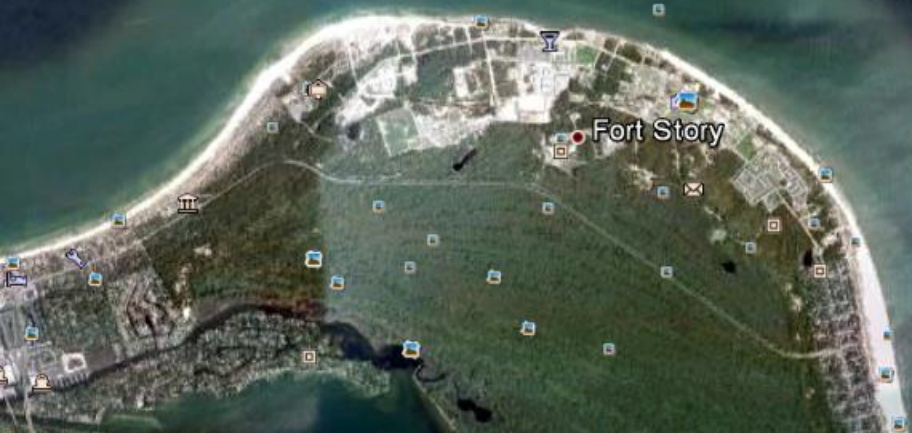


36 57.503N 76 00.036W Cape Henry Wreck



Westmoreland Wreck

4-10-2004
Tagged



Catch & Release

1. **Plan ahead.** Use strong tackle. Set hooks quickly. Avoid treble hooks. Bend down barbs. Consider circle hooks.

2. Minimize handling. Do not touch eyes or gills. Leave large fish in the water to remove the hooks. **Handle** with **wet** hands or a damp towel. **Don't hold fish by its mouth.** Do not use a gaff. Use a rubberized, knotless net.

3. Use needlenose **pliers** or a dehooker. Cut the leader close to the fish's mouth if hook removal is not possible. Never pull or jerk on the leader to remove a hook.

4. **Release fish gently.** If stressed or exhausted, revive fish by gently moving it forward through the water until it is able to swim off.



VGFTP-Report a tagged fish

https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php

1) Write down the **tag number**.

If the tag number is not clear, please cut off the tag and keep it - even if you release the fish.

2) **Measure** and write down the **species** and its **total length**. Estimate the length if you do not have a measuring device.

3) Write down the **date**, the exact **location**, and **how** the fish was **caught**.

4) Record any other information about the fish that could be useful; for example, any unusual markings or wounds.

5) Contact the agency listed on the tag.

To identify the [VA Game Fish Tagging Program](#) Tags from other tagging studies here are some things to look for:

Orange T-Bar tag under dorsal fin - TB ##### REWARD - Call 757/4915160



OR

Orange Dart tag under dorsal fin - DS ##### REWARD or SD ##### REWARD 757/491-5160 VA GAME FISH TAG, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607.

To report VA Game Fish Tagging Program Tags,

Report On-line :

https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Recreational Fishing Online Reporting



The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) is an effort to involve the recreational angling public in the conservation and management of marine finfish. [Read More](#)

Anglers reporting tags from fish they have captured are awarded pewter fish pins or baseball caps featuring the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program logo.

<< Go Back

Submit Report >>

Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

Report Tagged Fish

Required Fields *

Tag No.*

Species*

Date Caught*:

Location Caught*:

Total Length*:

Angler's Name*:

Phone*:

Street Address*:

City, State*:

Zip*:

E-mail:

Fish Fate*:

Fish Condition*:

Remarks:



Photos: Ken Neill, VGFTP anglers

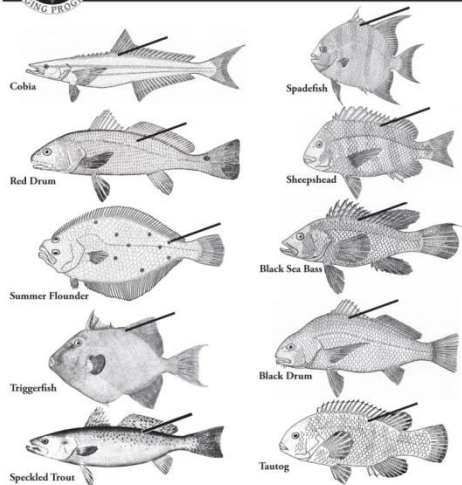
JOIN us!

- Sign up for 2014 VGFTP
- Report tagged fish
- Display VGFTP Target Species Poster

Some of the 2012 VGFTP Top Taggers



Report Tags on Target Species



ANGLERS, LOOK FOR TAGS IN YOUR CATCH!!

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THANK YOU!

SUSANNA MUSICK

susanna@vims.edu

804.684.7166

www.vims.edu/vgftp/

Photo: Ed Lawrence

