In 2020, Virginia passed the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act to protect Virginians from growing flood risk from more frequent and intense storms and sea level rise. This allowed the Commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and established the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). RGGI is a market-based program of 11 states that generates funds while reducing electricity sector emissions. Half of its proceeds fund low-income energy efficiency programs and 45% fund the CFPF.

The CFPF provides loans and grants for projects, studies, and planning throughout the Commonwealth to identify and address flood vulnerability for communities. CFPF funds can build capacity in localities that otherwise would not have the resources to develop comprehensive flood vulnerability assessments and action-oriented flood mitigation approaches.

**OYSTER VILLAGE: RESILIENCE PLAN**

The waterfront community of Oyster Village is at severe risk of flooding from rising seas and increasingly intense coastal storms. Many of the community’s critical assets are located directly along the coast, including public boat ramps, aquaculture facilities, ecological research stations, and numerous residencies. Oyster will use this CFPF award to partner with The Nature Conservancy and an engineering firm to develop a collaborative, community-driven Resilience Plan and hire a full-time Certified Floodplain Manager to assist with plan implementation.

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

“Adaptation and Resilience Plans are critical for communities in increasing coastal resilience and protection for the community and its culture, preserving natural habitat, and using nature-based solutions where possible.”