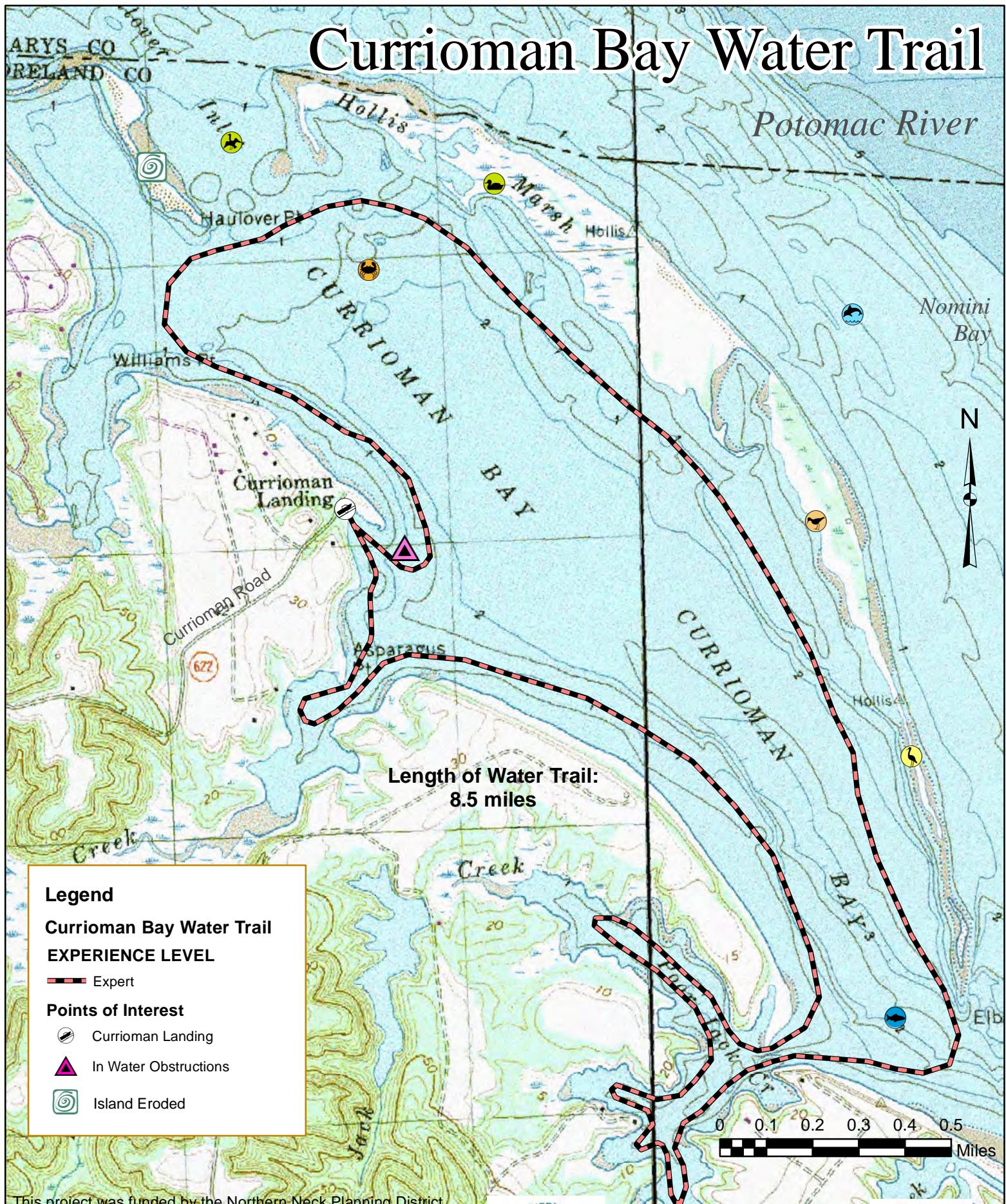


Currioman Bay Water Trail

Potomac River

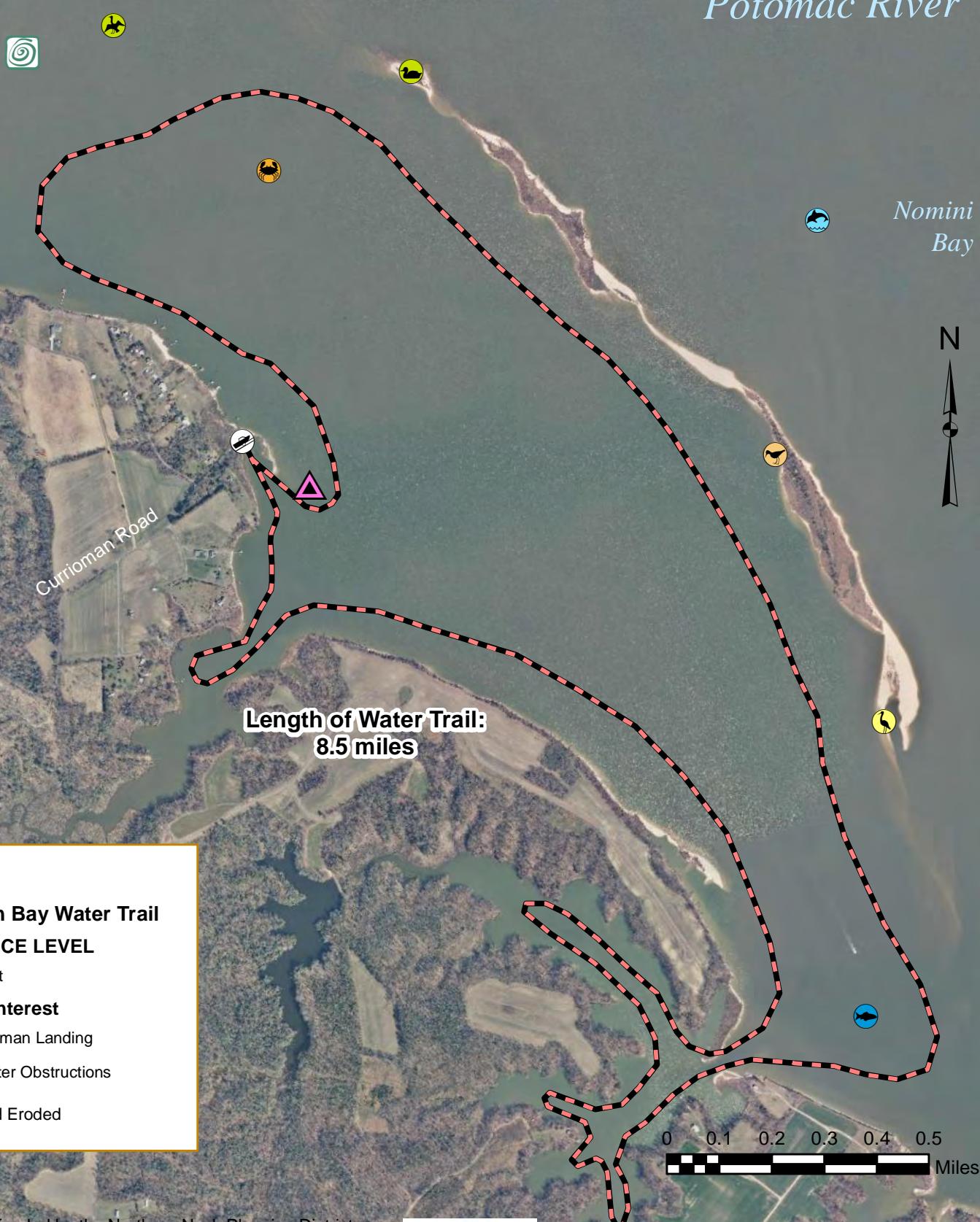


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Currioman Bay Water Trail

Potomac River



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Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The Currioman Bay Water Trail is intended for advanced to expert paddlers.

Although Currioman Bay is partially shielded by Hollis (Sharktooth) Island from the large waves of the Potomac River (which is approximately 4 miles wide at this point), this area can be dangerous for inexperienced boaters in small vessels when winds increase. In addition to exposure from waves from the Potomac River, the mouth of Nomini Creek is also approximately 4 miles wide, which can allow large waves to form when windy from a variety of directions. Further compounding the problem, Currioman Bay is relatively shallow which can amplify wave heights. Be sure to check the marine forecast from the National Weather Service for the Potomac River from Cobb Island to Smith Point area by clicking on the Potomac River polygon on the map at : <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq>

Boaters also need to be in compliance with Virginia boating equipment regulations regarding personal flotation devices, sound producing devices, and visual distress signals. More information can be found here: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/wog/equipment-regulations.asp>

This area of the mouth of Nomini Creek is home to many species of fish, shellfish, and birds as well as the possibility of seeing marine mammals in the summer months. The winter months are the best times to observe waterfowl as this area is the wintering area for many species of artic ducks, geese and diving birds. If you are interested in fishing, late spring, summer and early fall are all good times to sample the local fisheries. Species that frequent this area are perch, spot, croaker, rockfish, bluefish and an occasional flounder or puppy drum in the mix. When fishing within Currioman Bay, Virginia saltwater fishing regulations apply. Go to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for the latest recreational fishing regulations: <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/swrecfishingrules.shtml>



Two flounder caught at one time!



During the War of 1812, there were numerous raids by the British on the shores of the Northern Neck. One such raid was the raid on Nomini Ferry, inland and upstream from Currioman/Nomini Bay on July 20, 1814. British forces outgunned and outmanned the local militia, finally forcing the Americans to retreat back to what is now the town of Montross. Bushfield, a historic house that was built in the 18th century south of Currioman Bay was also shelled that same year by British naval forces. The house, in its current form, still exists on the shores of Nomini Creek.

Directions to the Currioman Landing launch point follow.

Travel to the Town of Montross in Westmoreland County, turn on to Polk Street which turns into Panorama Road (Rt.622). Follow Panorama Road to its intersection with Stratford Hall Road (Rt. 214) and take a left turn. Travel a short distance and take a right turn at Currioman Road (Rt. 622) and follow to the end of the road to Currioman Landing.

