

WILLIAM & MARY
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A NEW BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) IN MARINE SCIENCE
DEGREE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, William & Mary’s School of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science has historically been a global leader in impactful marine and coastal systems research and education;

WHEREAS, William & Mary currently offers master’s and doctoral degrees in Marine Science but does not offer an undergraduate degree;

WHEREAS, William & Mary expanded into the realm of undergraduate studies with the creation of a Minor in Marine Science in 2010;

WHEREAS, enrollments in undergraduate courses in Marine Science at William & Mary have more than doubled since 2018;

WHEREAS, no public universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia offer a bachelor’s degree in Marine Science;

WHEREAS, Virginia residents desiring to pursue an undergraduate degree in Marine Science at public universities in the Commonwealth currently have no choice but to obtain their degree at a private or out-of-state institution;

WHEREAS, recent studies and trends in higher education indicate a demand for institutions to offer undergraduate programs in Marine Science;

WHEREAS, William & Mary’s School of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science is uniquely positioned to offer a high quality and prestigious undergraduate degree program in Marine Science;

WHEREAS, the proposed Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Marine Science aligns with the most recent Six-Year Plan and ties directly with the Water initiative of Vision 2026, which states “William & Mary will lead in finding innovative solutions to ensure the resilience of the world’s oceans, coasts and waterways;” and

WHEREAS, the proposed B.S. in Marine Science will utilize the core competencies of the faculty of the School of Marine Science, who have the expertise to teach and shepherd this program successfully;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That upon recommendation of the President and the Provost, the William & Mary Board of Visitors approves the creation of a B.S. in Marine Science degree program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the School of Marine Science will create this new program in compliance with all requirements of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).