WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Rob Wittman released the following statement regarding the announcement by Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell regarding increased blue crab populations.

“I am very pleased to hear that surveys continue to show improved blue crab population numbers. I commend Virginia and Maryland’s joint management efforts to restore crab populations. I am also pleased to hear that federal resources furthered these management efforts, employed watermen and provided job training. These are encouraging signs, yet more work remains to restore the Chesapeake Bay.”

Wittman spearheaded efforts in Washington resulting in a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declaration of a fishery disaster for Chesapeake Bay blue crabs. Congress provided $20 million in assistance to restore the fishery and provide assistance to watermen. Wittman continues to work with NOAA and the Commonwealth of Virginia to ensure a healthy blue crab fishery.

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.