



## Mid-Atlantic Region Virtual Book Club – Meeting #2

### Chesapeake Requiem by Earl Swift

8 PM ET on May 26th, 2021

#### Meeting Dates and Chapters

5/12: Part 1 (Chapters 1-5; pages 9-92)

5/26: Part 2 (Chapters 6-12; pages 95-205)

6/9: Part 3 (Chapters 13-17; pages 209-274)

6/23: Part 4 (Chapters 18-20; pages 277-323)

7/7: Part 5 (Chapters 21-22; pages 327-378)

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Part 2: The Lord Tells the Water (Chapters 6-12; pages 95-205)

1. (pages 120-121) Science of Sand: How does sand protect an island? What are the steps of “island disappearance” as evidenced by what happened to many of the other islands near Tangier?
2. (pages 97-98 and 132-133) - How does Ooker’s anecdote of the sea turtle reinforce the political beliefs of an over-regulatory and interfering government body rather than one that supports their lifestyle? How is this again reinforced with the idea of farming subsidies and protections that don’t apply to watermen who must accept the prices the outside world sets? (Shout out to the NOAA reference!)
3. (pages 171-173) - Canaan was already "beset by advancing seas" in 1929, and a long list of squalls, long before climate change was considered a factor. How does the long oral history reinforce the narrative of erosion for Tangier Islanders?
4. (pages 116-117) - As educators, have you worked with Chesapeake Bay Foundation? How do you reconcile their positive service to the Bay with the watermen considering them “high-handed and smarter-than-thou”?
5. (page 149) - Earl Swift seems to break suddenly from his normal tone with an explicit "why should you care?" Why do you think he places sufficient importance on the import of crabs to break away from his narrative?
6. (Ch 10/11) -- Weather just hits differently on Tangier (pun intended, sorry!) -- how does Swift describe the relationship between the residents of Tangier and the storms of the Bay? How do their experiences with weather differ from your own?
7. Throughout the book, Swift is sharing stories about the people of Tangier to show that they are both a unique community but also that their challenges are very similar to everyone else’s. Which argument is

more persuasive to you -- that we should fight to save Tangier because it is a special place or because this could be our fate as easily as it is theirs?

### **Resources for Further Exploration**

Article from 2015: Oceana Reveals Mislabeling of Iconic Chesapeake Blue Crab

<https://usa.oceana.org/publications/reports/oceana-reveals-mislabeling-iconic-chesapeake-blue-crab>