**Notes from 9/20/12 – FOSS Float dock tide staff placement and trial kayak access**

Valerie Cooley, Lois \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Nicole Jackson, Ali Helms, Nate Damewood, Jamie Fereday

At 10:05am, Ali placed a tide staff at water’s edge at the FOSS Float site near the first platform along trail to east of Ed Shed. Low tide for Charleston was predicted for 2.1 ft at 9:22am (Charleston docks tables - <http://www.charlestonmarina.com/sepoct.jpg>).

Team walked trail along dike toward end of slough side pilings to view alternate site for ramp/dock and tide channels. Alternate site from dike was seen as inferior to original site due to elevation change, erosion of bank, and limited space for approach to ramp (kayak & canoe clearance, gear staging, etc.).

Photographed middle and north tide channels from dike

Between 10:15 and 10:40, Nicole & Jamie use kayaks to confirm clearance of paddle craft through north, middle, and south channels to access dock site from main tide channel (Winchester arm). Clearance for kayaks was easy at 2.1 foot tide from dock site to main channel via middle channel. After returning through middle channel, we paddled north and placed another tide staff in the center of the portion of the north channel parallel to pilings where the depth of water was at its minimum. At this point, kayaks were touching bottom. 5-10 minutes later, we were able to paddle/push further north, then east to main channel. Photographed middle channel from main channel and north channel from where it turns east.

Between 10:45 and 11:15, Nicole, Jamie, and Lois paddled the south channel for access to main channel. We were not able to get access to main this route as the channel is very shallow, parallels the main channel divided by a shoal, and braids further south for a confusing route, even, it is presumed, in higher stages of the tide.

Placed another shorter tide staff at an estimated 1.7ft level near and referenced to the first staff at the dock site. This is estimated to be the minimum tide stage (again, using Charleston tables) for small paddle craft. The Slough’s large canoe would no doubt be excluded at this tide unless near empty. Someone needs to try similar tidal stage with *Chmoosh!*