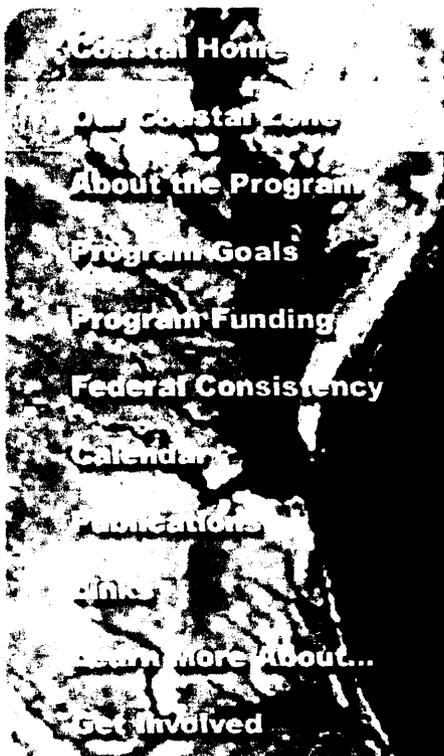


VDEQ 2004a

Virginia Coastal Program: T



Virginia's Coastal Resources Manager

The Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program was established in 1972 to manage an area known as Virginia's "coastal zone." This zone encompasses 100 miles of coastline and 42 incorporated towns in *Tidewater Virginia* and all of the waters therein within the 3-mile Territorial Sea boundary, including all of Virginia's Atlantic coast waters from the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle - Pamlico Sound watersheds.

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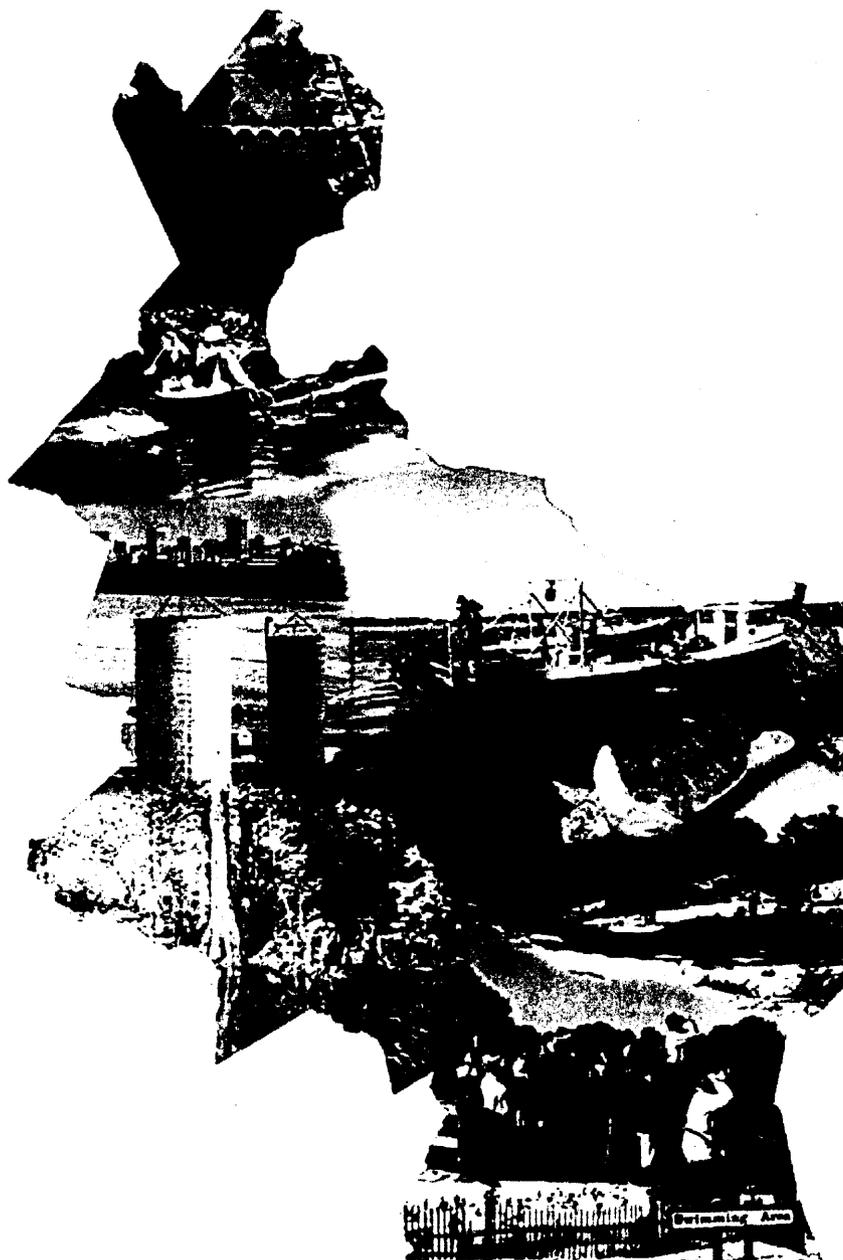
Coastal Policy Team

Coastal Grant Project Lists

Grant Reporting Forms A, B and C

Last Updated: September 28, 2004

If you have any questions or comments regarding this



site, please contact Virginia
Witmer at
vgwitmer@deq.virginia.gov

Virginia's Coastal Counties:

- Accomack
- Arlington
- Caroline
- Chesterfield
- Charles City
- Essex
- Fairfax
- Gloucester
- Hanover
- Henrico
- Isle of Wight
- James City
- King and Queen
- King George
- King William
- Lancaster
- Mathews
- Middlesex
- New Kent
- Northampton
- Northumberland
- Prince George
- Prince William
- Richmond
- Spotsylvania
- Stafford
- Surry
- Westmoreland
- York

Virginia's Coastal Ci

- Alexandria
- Chesapeake
- Colonial Height
- Fairfax
- Falls Church
- Fredericksburg
- Hampton
- Hopewell
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Petersburg
- Portsmouth
- Poquoson
- Richmond
- Suffolk
- Virginia Beach
- Williamsburg

Virginia Incorporated Towns within Tidewater Counties:

- Accomac
- Ashland
- Belle Haven
- Bloxom
- Bowling Green
- Cape Charles
- Cheriton
- Chincoteague
- Claremont
- Colonial Beach
- Dendron
- Montross
- Nassawadox
- Occoquan
- Onancock
- Onley
- Painter
- Parksley
- Port Royal
- Quantico
- Saxis
- Smithfield

- Dumfries
- Eastville
- Exmore
- Hallword
- Haymarket
- Herndon
- Irvington
- Keller
- Kilmarnock
- Melfa
- Surry
- Tangier
- Tappahannock
- Urbanna
- Vienna
- Wachepreagu
- Warsaw
- West Point
- White Stone
- Windsor

Although only a little more than **22 percent** of Virginia's land area lies within this area is called home by more than **60 percent** of the Commonwealth's people.

The Virginia shoreline is approximately 5,000 miles in length and includes the Virginia (the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James), the Chesapeake Bay drain, and the Atlantic Ocean coastline.

Virginia's coastal area is diverse and extensive, with oceanfront shoreline, estuaries which reach as far as 100 miles inland. Within this area, both natural and cultivated lands range widely from the wild, undeveloped beaches of the barrier islands to the "hard Roads' port facilities.

Download copy of Virginia Coastal Resource Management (PDF, 1.5 MB)

Go to Coastal Planning District Commission Page for more information

Visit the **Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Resources** and **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries** for more information, **describe Virginia's natural communities.**

Visit the **Virginia Marine Resources Commission**, the **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries** and **Virginia Institute of Marine Science** for more information about **Virginia's marine environment and communities.**

Visit the **Virginia Division of Legislative Services** or the state's data center **Center for Public Service** - for more information about **Virginia's population and demographics.**



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Virginia Coastal Program

Restoring Our Coastal Ecosystems, Strengthening Our Coastal Economy.



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For more information,
contact: Virginia Coastal
Program Office
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Program Administration

The Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program, established in 1986 and renewed by **Executive Order** every four years, is a **network of state laws and policies** through which the Commonwealth and its coastal localities manage:

- Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands
- Fisheries
- Subaqueous Lands
- Dunes
- Point Source Air Pollution
- Point Source Water Pollution
- Nonpoint Source Water Pollution
- Shoreline Sanitation
- Coastal Lands

And, Geographic Areas of Particular Concern

- spawning/nursery/feeding grounds
- coastal primary sand dunes
- barrier islands
- significant wildlife habitat areas
- significant public recreation areas
- significant sand and gravel resource deposits
- underwater historic resources
- highly erodible/high hazard areas
- waterfront development areas

Virginia Coastal Program Advisory Policies

- Advisory Policies for Geographic Areas of Particular Concern
- Advisory Policies for Shorefront Access Planning and Protection

These laws and policies are administered by a **network of core agencies** and **coastal localities** in the Commonwealth. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) serves as the lead agency for Virginia's networked Coastal Program and helps agencies and localities to develop and implement coordinated coastal policies.

Coastal Program Staff at DEQ, with the assistance of an interagency **Coastal Policy Team**, monitor and coordinate the Program's activities and administer the program's annual grant award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management**.

Tel: (804) 698-4320
Fax: (804) 698-4319

Together, Virginia's **localities**, state agencies and NOAA form an effective partnership.

Last Updated:
August 16, 2004

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Federal Consistency

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Virginia Coastal Program Laws and Enforceable Policies

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

*Virginia Department of Environmental Quality,
Virginia Marine Resources Commission & Local Wetlands
Boards*



The tidal wetlands program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission under Code of Virginia § 28.2-1301 thru § 28.2-1320. The purpose of the wetlands management program is to preserve tidal wetlands, prevent their despoliation, and accommodate economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation.



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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries



opportunities.

These agencies regulate commercial and recreational fishing through Code of Virginia § 28.2-200 thru 28.2-713 and Code of Virginia § 29.1-100 thru 29.1-570. This management program stresses the conservation and enhancement of finfish and shellfish resources and the promotion of commercial and recreational fisheries to maximize food production and recreational



The State Tributyltin Regulatory Program has been added to the Fisheries Management program. The General Assembly amended the Virginia Pesticide Use and Application Act as it related to the possession, sale, or use of marine antifoulant paints containing Tributyltin. The use of Tributyltin in boat paint constitutes a serious threat to important marine animal species. The Tributyltin program monitors boating activities and boat painting activities to ensure compliance with Tributyltin regulations promulgated pursuant to the amendment. The Marine Resources Commission, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Virginia Department of Agriculture Services share enforcement responsibilities (Code of Virginia § 3.1-249.59 thru 3.1-249.62).



SUBAQUEOUS LANDS MANAGEMENT

Virginia Marine Resources Commission



The program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission (Code of Virginia § 28.2-1200 thru 28.2-1213).

The management program for subaqueous lands establishes conditions for granting or denying permits to use state-owned bottomlands based on considerations of potential effects on marine and fisheries resources, wetlands, adjacent or nearby properties, anticipated public and private benefits, and water quality standards established by the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division. The program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission (Code of Virginia § 28.2-1200 thru 28.2-1213).



DUNES MANAGEMENT

Virginia Marine Resources Commission & Local Wetlands Boards



Dune protection is carried out pursuant to the Coastal

Primary Sand Dune Protection Act and is intended to prevent destruction or alteration of primary dunes. This program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission (Code of Virginia § 28.2-1400 thru 28.2-1420).



POINT SOURCE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Department of Environmental Quality



The Department of Environmental Quality implements the federal Clean Air Act to provide a legally enforceable State Implementation Plan for the attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. This program is administered by the State Air Pollution Control Board (Code of Virginia § 10-1.1300).



POINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality



The Department of Environmental Quality regulates discharges into state waters through Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Virginia Pollution Abatement permits (accomplished through the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program established pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act). The point source program - the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program - is administered by the State Water Control Board pursuant to Code of Virginia § 62.1-44.15.



NONPOINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation & Local Governments



Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law requires soil-disturbing

projects to be designed to reduce soil erosion and to decrease inputs of chemical nutrients and sediments to the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and other rivers and waters of the Commonwealth. This program is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (Code of Virginia § 10.1-560 et seq.).

*Department of Conservation and Recreation -
Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department*

This agency regulates activities in Chesapeake Bay Resource Management Areas and Resource Protection Areas within 84 localities in Virginia's coastal zone.



SHORELINE SANITATION

Virginia Department of Health



The Virginia Department of Health regulates the installation of septic tanks, sets standards concerning soil types suitable for septic tanks, and specifies minimum distances that tanks

must be placed away from streams, rivers, and other waters of the Commonwealth. This program, which includes shellfish closures due to bacterial contamination, is administered by the Department of Health through Code of Virginia § 32.1-164 thru § 32.1-165.



COASTAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

*Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance*

The Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance at DCR* regulates activities in Chesapeake Bay Resource Management Areas and Resource Protection Areas within 84 localities in Virginia's coastal zone through a state-local cooperative program established pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act; Code of Virginia § 10.1-2100 thru § 10.1-2114 and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations; Virginia Administrative Code 9 VAC 10-20-10 et seq.

**prior to July 1, 2004, the Division was a separate agency known as the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department*



OTHER COOPERATING AGENCIES

Virginia
Department
of Historic
Resources

Virginia Department of Historic Resources



Virginia Department of Forestry

WILLIAM & MARY Virginia
VIMS Institute of
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE Marine
SCHOOL OF MARINE SCIENCE Science

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Economic Development Partnership
Virginia Department of Transportation

Virginia Coastal Program Advisory Policies

Advisory Policies for Geographic Areas of Particular Concern

- **Coastal Natural Resource Areas.** These areas are vital to estuarine and marine ecosystems and/or are of great importance to areas immediately inland of the shoreline. Such areas receive special attention from the Commonwealth because of their conservation, recreational, ecological, and aesthetic values. These areas are worthy of special consideration in any planning or resources management process and include the following resources:
 - a) Wetlands
 - b) Aquatic Spawning, Nursery, and Feeding Grounds
 - c) Coastal Primary Sand Dunes
 - d) Barrier Islands
 - e) Significant Wildlife Habitat Areas
 - f) Public Recreation Areas
 - g) Sand and Gravel Resources
 - h) Underwater Historic Sites.
- **Coastal Natural Hazard Areas.** This policy covers areas vulnerable to continuing and severe erosion and areas susceptible to potential damage from wind, tidal, and storm-related events including flooding. New buildings and other structures should be designed and sited to minimize the potential for property damage due to storms or shoreline erosion. The areas of concern are as follows:
 - i) Highly Erodible Areas
 - ii) Coastal High Hazard Areas, including flood plains.
- **Waterfront Development Areas.** These areas are vital to the Commonwealth because of the limited number of areas suitable for waterfront activities. The areas of concern are as follows:
 - i) Commercial Ports
 - ii) Commercial Fishing Piers
 - iii) Community Waterfronts

Although the management of such areas is the responsibility of local government and some regional authorities, designation of these areas as Waterfront Development Areas of Particular Concern under the

Virginia Coastal Program is encouraged. Designation will allow the use of federal Coastal Zone Management Act funds to be used to assist in planning for such areas and in the implementation of such plans. The Virginia Coastal Program recognizes two broad classes of priority uses for waterfront development Areas of Particular Concern:

- i) water access-dependent activities;
- ii) activities significantly enhanced by the waterfront location and complementary to other existing and/or planned activities in a given waterfront area.



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Advisory Policies for Shorefront Access Planning and Protection

- ***Virginia Public Beaches.*** Approximately 25 miles of public beaches are located in the cities, counties, and towns of Virginia exclusive of public beaches on state and federal land. These public shoreline areas will be maintained to allow public access to recreational resources. See the Department of Conservation and Recreation [Public Beach Program](#).
- ***Virginia Outdoors Plan.*** Planning for coastal access is provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in cooperation with other state and local government agencies. The [Virginia Outdoors Plan](#), which is published by the Department, identifies recreational facilities in the Commonwealth that provide recreational access. The Virginia Outdoors Plan also serves to identify future needs of the Commonwealth in relation to the provision of recreational opportunities and shoreline access. Prior to initiating any project, consideration should be given to the proximity of the project site to recreational resources identified in the Virginia Outdoors Plan. For more on coastal recreational planning and ecotourism go to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries - [Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail](#).
- ***Parks, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas.*** Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, and Natural Areas are provided for the recreational pleasure of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation by local, state, and federal agencies. The recreational values of these areas should be protected and maintained. For more information go to the Department of Conservation and Recreation [State Parks](#), [Natural Heritage Program](#), and [Land Conservation Office](#) Web sites.
- ***Waterfront Recreational Land Acquisition.*** It is the policy of the Commonwealth to protect areas, properties, lands, or any estate or interest therein, of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historical interest, or unusual features which may be acquired, preserved, and maintained for the citizens of the Commonwealth. Virginia Coastal Program [catalogue](#) of funding projects including public access site acquisition and construction and see [project lists](#) to locate additional public access grants.
- ***Waterfront Recreational Facilities.*** This policy applies to the provision of boat ramps, public landings, and bridges which provide water access to the citizens of the Commonwealth. These facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to provide points of water access when and where practicable. For more information on water access projects funded by the Virginia Coastal Program go to the links provided under "Waterfront Recreational Land Acquisition" above.
- ***Waterfront Historic Properties.*** The Commonwealth has a long history of settlement and development, and much of that history has

involved both shorelines and near-shore areas. The protection and preservation of historic shorefront properties is primarily the responsibility of the **Department of Historic Resources**. Buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological interest are significant resources for the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is the policy of the Commonwealth and the Virginia Coastal Program to enhance the protection of buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and archaeological significance from damage or destruction when practicable.

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Virginia Coastal Program

Restoring Our Coastal Ecosystems, Strengthening Our Coastal Economy.



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629 East Main Street
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Virginia Coastal Program Laws and Enforceable Policies

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

*Virginia Department of Environmental Quality,
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Virginia Department of Historic Resources



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involved both shorelines and near-shore areas. The protection and preservation of historic shorefront properties is primarily the responsibility of the **Department of Historic Resources**. Buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological interest are significant resources for the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is the policy of the Commonwealth and the Virginia Coastal Program to enhance the protection of buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and archaeological significance from damage or destruction when practicable.

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