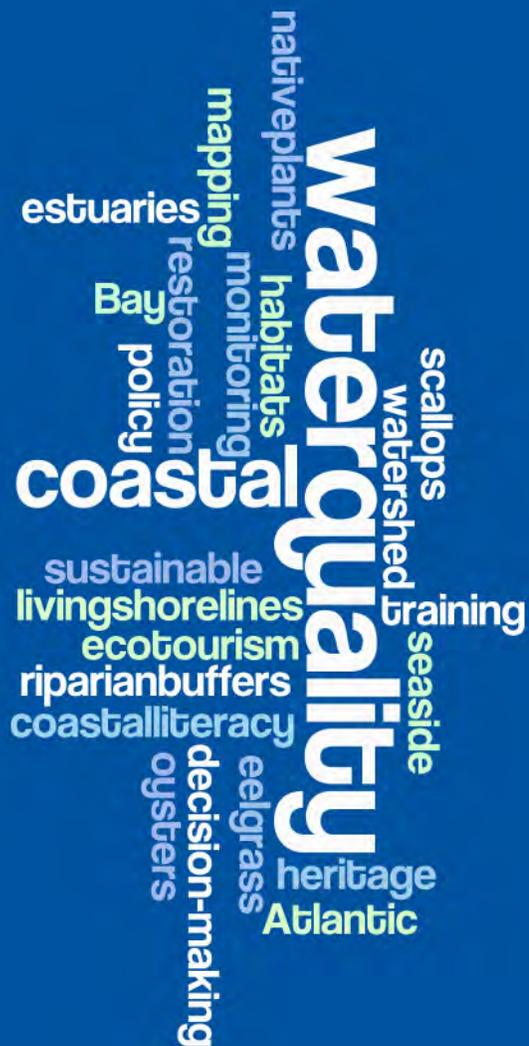


# Healthy Coasts, Healthy Communities: Highlighting the Successes of the Coastal Zone Management Act in Virginia

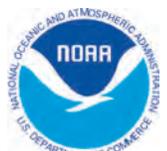
Clean coastal waters are fundamental to robust coastal economies. For example, estuaries are nursery grounds for 2/3 of commercial fish and shellfish. Congress recognized this critical connection in 1972 by adopting the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), which established state coastal zone management programs and research reserves. This federal-state partnership has been key in improving Virginia's coastal water quality and supporting its water-dependent economy. In Virginia in 2010, the shellfish and seafood industry contributed over \$130 million to the commonwealth's economy. The 40th anniversary of this landmark legislation provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate successes and discover additional innovative approaches and partnerships for the future.

In Virginia, the CZMA makes it possible for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to work together to achieve a common goal: healthy coastal waters and communities. These programs have made significant contributions toward improving coastal water quality in Virginia, and, with ongoing support, will continue to:

- **restore habitats**, such as riparian buffers, SAV beds and oyster reefs, along the coast and in coastal waters;
- **promote "Living Shorelines,"** an innovative approach to controlling shoreline erosion while enhancing habitats and water quality;
- **monitor water quality** to support river and bay assessments; increase understanding of the aquatic environment; and, ensure tax dollars are well spent.
- **educate and engage citizens** in behaviors that enhance and protect coastal resources, and; **provide training and tools to support decision-makers** in protecting coastal water quality and resources.



Chesapeake Bay  
 National Estuarine  
 Research Reserve  
 in Virginia



## Restoring Habitat



## Promoting Living Shorelines



## Engaging Citizens and Training Decision-Makers



## Monitoring Water Quality

