

Year: 2014

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA14NOS4190141
for the period from October 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

Task: 1	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Current Federal Total: \$295,235.00	
Coastal Program Management			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Submit w/next Semiannual Report	
Open	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 6/30/2016	Closeout: 9/30/2016

\$4,235 remains in Task 1 which will be transferred to one of the FY14 reprogramming requests (Task 13 or 14) for updated Coastal VEVA/GEMS work.

Task: 1.01	Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research R	Current Federal Total: \$112,368.00	
Coastal Management Support			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Progress Reports Constitute Final Product	
Closed	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 9/30/2015	Closeout: 12/31/2015

Task: 1.02	Virginia Commonwealth University	Current Federal Total: \$92,717.00	
Coastal Management GIS Support and Coastal GEMS Maintenance			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Attached	
Closed	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 9/30/2015	Closeout: 12/31/2015

Task: 1.03	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Current Federal Total: \$96,754.00	
Virginia CZM Program Outreach & Social Marketing			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Period Open	
Open	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 12/31/2016	Closeout: 3/31/2017

Remaining funds in this grant, which is currently extended with the grant award until March 2017, are earmarked for printing and distribution of the Spring 2016 issue of Virginia Coastal Zone Management magazine (\$7,683 in the contractual category).

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Outreach and Social Marketing Strategies	100%	
Printed Media – magazine production delayed	5% <input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/16
Events and Training	100%	
Electronic Media	100%	

Task: 2	Back Bay Restoration Foundation	Current Federal Total: \$2,500.00	
Virginia Beach Watersheds Forum			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Attached	
Closed	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 9/30/2015	Closeout: 12/31/2015

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Task: 3	Dept. of Environmental Quality - Environmental Impact Review	Current Federal Total:	\$222,426.00
EIR and Federal Consistency			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 4	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Current Federal Total:	\$0.00
WQIF Match - City of Richmond Treatment Plant Upgrade			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 5	Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$160,000.00
Permit Review & Compliance			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 6	Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Natural Heritage	Current Federal Total:	\$50,000.00
Habitat Conservation/Localities Liaison			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 7	Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Center for Coastal Resources Management	Current Federal Total:	\$42,000.00
Tidal Wetlands Management Technical Support			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 8	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Current Federal Total:	\$60,000.00
2014 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Distribution and Abundance Survey			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 12/31/2015 3/31/2016		

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Task: 9	Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Natural Heritage	Current Federal Total: \$27,000.00
Healthy Waters Program in the Coastal Zone		
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Submit w/next Semiannual Report
Closeout	Start: End: Closeout:	
	10/1/2014 3/31/2016 6/30/2016	

For the grant reporting period, the Environmental Scientist/Analyst with the Virginia Commonwealth University, Center for Environmental Studies in the Department of Life Sciences continued to serve as the Program Manager of the Virginia Healthy Waters Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage.

The reporting period included supporting the Director of the VA Oyster Shell Recycling Program (VOSRP) and the acquisition of materials to support the Program. During the reporting period, decals with Program logos, tagline stickers and banners were reproduced to continue to increase awareness of the Program. Additionally, the Program added the localities of Newport News, Hampton and began negotiations with Norfolk to provide the structure to expand their very limited shell recycling Program. Keep Norfolk Beautiful directly requested the VOSRP due to the demonstrated success and rigid process by which the Program conducts an asset assessment and engages local partners. Partnerships were forged with two chapters of the VA Master Naturalists (Peninsula and Tidewater, respectively) to provide a source of potential volunteers to participate in the movement of the material.

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Healthy Waters Program Growth and Admin	10%	Sept, 2016
Healthy Waters Capacity Development	15%	Sept, 2016
Healthy Waters resampling in the Coastal Zone	3%	Sept, 2016
Estuarine Healthy Waters, Oyster replenishment in the Coastal Zone	0%	Sept, 2016

Task: 10	Dept. of Conservation & Recreation	Current Federal Total: \$117,351.00
A Beautiful Woods - the Fee Purchase of 36.9% of a 1.145 acre dune woodlands to expand the Pickett's Harbor Natural Area Preserve, No		
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Previously Submitted
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:	
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015	

\$108,825 remains in this task after closing on the Beautiful Woods property in September 2015. The Southern Tip Partners (DCR, DGIF, TNC, USFWS and CZM) requested and agreed that remaining funds should be dedicated to an economic study of the costs and benefits of conserved land on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The CZM Manager set up a study team comprised of local government appointees: 2 from each of the following - Northampton County, Accomack County, the Eastern Shore Soil & Water District and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. The study team's role will be to approve the Request for Proposals, review the proposals that are received and select the proposal to be funded. Only Virginia academic institutions will be eligible applicants. A draft Request for Proposals was shared with both the local study team (Nov.3) and the Southern Tip Partnership (Nov 10). The local study team prefers to have the RFP focus solely on the costs and benefits of conservation easements on private lands while the Southern Tip Partnership prefers the study look at all conserved lands (i.e. including state parks, state natural area preserves, state wildlife management areas and federal wildlife refuges). The CZM Manager plans to send the draft RFP to a NOAA economist and a North Carolina academic economist for advice as to the breadth of a study that could be funded for the amount available. It is hoped that if a useful study structure can be framed for the E. Shore that this template could be repeated for the Chickahominy area. Once the E. Shore RFP process is completed, a reprogramming request will be submitted to NOAA via Grantsonline.

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Task: 11	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Current Federal Total: \$161,000.00
Seaside Restoration		
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout: 1/1/2015 12/31/2016 3/31/2017	

Eelgrass Restoration In October 2015, 42 acres were seeded at a density of 150,000 seeds per acre for a total of 6,300,000 seeds broadcast with all acres seeded in Spider Crab Bay. To date 68.3-million seeds have been broadcast into 202-ha (499-acres) in the Virginia Coastal Bays. In addition to the seeding process, in 2015, 12 1 m2 test plots of adult plants were planted at the south end of Spider Crab Bay. This is a region of sandy, low organic sediments. Previous attempts at seeding have not been successful here. However, we have noted several very small patches of naturally occurring eelgrass suggesting that conditions for growth of eelgrass are good but our germinated seeds may be getting washed out during wintertime storms. In October, 2015, adult plants were collected from nearby established eelgrass beds in Cobb Bay and planted the same day. One m2 quadrats were placed in random locations near the natural patches but in the area where seeding establishment has so far, not been successful. In each 1 m2 plot, 25 pairs of bare root adult shoots were gently inserted into the sediment by hand on 20 cm centers. Shoots were anchored with small bamboo stakes to insure they would not be washed out by winter storms. The December assessment of these eelgrass planting units showed a mean success rate of 70% with a range of 44-88%).

Water Quality Monitoring: Dataflow cruises for integrated measure of shallow water quality were recorded every 50 meters of the cruise track (e.g. salinity, temperature, turbidity, etc) and were successfully completed on 10/16/15, 11/24/15 and 3/1/16 for the South Bay, Cobb Bay, Spider Crab Bay and Hog Island Bay restoration areas. Taking similar measurements as the dataflow cruises, but taken at 15 minute intervals, the continuous water quality monitoring in South Bay and Spider Crab Bay were finally installed and operational again as of September 9, 2015, and have been operational with no interruption since their re-deployment. Telemetry of the data was operational as of Oct. 21, 2015, and can be viewed at: <https://stormcentral.waterlog.com/public/vims>.

Scallop Restoration: During the Fall of 2015, approximately 14,000 and 100,000 juvenile bay scallops were released directly into the seagrass beds in South Bay and Cobb Bay, respectively. Approximately, 170,000 juvenile bay scallops were retained in cages in the South Bay grassbed over winter. These scallops will be cleaned, split into additional bags in the coming spring and are expected to spawn during the late spring and fall of 2016.

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Final Report	0	Dec. 31, 2016

Task: 41	Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total: \$30,000.00
A-NPDC Technical Assistance Program		
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout: 10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015	

Task: 42	Crater Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total: \$30,000.00
Crater PDC Technical Assistance Program		
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout: 10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015	

Task: 43	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total: \$60,000.00
Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program		
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout: 10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015	

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Task: 44	Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$30,000.00
Middle Peninsula Technical Assistance Program			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 45	Northern Neck Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$30,000.00
Northern Neck PDC Technical Assistance Program			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 46	Northern Virginia Regional Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$30,000.00
NVRC Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 47	George Washington Regional Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$30,000.00
George Washington Regional Commission Technical Assistance Program			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 48	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$30,000.00
Richmond Regional PDC Technical Assistance			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 49	Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation	Current Federal Total:	\$31,000.00
Virginia Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Stranding Network			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	1/1/2015 12/31/2015 3/31/2016		

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Task: 50	TBD	Current Federal Total:	\$31,988.00
PDC Competitive Grants			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Funds Transferred Out of Task
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 51	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$12,000.00
Development and Implementation of Public Outreach and Adaptation Responses to Sea Level Rise			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Canceled
Cancelled	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 52	Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$40,000.00
Public Access Authority Private Land Giving Program Development for Enhancement of Public Water Access on the Middle Peninsula			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/15/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 53	Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$39,977.00
Captain Sinclair's Recreational Area Water Access Improvement and Native Coastal Landscaping Project			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	2/1/2015 11/30/2015 2/29/2016		

Task: 54	Northern Neck Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$16,035.00
Phase 2 Implementation of the Plant NNK (Northern Neck) Natives Campaign			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/15/2014 12/31/2015 3/31/2016		

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Task: 55	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$31,988.00
Brown's Island Dam Walk South Bank Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Demonstration			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Submit w/next Semiannual Report
Closeout	Start: End: Closeout:		
	7/15/2015 3/31/2016 6/30/2016		

RRPDC staff has worked with City of Richmond staff to determine the ideal location for the native habitat restoration. City of Richmond staff has supplied RRPDC staff with copies of design drawings for the selected planting location, which will be within the are shown in the 306a documentation approved by NOAA.

RRPDC staff are finalizing details and will have a completed subcontract soon for the City of Richmond and the RRPDC to sign. The subcontract will be submitted to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program for approval prior to official signature.

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
RRPDC and City of Richmond Subcontract	25%	6/1/2016
Site Layout and Design	80%	12/31/2016
Brown's Island Dam Walk South Bank Native Habitat Restoration <input type="checkbox"/>	0%	12/31/2016

Task: 91	TBD	Current Federal Total:	\$30,000.00
Routine Program Change and Section 309 Assessment/Strategy Development Assistance			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 3/31/2016 6/30/2016		

Virginia CZM staff met with DEQ leadership and received approval to move forward with a contract to the William & Mary Coastal Policy Clinic (CPC) to pilot narrative enforceable policies for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The CPC has submitted a draft scope of work. Once the scope is finalized it will be sent to NOAA for approval.

Task: 92	Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$50,000.00
Policy Development for Virginia's Working Waterfronts Plan			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 12/31/2015 3/31/2016		

Task: 93	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Current Federal Total:	\$135,000.00
Shoreline Management Planning			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 94	TBD	Current Federal Total:	\$0.00
Cumulative and Secondary Impacts: Land & Water Quality Protection Competitive Grants			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Funds Transferred Out of Task
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

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Task: 94.01	Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$40,000.00
Drainage and Roadside Ditching Authority			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Attached
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	11/1/2014 9/30/2015 12/31/2015		

Task: 94.02	Northern Virginia Regional Commission	Current Federal Total:	\$40,000.00
Land and Water Quality Protection Northern Virginia Phase I: Municipal Policies for Managing Stormwater with Green Infrastructure			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Submit w/next Semiannual Report
Closeout	Start: End: Closeout:		
	11/1/2014 3/31/2016 6/30/2016		

Product #1

Title: Common Drivers and Regulatory Framework in Northern Virginia

Local tree canopy and tree preservations ordinances/codes were compiled and summarized in a table that contains a link to the entire section of code. The codes were compared to VDOF tree density per acre standards and urban tree canopy goals. The 2014 TMDL Action Plan Guidance for MS4s, output from the Urban Stormwater Workgroup, and reports from Chesapeake Bay Program Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panels have also been reviewed, compiled and summarized for relevancy to Northern Virginia localities. The information developed for this product is contained in Chapter 1 of the final deliverable.

Product #2

Title: Green Infrastructure Practices that Make Sense in Northern Virginia

Build out analyses for the following watersheds were conducted using CommunityViz software; Neabsco and Powell's Creek in Prince William County, Windy Run, Spout Run, and Four Mile Run in Arlington and Fairfax Counties. The build-outs were based on current zoning (Scenario 1) and a higher density zoning (Scenario 2). The results of the buildout analyses allowed for determining the effects of full buildout and more dense buildout on canopy and impervious landcover. The i-Tree Hydro model was used to simulate the effects of those scenarios on streamflow and pollutants of concern. Community Viz and GIS were used to conduct "leaf out" analysis to determine how to integrate forest cover goals into a full buildout scenario and determine priority locations for canopy preservation and/or canopy restoration and also to determine what the area of land is that could potentially be converted from grass or impervious to forest or tree planting credits and what that translates into in terms of nutrient and sediment credits for the Bay TMDL.

Product # 3

Title: Green Infrastructure Policy and Implementation Strategy Recommendations

Meetings were held with Prince William County Department of Public Works and Fairfax County Dept. of Urban Forestry to discuss how the modeling output could best be utilized by the counties. Feedback from these meetings is included in the final report. Meetings were also held with members of the Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel, US Forest Service, and Center for Watershed Protection to discuss implications of this project in a wider context. This led to a partnership between NVRC and the Center for Watershed Protection to test out the new tree planting credit and presentations to the MS4 Workgroup, Northern VA Urban Forestry Roundtable, and Urban Stormwater Workgroup scheduled for this spring.

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Common Drivers and Regulatory Framework in Northern Virginia	100%	
Green Infrastructure Practices that Make Sense in Northern Virginia	100%	
Green Infrastructure Policy and Implementation Strategy Recommendations	100%	

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Task: 95.01	Virginia Commonwealth University	Current Federal Total:	\$60,000.00
Virginia Ocean Plan and Atlantic Sturgeon EMF Study			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 7/31/2016	Closeout: 9/30/2016

Due to the availability of funding to support the OPSE Coordinator for the Collaborative Fisheries Planning project, the Section 309 grant was reprogrammed to include research relevant to the collection of data demonstrating any electromagnetic field impacts produced by high voltage (HV), submarine transmission cables leading from offshore wind generation facilities that could affect foraging or migratory behaviors of electro-responsive fishes, including migratory, Federally-listed, endangered Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*). A partnership between the VCU Department of Life Sciences and the VCU School of Engineering was forged to conduct the study. VCU Engineering modeled, designed, and built a high-precision Magnetic and Electromagnetic (M/EM) Field Generator as well as an array of magnetometers (sensors) that allow researchers to track and record M/EM values continuously during each experiment. In the laboratory, sturgeon biologists from the VCU Center for Environmental Studies utilized visual tracking software and data gathered by high-speed cameras to quantify and evaluate a range of fish behaviors in response to magnitude and orientation of M/EM fields.

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Report on Ocean Stakeholder Engagement and VA Ocean Users Needs	70%	Sept, 2016

Task: 95.02	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Current Federal Total:	\$0.00
Virginia Ocean Plan: Community Specialist			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Canceled
Cancelled	Start: 10/1/2014	End: 9/30/2015	Closeout: 12/31/2015

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Task: 95.03	Longwood University	Current Federal Total:	\$65,000.00
Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan Refinement and Implementation of Balloon Reduction Social Marketing Campaign			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: 11/15/2014	End: 3/31/2017	Closeout: 6/30/2017

Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW), its contractors, and partners along with CZM staff worked on the following activities this period:

Product #1. Further Refinement and Phase 1 Implementation of the VA Marine Debris Reduction Plan (VMGRP). CVW coordinated with CZM to engage additional partners and informed the public about Virginia's marine debris reduction efforts. A presentation about the VMGRP at the VA Water Monitoring Council Conference (11-19-15) resulted in discussions with a stormwater management manager from Roanoke about water pollution caused by polystyrene building materials, and initiated discussions with state parks regarding balloon release and sky lantern policies (see below).

Policies regarding balloon releases: After compiling a list of policies at US colleges that restrict balloon releases, and creating an informative fact sheet, CVW staff and interns met with policy makers at Longwood University to draft a policy that bans balloon and sky lantern releases on campus as well as at all university events. This new policy could be a model for other institutions. CVW staff met with a resource specialist for 7 VA state parks regarding how parks are often a location for balloon releases. Results: the district manager as well as all 7 park managers will specifically mention balloons and sky lanterns as litter in future park-generated special use permits, flyers, brochures, informational kiosks, etc. CVW staff contacted the Virginia Green Travel Alliance and the Virginia Green Program about adding language to their guidelines that would discourage the mass release of balloons and sky lanterns at events and festivals, as well as conferences and other meetings. VA Green anticipates that these changes will be made in their next update of guidelines (July 2016).

Clam netting: CVW requested data from VIMS regarding clam aquaculture on the east coast in order to determine if derelict clam netting is just a VA problem, or if it is a multi-state mid-Atlantic issue. We determined that it is mainly a VA issue. Preliminary discussions took place about the possibility of creating a net removal program.

Education and Outreach: Project staff continued to work with several Virginia student groups working on trash-related issues as part of the international contest "FIRST LEGO League."

Product #2. Conduct Pre-Campaign Qualitative and Quantitative Research (balloon social marketing). Project staff conducted three focus groups: two VA Beach (12-15-15) and one in Roanoke (1-20-16). OpinionWorks did participant recruitment; facilitation of the focus groups was done by Virginia Witmer, CZM and Katie Register, CVW. Additional assistance was received from Mark Swingle (VA Aquarium), Christina Trapani and Kathy O'Hara (research partners). Quantitative and qualitative research to date has been compiled and presented to many audiences including the VA Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) Conference (11-19-15), the NOAA Marine Debris Program regional Web-ex (12-2-15) and the VA Marine Debris Summit (March 2016). Partners continued research on compelling messages and alternatives to influence people's behaviors regarding balloon releases. CZM and CVW have received a verbal one-year extension (on 11-4-15) from NOAA for the Marine Debris Program grant given initial background research has taken longer than anticipated.

Product #3 - No progress yet

Product #4. Monitoring Balloon Debris. Eight surveys were completed in this period in order to collect base-line data about balloon-related litter. Monitoring was done on five barrier islands: Fisherman Island (3 surveys), Hog (1), Smith (1), Cedar (2) and False Cape State Park (1). More than 950 balloon litter items were recorded during this period (compared to about 780 in the previous period). Balloon litter was the most frequently found littered item on Cedar Island, and was second only to plastic bottles on Fisherman Island. Three weather balloons were also found (2 on Cedar, 1 on Hog). Partners providing transportation and access were: VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, VA Aquarium, and the VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation (state park). Shotgun was found during these surveys were collected and sent to the VA Institute of Marine Science for its ongoing research into this form of marine debris.

Product #5 - No progress yet

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Product #1: Refinement and Implementation of Phase 1 of the VA Marine Debris Reduction Plan	100%	
Product #2: Conduct Pre-Campaign Qualitative and Quantitative Research (balloon social marketing)	95%	8-15-16
Product #3: Production of Campaign Strategy Multi-Media Materials	0%	3-15-17
Product #4: Monitoring balloon debris	100%	
Product #5: Final Report for A Rising Concern: Reducing Balloon Releases and Debris through a Social Marketing Campaign	0%	9-15-17

Year: 2014

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA14NOS4190141
for the period from October 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

Task: 95.04 Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation Current Federal Total: \$100,000.00
Offshore Energy Planning: Continued Documentation of Megafauna off Virginia's Coast Using Aerial Survey

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Submit w/next Semiannual Report
Closeout	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	11/15/2014	3/31/2016	6/30/2016		

One day of aerial survey effort was completed in the Virginia Wind Energy Area (VA WEA) from October 1 – March 30, 2015. During this period, we conducted the final aerial survey on November 1, 2015. A total of 6 transect lines (556.0 km) flown over 3.42 hours were covered in the VA WEA during the reporting period. The average Beaufort Sea State during the November survey was a BSS 2.

A total of 3 sightings of 18 cetaceans were encountered. Each of these sightings were recorded while “on effort” (i.e. on a designated transect line and actively surveying). Two species of cetaceans were photo-documented. Total numbers for each of the species encountered included bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*; n=18) and a humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*; n=1).

Only loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles were documented and included five on effort sightings of five individuals. A total of 36 vessels were recorded and included 16 large vessels (e.g. tankers, car carriers, container, and naval vessels) and 20 small vessels (e.g. recreational vessels- sail, parasail, sport fishing boats).

Survey data from all CZM grants (NA12NOS4190027, NA13NOS4190135, NA14NOS4190141) has been finalized and combined for analysis, map making and is currently being integrated into the final CZM report. The final report will be produced and all aerial survey spatial data submitted to OBIS-SeaMap by 30 April, 2016.

Final Products	% Completion	Anticipated Completion Date
Aerial Surveys	100%	November 2015
Data Analysis	70%	30 April 2016
Contract Report	50%	30 April 2016
Spatial Data	100%	30 April 2016