Virginia FY10

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Mission

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program develops solutions to coastal management issues to achieve more vital and sustainable coastal communities and ecosystems.

Program Goals and Objectives

The Virginia CZM Program links 11 state agencies, 8 coastal Planning District Commissions and 44 Tidewater cities and counties to:

- Protect and restore coastal resources, habitats and species; protect air quality; restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters; and reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property.
- Promote sustainable ecotourism, increase and improve public access; provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture; and, promote renewable energy production and appropriate extraction of minerals.
- Promote informed decisions by making available up-to-date technical advice/scientific data; avoid and minimize coastal resource use conflicts; ensure sustainable development on the coast and; support water dependent access.

Key Accomplishments

- Partnered with MD, DE, NJ and NY CZM Programs, through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), and launched the nation's first on-line regional ocean mapping and planning portal with 30+ data layers (www.midatlanticocean.org).
- Produced and marketed a comprehensive map of ecologically valuable lands and waters synthesized from partner agencies' datasets to aid Virginia's coastal localities and other conservation partners in targeting high value areas for blue-green infrastructure protection – natural features of water and land critical to coastal ecosystem health.
- Supported eight regional planning district commissions (PDCs) to promote adoption of local plans and ordinances to protect blue and green infrastructure and establish conservation corridors.
- Assessed the potential impacts of sea-level rise and severe storm events to both developed and natural areas in three coastal PDCs and supported regional efforts to establish a framework for local response to these issues.

Key Priorities

- Ocean planning for Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region – enhancement of the MARCO Portal to incorporate additional new data (biological and human use data are high priorities) and decision support tools to support renewable energy siting and habitat protection. Continued funding is also needed to support a rigorous stakeholder engagement process.
- Climate change planning and adaptation at the state and local level, including the promotion of "living shorelines" to protect property and habitat in the face of rising sea levels.
- Increased funding to protect working waterfronts and stimulate job development in marine fisheries and aquaculture.
- Increased funding for land acquisition and public access construction to stimulate Virginia's ecotourism industry and ensure that key habitats vulnerable to sea level rise have space to migrate inland.
- Continued funding for restoration of eelgrass, oysters and bay scallops on the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore to expand job growth in seafood production and ecotourism.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality serves as the lead agency and CZM staff are housed there.

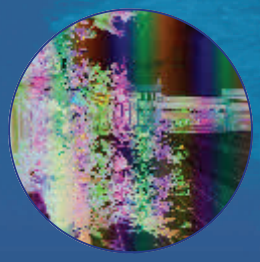
Coastal Population in 2010:
5,426,000

Miles of Coastline:
3,315

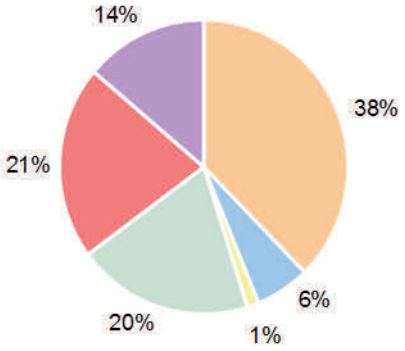
CZMA Funds:
$2,566,000

State and Other Matching Funds:
$2,030,000

Total:
$4,596,000



How was the money spent?



Total CZMA Funds
$4,596,000

Coordination and Public Involvement - $1,731,920 (38%)

Managed 46 FY10 grants, provided mid-Atlantic ocean and coastal policy development support, coordinated collaboration with more than 35 stakeholders, monitored core agency activities, and updated the program through Routine Program Changes and Amendments.
Reviewed 212 development projects for consistency with Virginia's CZM laws.
Trained 40 "Community Leaders" in "Plant Eastern Shore Natives" social marketing campaign.
Revised and implemented Virginia Environmental Education Master Plan with VA Dept of Education and natural resource agencies.
Reviewed 988 projects for impacts to natural resources.

Community Planning and Development - $634,438 (14%)

Updated comprehensive plan amendments for two waterfront villages on the Eastern Shore.
Mapped green infrastructure-natural areas, and gray infrastructure- roads and government-owned facilities, on Northern Neck of Virginia that could be impacted by sea level rise.
Created planning tool to improve water quality by prioritizing stream corridors for re-vegetation in the Richmond region.
Facilitated adoption of blue infrastructure-aquatic resources, and green-land infrastructure maps by conservation organizations to help secure easement and property acquisitions in Northern Virginia.

Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration - $980,624 (21%)

Conducted 418 compliance Inspections, including 288 inspections permitted by VMRC and 130 permitted by local wetlands boards.
Responded to 1,926 information requests, conducted 55 field visits and 199 meetings, produced 360 advisory reports and documented 3,980 website hits regarding shoreline management in coastal Virginia.
Mapped 79,675 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation in Virginia's coastal waters.
Responded to 309 strandings of marine mammals and sea turtles in Virginia.
Developing migratory bird habitat protection project.

Public Access - $60,000 (1%)

Created Rivers of the Richmond Region Public Access Guide.

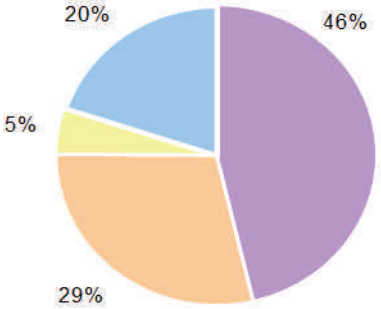
Coastal Hazards - $280,954 (6%)

Developed framework for adaptation to climate change and analysis of economic impacts of sea level rise in Hampton Roads.
Completed kit including a vulnerability assessment tool, case studies, and sample ordinances to assist Middle Peninsula localities in addressing climate change and sea level rise impacts.
Identified vulnerable shoreline structures and developed strategies to prepare for projected sea level rise inundation and storm surge flooding in Northern VA.

Coastal Water Quality Protection - $908,064 (20%)

Reduced nitrogen load by 829,150 lbs/yr and phosphorus load by 6,850 lbs/yr by retrofitting City of Richmond's wastewater treatment plant.

Who received the Federal funds?



Total Federal Funds
$2,566,000

Other Partners- $129,000 (5%)

The Nature Conservancy
Environmental Law Institute
Back Bay Restoration Foundation

State Partners - $1,188,363 (46%)

Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Academic Institutions - $510,334 (20%)

Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Community and Other Technical Assistance - $738,303 (29%)

Accomack-Northampton PDC
Middle Peninsula PDC
Northern Virginia RC
George Washington RC
Accomack County
Northampton County
Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center
Crater PDC
Hampton Roads PDC
Northern Neck PDC,
Richmond Regional PDC

Additional Partners:

	U.S. DOI, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	VA Dept. of Transportation
VA Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Mid-Atlantic CZM Programs	NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
VA Dept. of Forestry	VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries	VA Dept. of Health
VA Dept. of Historic Resources	VA Dept. of Mines, Minerals and Energy	Chesapeake Bay NERR, VA
VA Economic Development Partnership	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	VA Sea Grant

Return on Federal Investment

In 1999 VA CZM initiated oyster restoration efforts using over $1.5 million and additional leveraged funds to construct more than 80 sanctuary reefs and 1000 acres of harvest area. In 2007, as pressure mounted to open the sanctuary areas to harvest, the VA CZM reconvened its partners and created an innovative rotational harvest and a buy-back program for large oysters that were returned to the sanctuaries. The pay-off for this investment has been huge – 23,000 bushels worth $575,000 in 2001 to 236,000 bushels worth $8.26 million in 2011.

For More Information

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