



The Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan

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1st Virginia Marine Debris Summit

- Pre-Summit Survey
- 1st Summit



Photo: VA Coastal Zone Management Program

1st Virginia Marine Debris Summit

Feb 2013



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Big take-away: We need a PLAN!





Collaborative process to develop The Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan

- Leadership Team
- More survey
- Interviews

What specific items cause the most damage?

- Plastics
 - Micro plastics
- Bags
- Food & Beverage
- Balloons
- Cigarette Butts



Most achievable – Land-Based

Plastic bags (tax, ban, increase recycling, allow local laws)

Beverage & food related

Cigarette butts and smoking related

Balloon releases

Manufacturing facilities

Uncovered trucks

Micro-plastics

Dumpsters & trash receptacle maintenance



Most achievable– Ocean-Based

1. Abandoned fishing gear
2. Waste from ships
3. Vessels, lost, abandoned or derelict



Developing the Plan

- Most Effective Strategies
- Gaps in Knowledge
- A ten-year horizon
- Collaborative effort

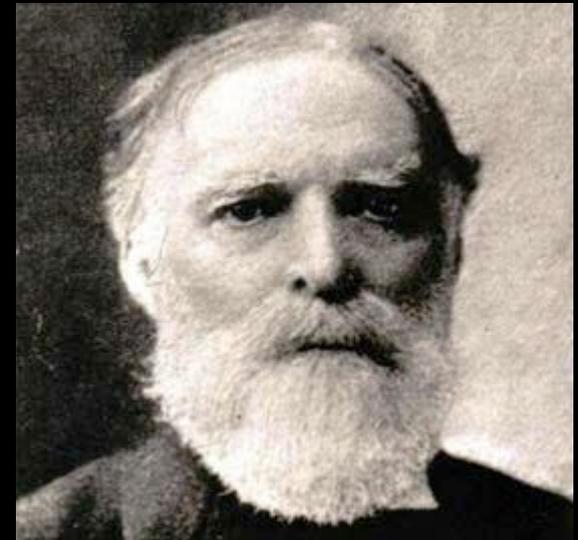


Developing the Plan

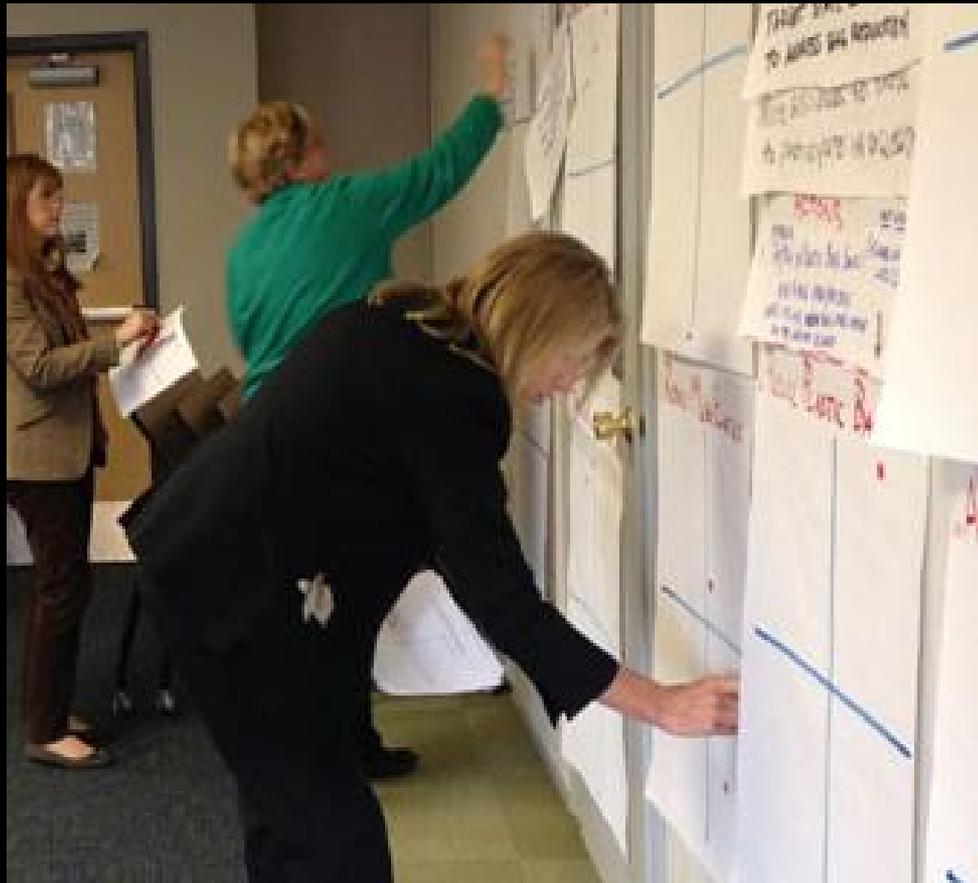
- What is Feasible?
 - Politically
 - Socially
 - Economically

Home Rule vs. Dillon Rule

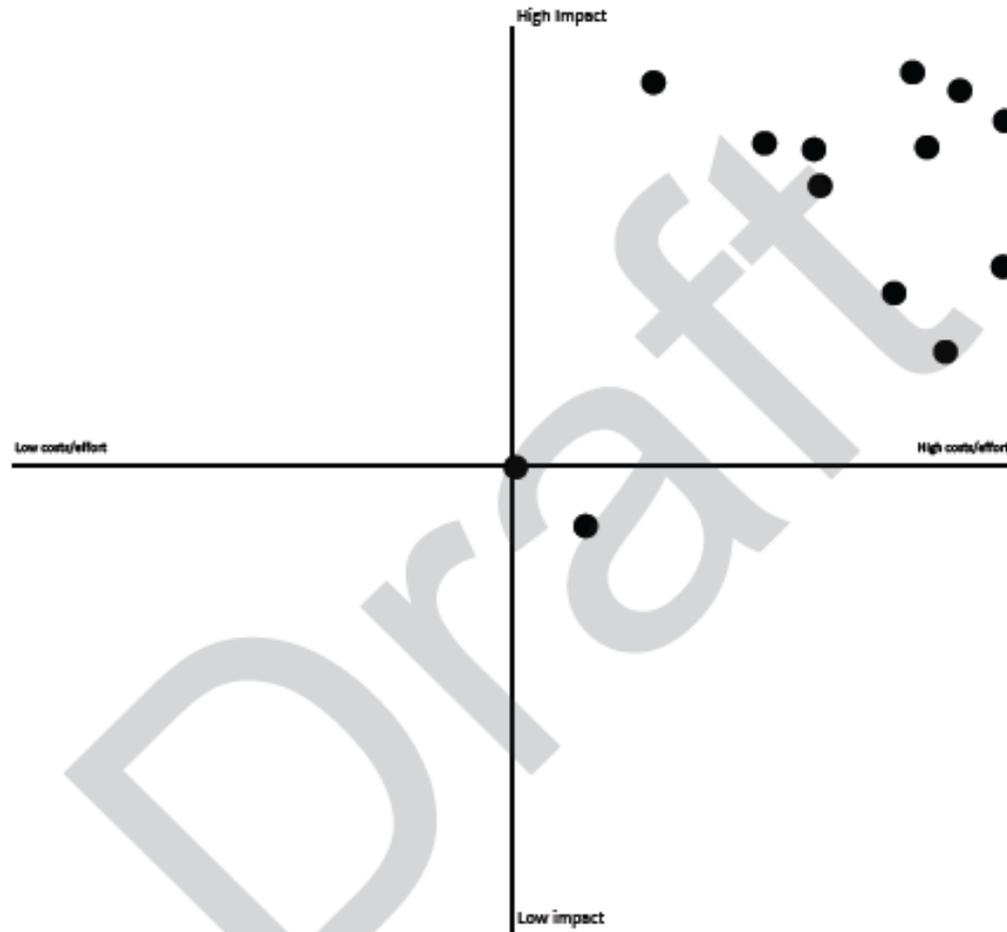
- Virginia is a “Dillon Rule State” meaning there is little local government authority
- Home Rule States give more authority to local governments



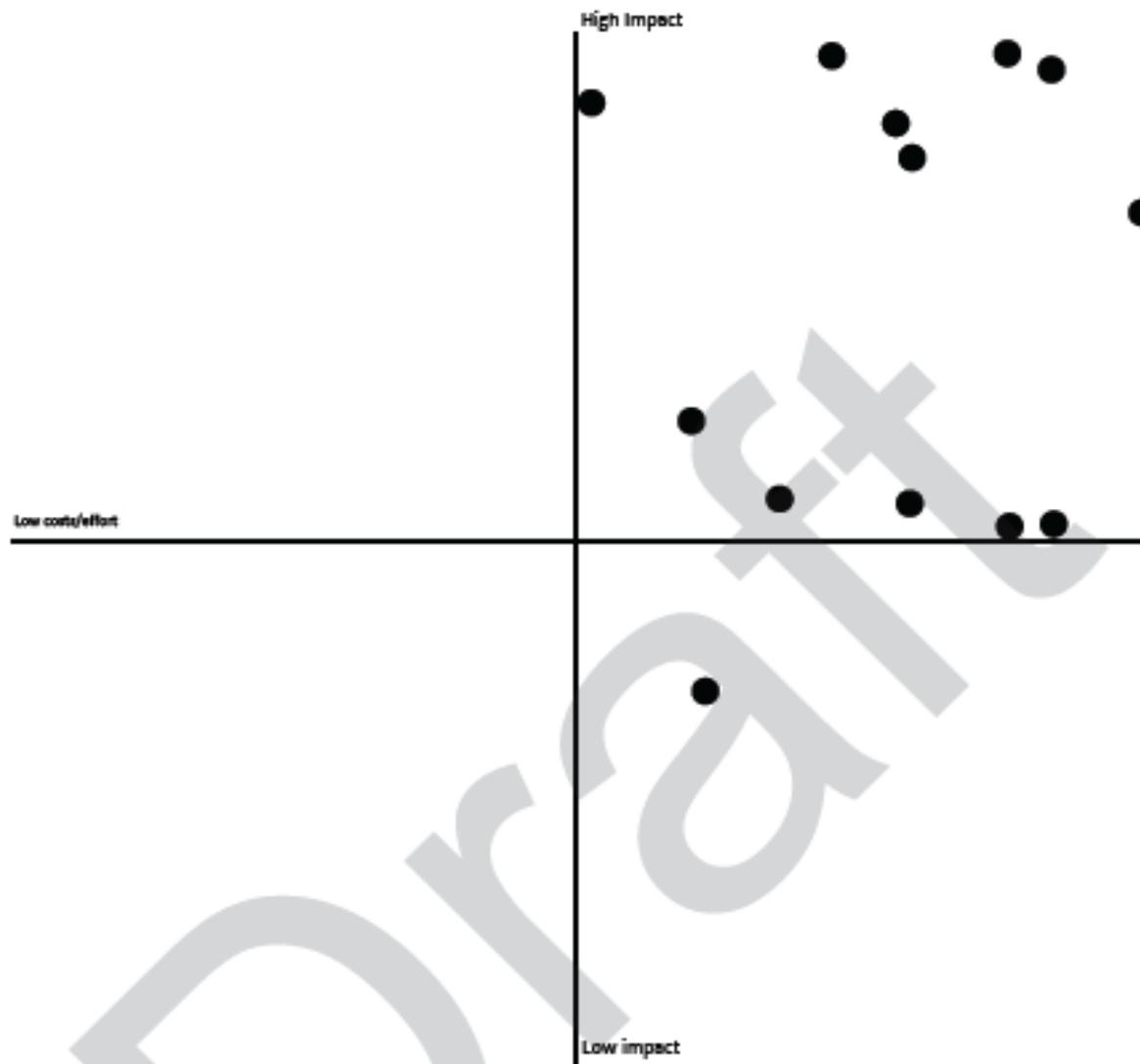
Bang for Buck



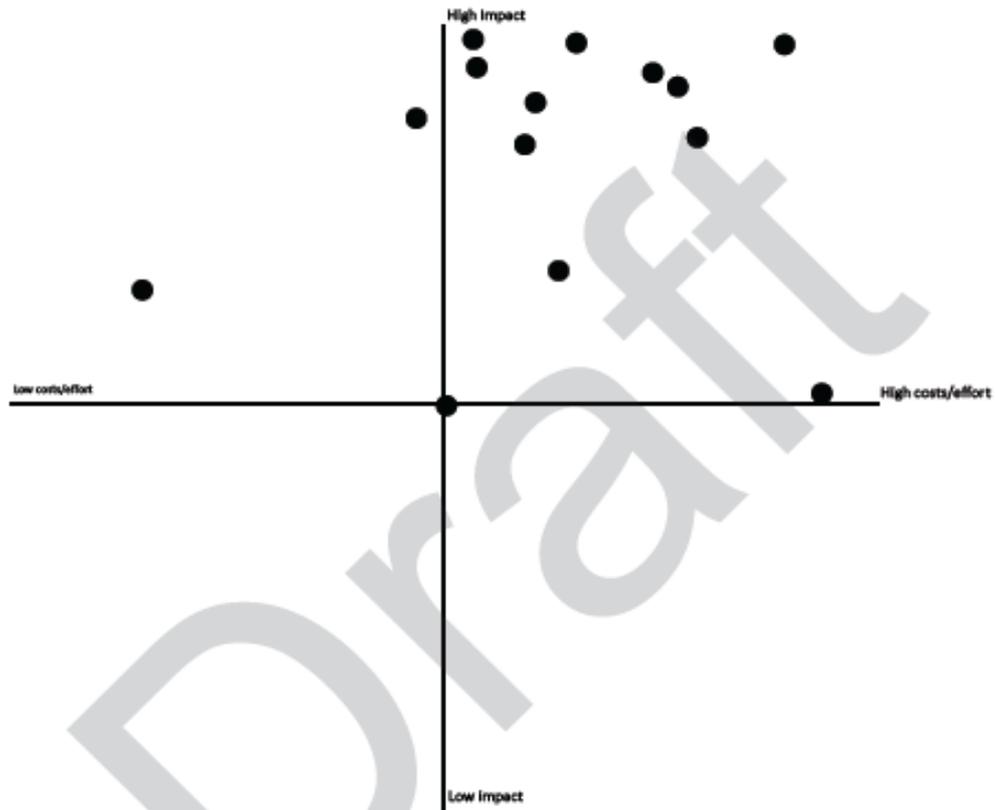
Increase Enforcement



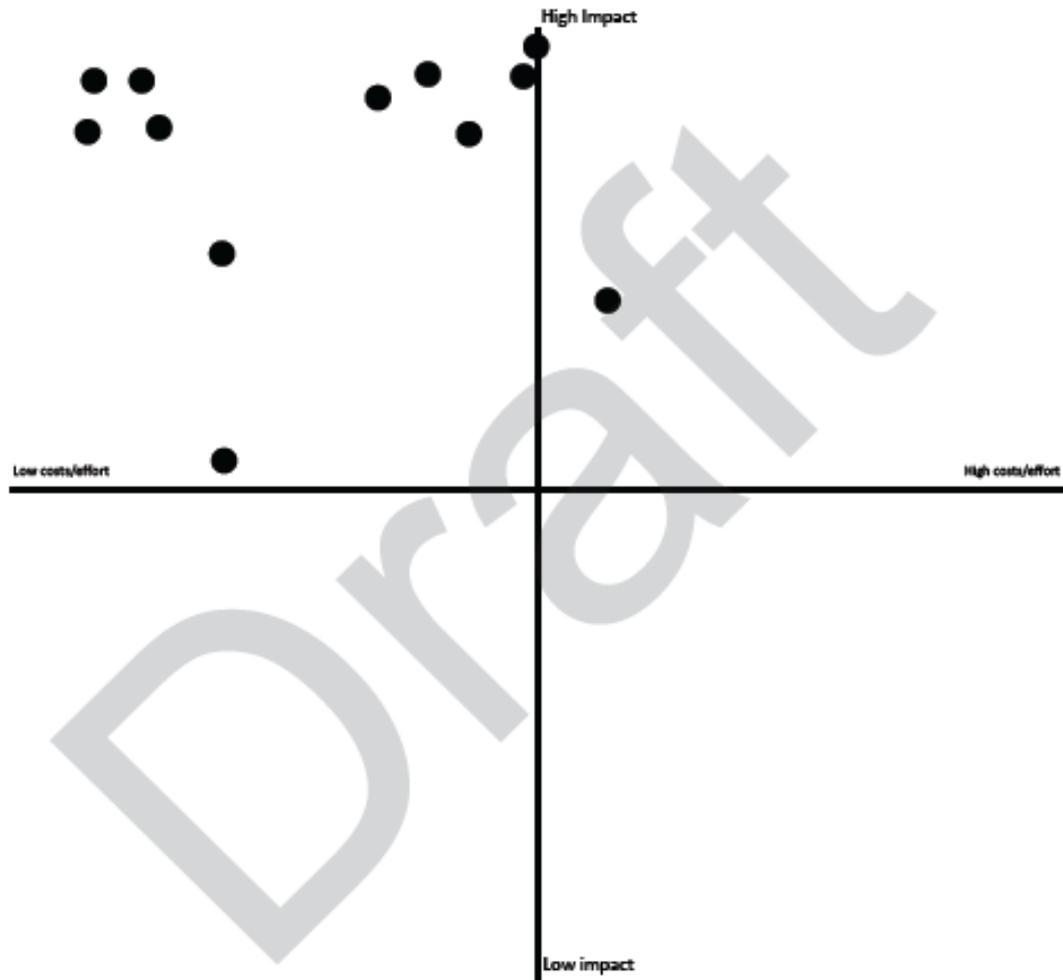
Increase Research Fill Data Gaps



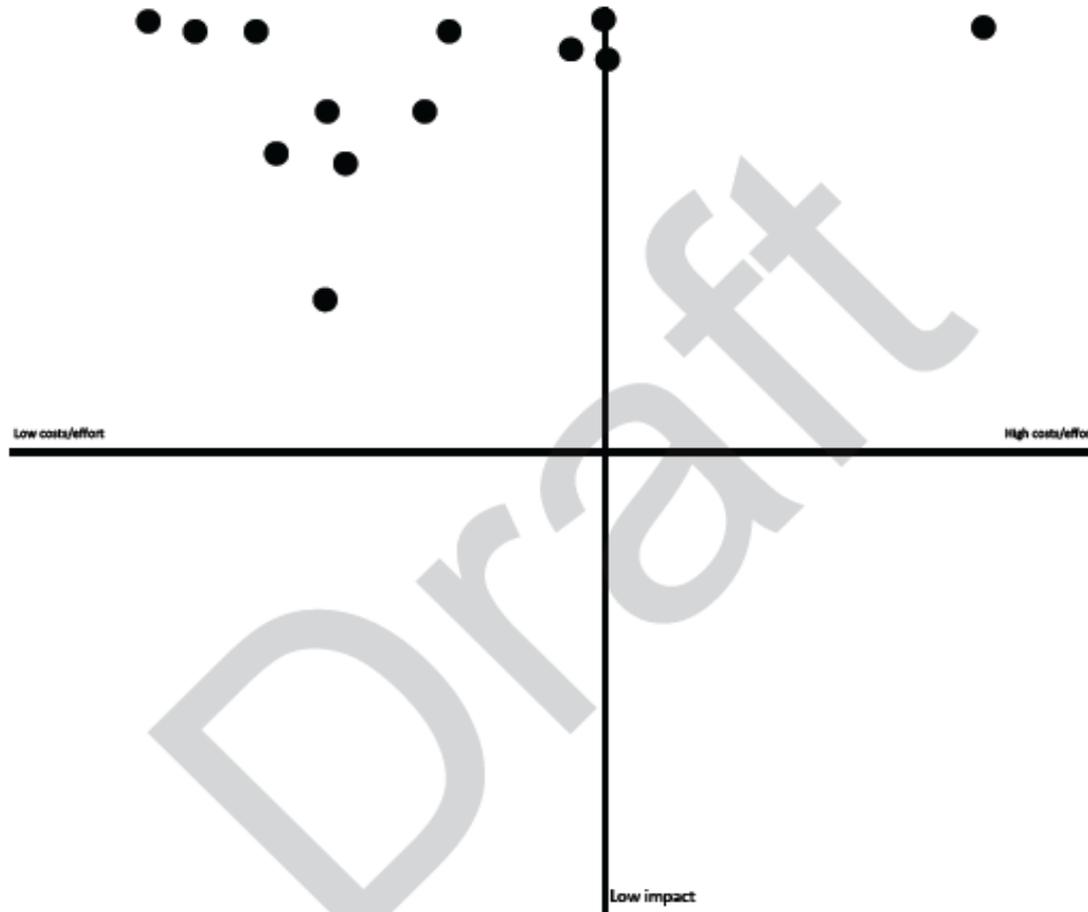
Reduce Beverage Food Related Litter



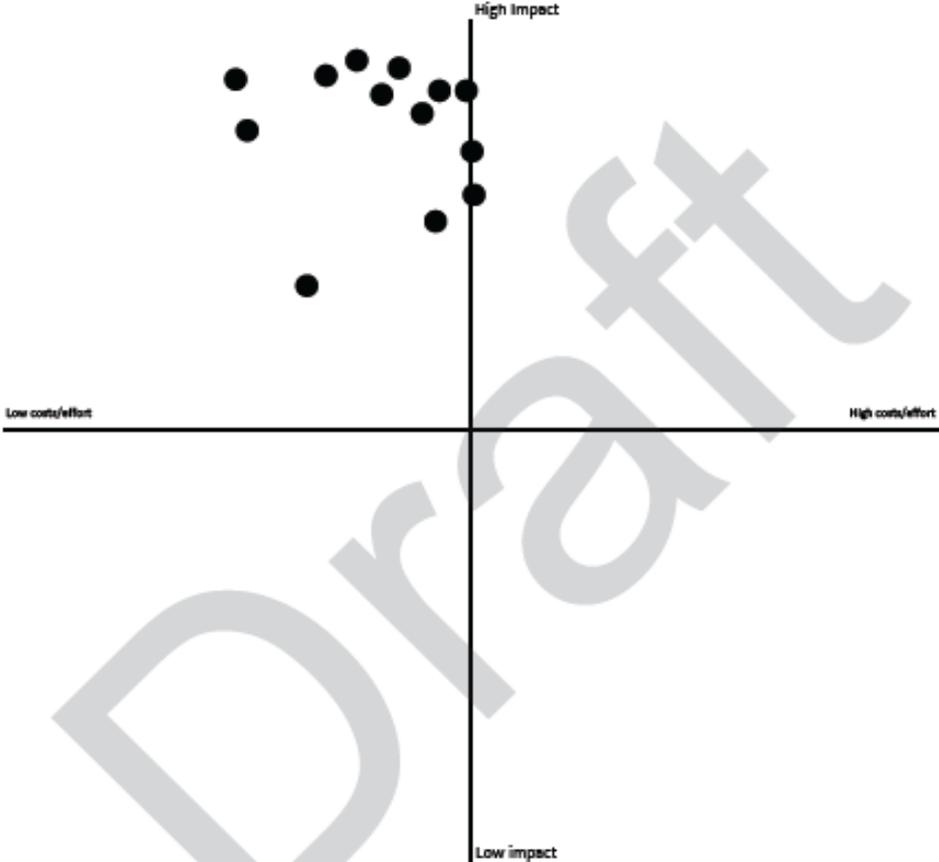
Reduce Balloon Releases



Increase Collaboration



Plastic Bag Control Measure



Improve Stormwater Management



Next Steps

October 2014

Developing a Marine Debris Reduction Plan for Virginia

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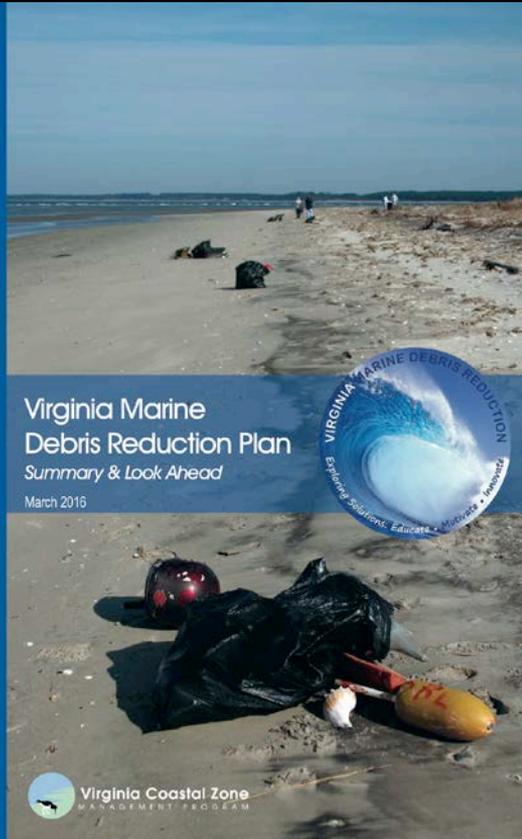
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Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan Summary & Look Ahead

March 2016



Highlights of the plan

- 5 Goals
- 5 Strategies
- 56 Actions
- A living document – dynamic as situations change. For example, the new Federal law on microbeads in cosmetics.

Five Goals

VA Marine Debris Reduction Plan

1. Leadership
2. Prevention
3. Interception
4. Innovation
5. Removal and Clean up

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Five Strategies

1. Changing behaviors
2. Fostering collaboration
3. Increasing knowledge
4. Securing adequate funding
5. Improving regulations



Examples

1. Changing behaviors
2. Fostering collaboration
3. Increasing knowledge
4. **Securing adequate funding**
5. Improving regulations

The annual litter tax

- **\$10/year** if you sell groceries.
- An **addition \$15** is paid if you sell soft drinks & beer.
- **Generates ~ \$2 million** annually
 - Distributed to local recycling and litter prevention programs.

The annual litter tax

- This tax was not “indexed”
 - It does not raise with inflation
- Has not increased since it was first passed in 1976 – 40 years.
- If it had kept up with inflation, the annual tax revenue would be **nearly \$8 million.**



Not in the Virginia state-level plan:

- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Deposit bill for bottles
- Buy-back or take-back programs

Who is involved in moving the plan forward?

– Everyone

- Priorities can be worked on by many: researchers, NGOs, local governments
- Some actions require “special” attention

– VA Marine Debris Advisory Committee

- State & Federal Agencies, NGOs, Academia

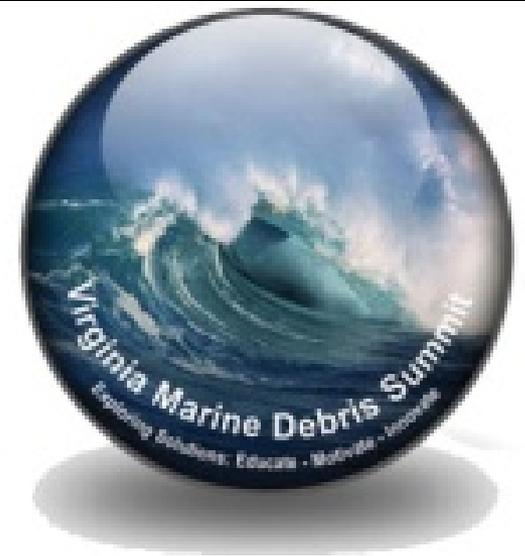
Next steps

- VA CZM Program's 5-year commitment
- Mid-term goals
 - Some discussed by the Advisory Committee
 - More ideas to come from YOU.

Your Role in the Deep Dives

- Important outcome of this Summit will be the Deep Dives
- Critical to laying out the next couple of years
- Help the Advisory Committee set priorities.
- “Wall of Ideas” & post-Summit survey

Thank you



**CLEAN
VIRGINIA
WATERWAYS**

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