



Virginia Marine Debris Summit

Exploring Solutions that Educate, Motivate and Innovate



Laura McKay



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Thanks to our Summit Planning Team



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM





**SUBAQUEOUS
LANDS**
MRC

DUNES
MRC &
Local Wetlands
Boards



WETLANDS
MRC, DEQ &
Local Wetlands
Boards



**SHORELINE
SANITATION**
Dept. Health



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FISHERIES
DGIF & MRC



AIR POLLUTION
DEQ



LEAD AGENCY

**NONPOINT SOURCE
WATER POLLUTION**
DEQ, DCR & Local Governments



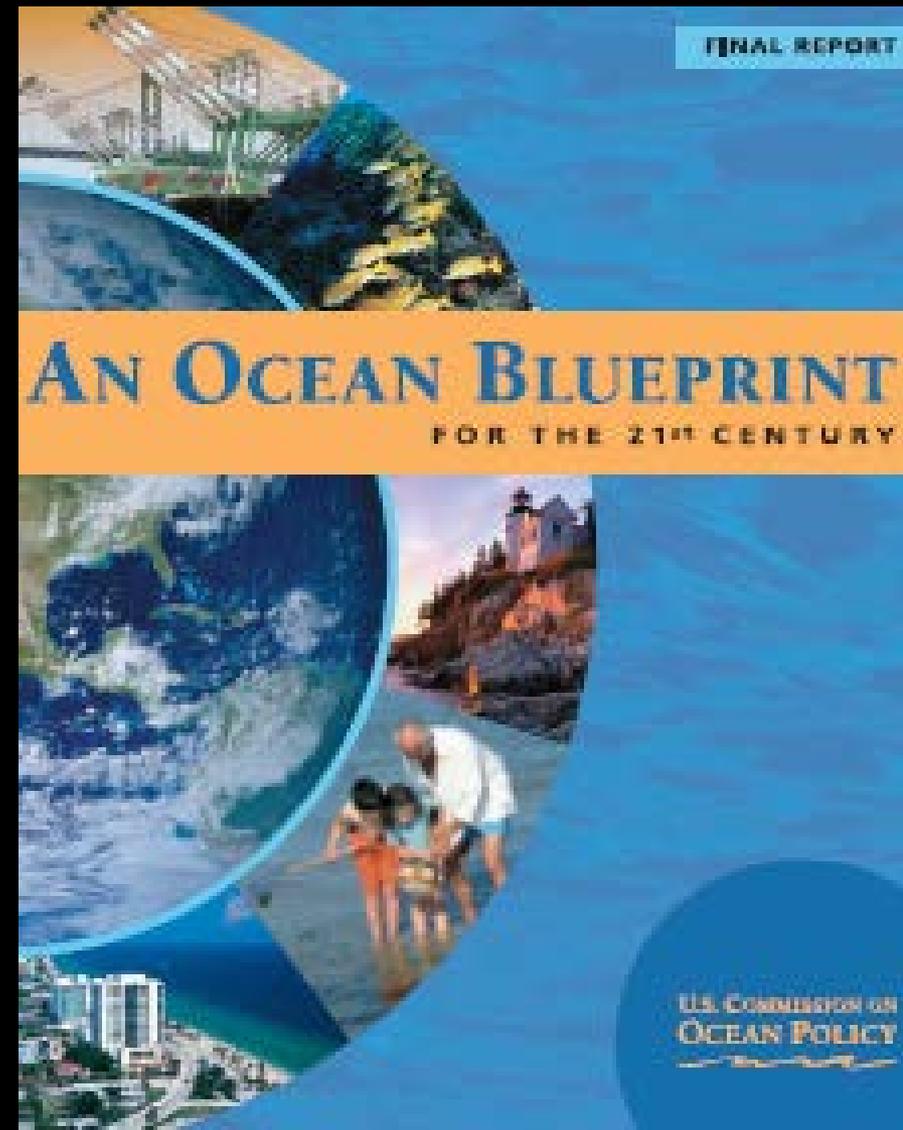
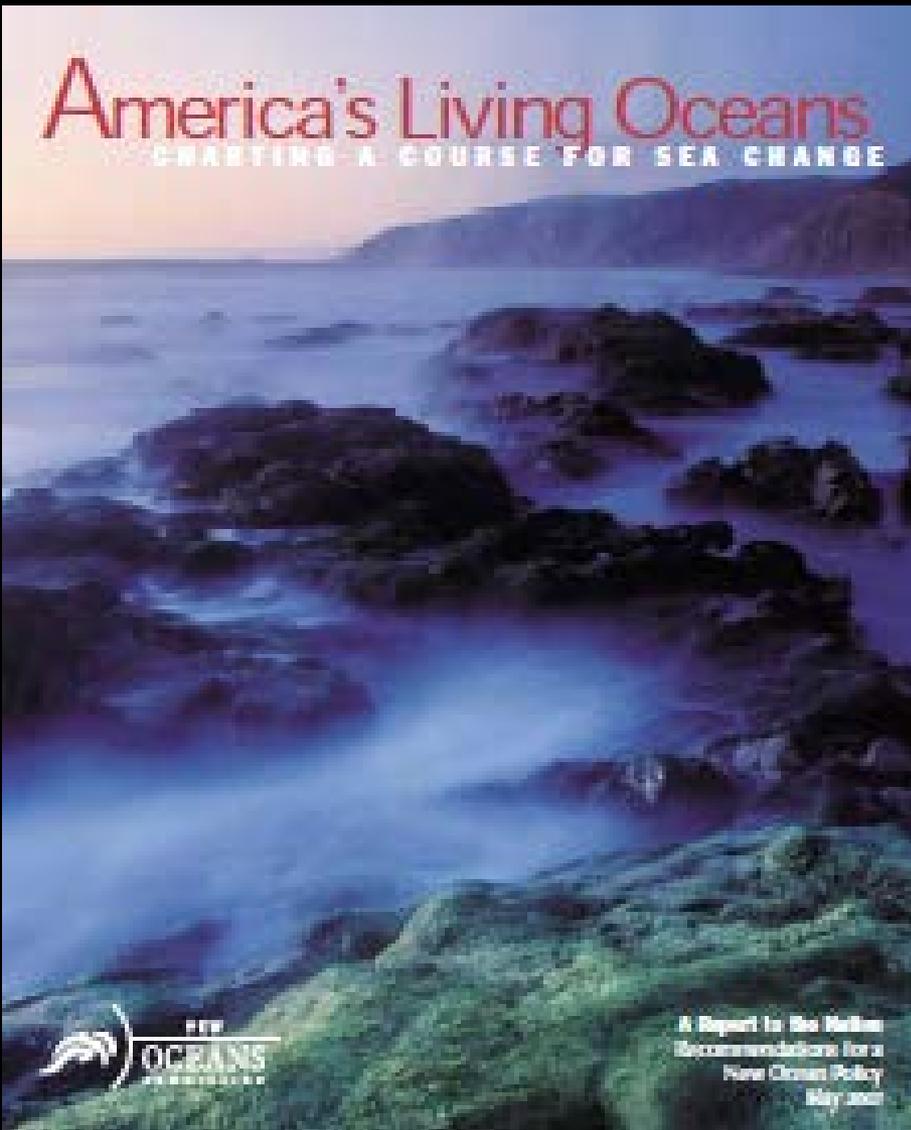
**POINT SOURCE
WATER
POLLUTION**
DEQ



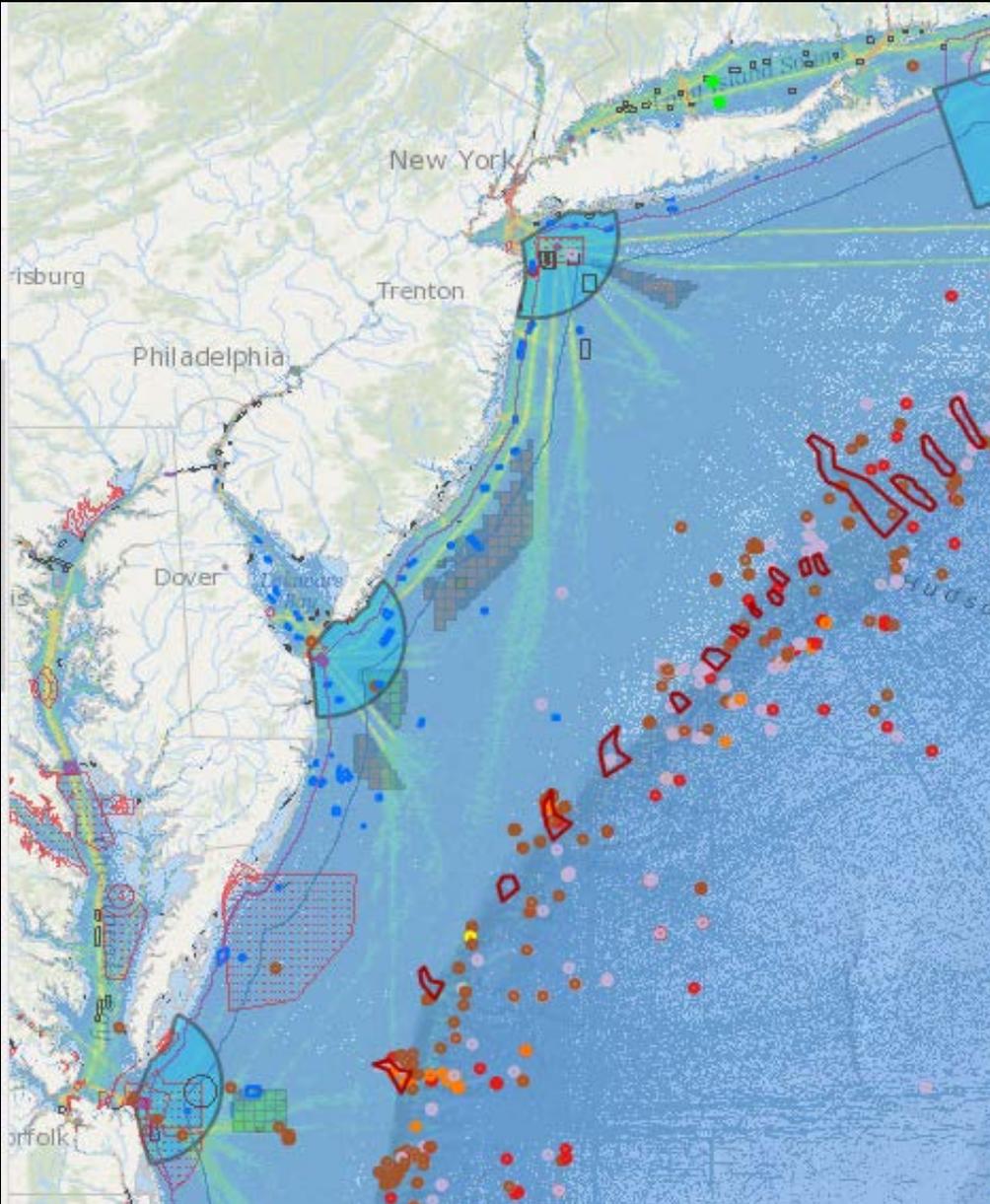
**COASTAL LANDS
MANAGEMENT**
DEQ & Local
Governments



What inspired Virginia CZM to get into the Marine Debris Business?



In 2008 Virginia CZM helped form



1. Protect Ocean Habitats
2. Improve Water Quality
3. Adapt to Climate Change
4. Promote Renewable Offshore Energy



2011 – 2015

5 Year CZM Section 309 Strategy Funding for Virginia Ocean & Marine Debris Plans



Feb 2013 Virginia Marine Debris Summit



Photo by Virginia CZM Program

What's been happening in
Virginia since our 2013 summit?

June 2013: Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Month



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

MARINE DEBRIS REDUCTION MONTH

WHEREAS, all Virginians rely on the health of our ocean for its important provision of wholesome seafood, tourism, energy production, magnificent wildlife, recreation, safe and efficient boating and shipping, all of which contribute to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, marine debris, largely in the form of improperly disposed of plastics and plastic bags, food and beverage containers, cigarette butts, balloons, and derelict fishing gear, has been rapidly accumulating in Virginia's rivers, marshes and bays and washing out into the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, debris in the ocean such as balloons, plastic bags and cigarette butts can be mistaken for food and ingested by sea turtles, birds and other wildlife, and plastic debris such as six-pack holders, fishing lines and gear can entangle or entrap whales, dolphins, seals, birds and other sea creatures; and

WHEREAS, plastic debris (including cigarette butts) can take hundreds of years to degrade and when it does, can become "microplastics" that are ingested by animals and incorporated into the animal and human food chain; and

WHEREAS, improperly discarded plastics can contain potentially harmful elements such as phthalates, bisphenol A, styrene, vinyl chloride and flame retardants which can leach into water and present an increasing health threat to humans, fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's communities spend millions of tax dollars per year in litter collection and in beach cleaning to avoid the loss of vital tourism dollars and ensure the safety of tourists; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program, in partnership with Clean Virginia Waterways, the Virginia Aquarium, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Virginia Commonwealth University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is developing a Marine Debris Management Plan to find economically and socially feasible solutions for reducing marine debris, such as biodegradable components on fishing gear and replacing celebratory balloon releases with commemorative tree plantings; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's efforts to create a Marine Debris Management Plan could provide a model for the Mid-Atlantic region and the U.S. Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, June 8th, 2013 is Ocean Day and it is fitting to raise awareness of the global ocean crisis of accumulating marine debris, stress the importance of changing our behavior of allowing plastic and other debris to end up in the ocean, and to celebrate the efforts of all of those who care enough to help in reducing marine debris;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize June 2013 as **MARINE DEBRIS REDUCTION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens; and

FURTHERMORE, I encourage everyone to take action to reduce trash and litter that makes its way into our waterways, the Chesapeake Bay, and the ocean.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth



FY13 NOAA Marine Debris Grant: Monitoring Marine Debris in Virginia's Coastal Zone

January 2014 through September 2016



Oct 2014 Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan Published



Photo by K. Register

October 2014

Developing a Marine Debris Reduction Plan for Virginia

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Under the direction of:

Laura McKay, Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Stakeholder facilitation and research by:

Todd Jansett, Virginia Commonwealth University

Angela Neilan, Community Involvement Specialist, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality





FY14 NOAA Grant: Social Marketing Campaign to Reduce Balloon Releases



July 2015: Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Month



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

MARINE DEBRIS REDUCTION MONTH

WHEREAS, all Virginians rely on the health of our ocean for its important provision of wholesome seafood, tourism, energy production, magnificent wildlife, recreation and safe and efficient boating and shipping, all of which contribute to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, marine debris, largely in the form of improperly disposed of plastic and plastic bags, food and beverage containers, cigarette butts, balloons, and discarded fishing gear, has been rapidly accumulating in Virginia's rivers, streams and bays and washing out into the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, debris in the ocean such as balloons, plastic bags and cigarette butts can be mistaken for food and ingested by sea turtles, birds and other wildlife and plastic debris such as six-pack holders, fishing lines and gear can entangle or crush whales, dolphins, seals, birds and other sea creatures; and

WHEREAS, plastic debris (including cigarette butts) can take hundreds of years to degrade and when it does, can become "microplastics" that are ingested by animals and incorporated into the food chain; and

WHEREAS, improperly discarded plastics can contain potentially harmful elements such as phthalates, bisphenol A, styrene, vinyl chloride and flame retardants which leach into water and pose an increasing health threat to humans, fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's communities spend millions of tax dollars per year in litter collection and in beach cleaning to avoid the loss of vital tourism dollars and ensure the safety of tourists; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program, in partnership with Clean Virginia Waterways, the Virginia Aquarium, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Virginia Commonwealth University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has developed a Virginia Marine Debris Management Plan to find economically and socially feasible solutions for reducing marine debris; and

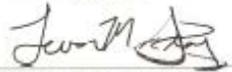
WHEREAS, Virginia is the first state on the east coast to create a Marine Debris Management Plan which could provide a model for the Mid-Atlantic region and the U.S. Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, especially during the summer months as we enjoy our beaches and coastal waters it is fitting to raise awareness of the global crisis of accumulating marine debris, stress the importance of changing our behavior of allowing plastic and other debris to end up in the ocean, and to celebrate the efforts of all of those who care enough to help in reducing marine debris;

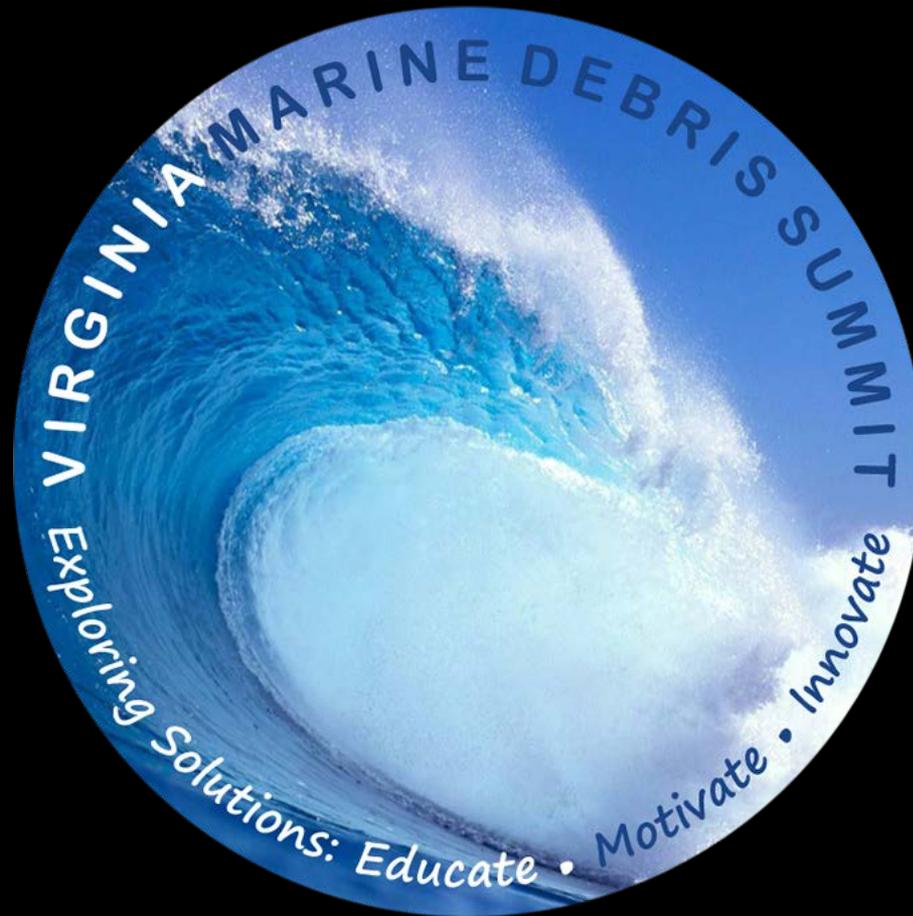
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence B. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize July 2015 as MARINE DEBRIS REDUCTION MONTH in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth

March 2016: 2nd Virginia Marine Debris Summit



What's been happening
in the Mid-Atlantic Region
since 2013?

April 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Formed





2014-2015

Mid-A RPB Work Groups

Proposed Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Actions

1. Identify & assess health & management of Ecologically Rich Areas
2. Develop ocean health indicators
3. Create an ocean acidification monitoring network
- 4. *Develop a regional marine debris reduction plan***
5. Incorporate traditional knowledge



2016 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan

Mar 8 Elements of plan on RPB
website: www.boem.gov

Jun 15 – Jul 31 Public comment

Jul 12 Public Listening Session (pm)
at Virginia Aquarium

Oct Submit to National Ocean
Council

Dec Plan approved



What is Leadership?

- Listening to and understanding needs
- Creating a game plan
- Convincing others to join in
- Persistence
- Persistence
- Persistence

2016 – 2020 CZM Grant for Virginia Ocean Plan & Marine Debris Plan



MIDWAY



<https://vimeo.com/25563376>





**Picking up garbage,
it's tough, miserable and hot.
We try to make it fun.”**

**TOP 10
HERO**

Chad Pregracke

DEFENDING THE PLANET

- And have fun!!!

<http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2013/10/25/cnn-heroes-top-10-chad-pregracke/>

<https://vimeo.com/25563376>



<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/video/2016/what-is-marine-debris-a-cartoon-crash-course>