

Virginia Coastal Zone Network

Coastal policies are administered by a network of state agencies and local governments -

- Marine Resources Commission
- Department of Environmental Quality
Lead coordinating agency
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Health
- Tidewater Cities and Counties

Other agencies participating in the Program -

- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Historic Resources
- Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
- Department of Transportation
- Economic Development Partnership
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Having a federally approved coastal zone management program also allows Virginia to ensure that federal actions in its coastal zone are consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Virginia CZM Program Funding

The Virginia CZM Program Office at DEQ distributes funding from NOAA under the Coastal Zone Management Act and helps agencies and localities to develop and implement coordinated coastal policies. Virginia receives about \$3 million annually.

Since 1986, the Commonwealth has received over \$54 million in federal Coastal Zone Management Act funds, matched by over \$49 million in state and local funds, to implement the Virginia CZM Program.



Virginia Coastal Zone Description

Virginia's **coastal zone** encompasses 29 counties, 15 cities and 42 Incorporated towns in "Tidewater Virginia" and all of the waters therein, and out to, the three mile Territorial Sea boundary, including all of Virginia's Atlantic coast watershed as well as parts of the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle - Pamlico Sound watersheds.

Virginia CZM Program Office:

Department of Environmental Quality
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www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program



The Virginia CZM Program* was established in 1986.

The Program is a *network of state laws and policies through which the Commonwealth of Virginia manages sand dunes, beaches, wetlands, subaqueous lands, fisheries, point source air pollution, point source water pollution, nonpoint source water pollution, shoreline sanitation, and coastal lands*; and, *areas of particular concern including, coastal wildlife habitats, public access, waterfront redevelopment, underwater historic sites.*

Protecting, Restoring, Strengthening Our Coastal Ecosystems and Economy



* formerly "Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program"

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Goals



Goal #1: To protect and restore coastal resources, habitats and species of the Commonwealth. These include, but are not limited to, wetlands, subaqueous lands and vegetation, sand dune systems, barrier islands, underwater or maritime cultural resources, riparian forested buffers and endangered or threatened species.



Goal # 2: To restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters for human and ecosystem health through protection from adverse effects of excess nutrients, toxics, pathogens and sedimentation.



Goal # 3: To protect air quality.



Goal #4: To reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property caused by shoreline erosion, storms and other coastal hazards in a manner that balances environmental and economic considerations.



Goal #5: To provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture.



Goal #6: To promote sustainable ecotourism and to increase and improve public access to coastal waters and shorefront lands compatible with resource protection goals.



Goal #7: To promote renewable energy production and provide for appropriate extraction of energy and mineral resources consistent with proper environmental practices.



Goal #8: To ensure sustainable development on coastal lands and support access for water-dependent development through effective coordination of governmental planning processes.



Goal #9: To avoid and minimize coastal resource use conflicts through research, planning and a forum for coordination and facilitation among government agencies, interest groups and citizens.



Goal #10: To promote informed decision-making by maximizing the availability of up-to-date educational information, technical advice and scientific data and scientific data including the use of new tools such as marine spatial planning.