

Virginia

FY07

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Mission

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program resolves and 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
- Restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters
- Provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture
- Avoid and minimize coastal resources conflicts
- Promote informed decisions by making available up-to-date technical advice/scientific data
- Promote sustainable ecotourism, increase and improve public access
- Reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property
- Promote renewable energy production and appropriate extraction of minerals
- Protect air quality
- Ensure sustainable development on the coast and support water dependent access

Key Accomplishments

- **Seaside Restoration:** Completed a \$2.7M six-year habitat restoration and sustainable development program for the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore. Results include restoration of over 1400 acres of seagrass - one of the most successful efforts in the world, and 13 acres of oyster sanctuary reef; removal of invasive *Phragmites* on hundreds of acres; an increase in Piping Plover and Oystercatcher nest productivity - the highest in decades; certification of 19 ecotour guides and creation of a new ecotour guide certification curriculum at the local community college; creation of a new kayak water trail, wildlife viewing platform, interpretative signage and 4 floating docks; industry acceptance of Aquaculture Codes of Practice and Best Management Practices; patrol by an Eastern Shorekeeper; and creation of a public seminar series on coastal issues affecting the Eastern Shore.
- **Dune and Beach Protection:** Funded several years of inventory, monitoring, and research on dunes and beaches not protected under Virginia's 1986 Dunes and Beaches Act. Management recommendations resulted in a legislative amendment adopted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2008. An additional 38 localities are now included in the Act which protects an additional 76 miles of dunes and beaches.
- **Coastal GEMS Internet Mapping System:** Created Virginia's first comprehensive Web-based coastal land and water data and mapping system. Coastal GEMS includes more than 60 data layers and fact sheets from CZM partners and receives over 5,000 visits per year from agency permitting staff, consulting firms, non-profit groups and the public.
- **Dragon Run Watershed Protection:** After several years of funding and effort, secured a commitment from all counties in the Dragon Run Watershed to protect this unique ecosystem through local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.

Upcoming Key Priorities

- Climate change planning and adaptation
- Sustainable community planning focused on preserving blue and green infrastructure
- Mid-Atlantic regional ocean management – offshore mapping, alternative energy siting
- Promotion of "living shorelines" using techniques that protect property and habitat

Lead agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Coastal Population in 2000:
4,440,709

Miles of Coastline:
3,315

Ocean & Coastal Economy in 2004:
\$329,842,858,800*

Federal CZMA Funds:
\$2,503,000

State and Other Matching Funds:
\$1,967,000

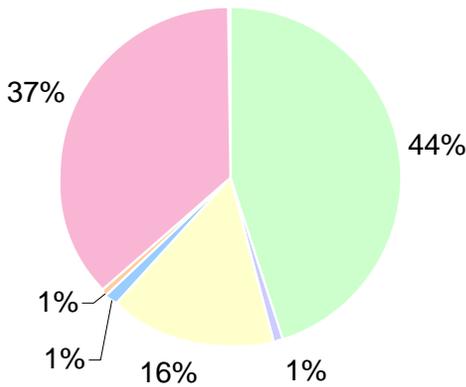
Total:
\$4,470,000



* Based on available data provided by The National Ocean Economic Program
<http://noep.mbari.org/>



How was the money spent?



Total Funds
\$4,470,293

(Total includes both VACZM federal grant funds and state and local match funds)

Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration - \$1,636,778 (37%)

{VACZM funding - \$831,050}

- Constructed 3.5 acres of oyster reef on the Seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore
- Identified suitable shellfish aquaculture areas on public grounds in the lower Rappahannock River
- Conducted 397 wetland permit compliance inspections
- Reviewed 1054 development projects for potential impacts to natural heritage resources
- Trained local government staff on Integrated Shoreline Management
- Responded to 262 strandings of marine mammals and sea turtles.

Coordination and Public Involvement - \$2,010,186 (44%)

{VACZM funding - \$1,559,450}

- Coordinated multi-year, multi-partner Seaside Heritage Program
- Developed shoreline inventories for 5 Virginia coastal localities
- Developed final Best Management Practices and Environmental Code of Practices with the Virginia Shellfish aquaculture industry
- Educated 740,000 citizens through stormwater pollution radio ads in the Northern Virginia area
- Promoted new Chesapeake Bay Act regulations
- Created 5 regional environmental education alliances in Virginia's coastal zone to build local capacity for environmental education

Coastal Hazards - \$50,000 (1%)

{VACZM funding - \$50,000}

- Revised Coastal Primary Sand Dunes and Beaches Guidelines and trained local wetlands boards

Coastal Water Quality Protection - \$712,108 (16%)

{VACZM funding - \$14,072}

- Support for extension of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to the seaside of the Eastern Shore
- Arlington County Sewage Treatment Plant upgrades (match - funded under state Water Quality Improvement Act)

Community Planning and Development - \$35,928 (1%)

{VACZM funding - \$35,928}

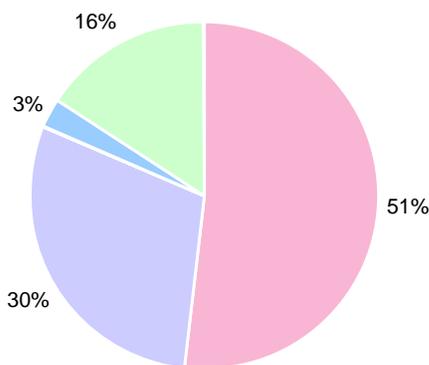
- Accomack and Northampton counties forum on local growth and land use issues; training of regional and county staff in CommunityViz, build-out analysis software
- Developing Seaside Special Area Management Plan

Public Access - \$25,000 (1%)

{VACZM funding - \$12,500}

- Created ecotour certification curriculum for Eastern Shore

Who received a portion of VACZM funds?



Total Funds
\$2,503,000

Local Government - \$397,452 (16%)

- Coastal Regional Planning District Commissions – local coastal technical assistance programs, county comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance updates
- City of Virginia Beach/Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center – stranded marine animal rehabilitation

State Partners – \$1,290,520 (51%)

- Department of Environmental Quality – Virginia CZM network coordination and outreach; federal consistency reviews
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission – wetlands permit compliance inspections; Eastern Shore oyster reef restoration
- Department of Conservation and Recreation – Eastern Shore land acquisition; invasive Phragmites control/landowner education; locality liaison to protect natural heritage resources

Academic Institutions - \$744,300 (30%)

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science – shoreline management research and training for local governments; tidal wetlands management support; SAV and oyster mapping and restoration
- Virginia Commonwealth University – enhanced Virginia Coastal GEMS
- College of William and Mary – developed coastal bird community data layers
- Virginia Tech – assessed policy options to support aquaculture

Other - \$70,728 (3%)

- Environmental Law Institute – assessed Off-shore Energy Development Impact Readiness in Virginia
- Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper – shoreline monitoring and protection
- Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District – native plant demonstration

OTHER PARTNERS

Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority
US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy
Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA
Back Bay Restoration Foundation

Keith Campbell Foundation
Maryland CZM Program
Delaware CZM Program
NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Virginia Museum of Natural History
NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Division

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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