

**VA CZM Program Administration Progress Report
October 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007**

Reporting Date: __October 6, 2006__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On October 2nd, the CZM Program received three proposals for Fiscal Year 2008 land acquisition funding through NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP):
 1. 448 acres within the Gum Swamp and West Neck Creek Conservation Sites along the North Landing River – submitted by the Hampton Roads PDC, and the Cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake;
 2. 770 acres in the Dragon Run Watershed – submitted by the Dept. of Forestry and The Nature Conservancy;
 3. 500 acres along the Blackwater River – submitted by Isle of Wight County and The Nature Conservancy.

CZM Staff will review and prepare application packages over the next two weeks to meet NOAA's deadline for submission on October 27th.

- The FY 2006 Coastal Zone Management Award (21st Year Implementation Grant) started on October 1. Grant contracts to local and state agencies and academic institutions were mailed this week.

Reporting Date: __October 13, 2006__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The CZM Program Manager participated in the northeast regional CZM meeting in New Hampshire. Sessions included discussions on coastal hazards and reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Most participants agreed that the CZMA should not be narrowed, nor substantially changed. States also felt very strongly that grants should not be made competitive, unless new, additional dollars are appropriated.
- The CZM Grants Coordinator prepared contracts for most of the 40+ FY 2006 awards (totaling \$2.8M) that begin this month. A few projects are still pending NOAA approval, but most contract packages have been mailed to grant recipients.

Events/Agency Visits:

- The CZM Manager participated in the Eastern Shore Birding Festival and co-presented the art awards to 2 local high school students. The festival was severely impacted again this year by severe weather. The tents were actually

blown down so exhibits were moved inside the Sunset Beach Hotel and most field trips had to be cancelled. Nevertheless 152 species of birds were sighted.

- The CZM Manager spoke at the Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve dedication along with Lucius Kellam (a Nature Conservancy Board member), Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bloxom, Joe Maroon, Delegate Linwood Lewis and Nikki Rovner. New reporter Scott Harper of the Virginian-Pilot covered the event. Deputy Secretary Nikki Rovner's commendation to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program for providing leadership in securing agreement among the state agencies on grants was very much appreciated.
- Only 3 proposals were received by the CZM Coastal Planner for FY 2008 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funds. Therefore a competitive ranking process will not be needed. States are allowed to submit up to 3 proposals. These proposals will be submitted to NOAA by the October 27 deadline.
- On November 11, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory will present the CZM Manager with its John Dillard Service Award for work on protecting migratory bird habitat on the Eastern Shore.

Reporting Date: __October 20, 2006__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Planner coordinated submittal of three proposals for funding through the FY2008 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The proposals, if funded, would bring about \$2.5 million dollars into Virginia to conserve 1,718 acres.
- Virginia CZM Program staff worked with Virginia Commonwealth University staff to set a date of December 14 for "beta-testing" of the Coastal GEMS (internet mapping system) at VCU. Coastal GEMS is a portal to land and water coastal resource maps and information supplied by various agencies that will be accessible to anyone via the internet. About 15 people representing government, non-profits, businesses, academia and general public will be chosen to attend the one day session and comment on the system's usability. Any needed changes will be incorporated and the site should be available online by late January.

Events/Agency Visits:

- The CZM Planner attended the October 13th meeting of the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority. A draft of the report *Protocol for Landing and Road Ending Acquisitions* was distributed. The group discussed the possibility of acquiring five sites across the Middle Peninsula through land acquisition permits from VDOT, discontinuance of sites by VDOT reverting prescriptive easements to the local governing body, or conveyance of fee simple interests on the property to the local governing body. The group also discussed potential legislative actions.

- The Virginia CZM Program Manager moderated a panel on offshore oil & gas exploration for the Energy VA Conference on October 17. Senator Frank Wagner attended the session along with about 20 other people. Panelists represented a range of positions on whether or not Virginia's offshore waters should be opened to oil and gas production. All seemed to agree that conservation and alternate sources are needed and that energy issues should be viewed as an opportunity for historically opposing parties to work together so that all parties are "made whole" and we not continue in "win-lose" battles.
- The Virginia CZM Outreach Coordinator is preparing a new exhibit on oyster gardening for the Urbanna Oyster Festival on November 3-4.

Reporting Date: __November 13, 2006__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia CZM Program submitted the fall Semiannual Progress Report (Section A and B) to NOAA on October 31. The report includes progress on individual grants as well as an overview of major coastal management actions taken during the reporting period by the network of state agencies that constitute the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Events/Agency Visits:

- CZM staff attended the Fall Coastal Planning District Commission (PDC) meeting at the Griffith Water Treatment Plant in Occoquan, Virginia on November 2nd. Staff discussed several coastal management initiatives currently underway including Coastal GEMS, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), the Living Shoreline Summit, and the status of the NOAA budget.
- The Virginia CZM Program exhibited at the 49th Annual Urbanna Oyster Festival on November 3 and 4. The exhibit focused on Living Shorelines and Oyster Gardening. Virginia CZM helped to establish an educational exhibit area at the festival in 2001 and it remains an important opportunity to highlight coastal resource management to thousands of festival goers. Staff received many questions from the public and distributed a number of handouts.
- CZM staff attended a conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) in Norfolk as an exhibitor from November 5 – 7. The conference was attended by 845 participants, guests, students, exhibitors, and sponsors. The CZM Program's exhibit showcased our efforts on the Eastern Shore of Virginia through the Seaside Heritage Program, including *Phragmites* mapping and management, oyster reef restoration, the Seaside Water Trail, and recent land acquisitions.
- The CZM Manager attended the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory annual meeting on November 11 and was awarded the John & Martha Dillard Service Award for efforts on bird conservation and in supporting the CVWO over the years.

Reporting Date: __December 1, 2006__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- A conference call was held on November 29 to discuss how to spend the remainder of the FY 2005 Potomac Gorge land acquisition/easement grant under NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. Of the roughly \$3 million the VA CZM Program has received from NOAA, \$200,000 is going to an easement on the "Timblin " property (which will be held by Fairfax County), about \$1 million on the Madeira School (to be held by DCR's Natural Heritage Program and matched by The Nature Conservancy) and the remaining funds are expected to be divided between about 2 additional properties on the Gorge and those easements will also likely be held by Fairfax County and brokered by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust.
- On December 14, the Virginia CZM Program will conduct a "beta test" of its soon to be launched Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS). The test will be run at VCU's GIS lab using about 15 people representing various federal, state and local governments as well as NGO's and private individuals. About 35 map layers should be available for the test. The public launch of the website is scheduled for early February and a display and demonstration on Coastal GEMS will be held at the General Assembly Building lobby during the week of February 11, 2007.
- The Marine Resources Commission Oyster Replenishment Officer (Dr. Jim Wesson) has requested that the Virginia CZM Program reconvene the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program partners (reps from federal and state agencies, oyster industry and non-profits) to help create a management plan for the Rappahannock River in light of the recent VMRC decision to keep certain areas closed to harvest. Such a plan would hopefully set biological triggers for when areas should be opened and closed. We hope to reconvene the group sometime in January. The VOHP was formed by the Virginia CZM Program back in 1999 when the program dedicated \$.5M/per year for 3 years in CZM funds for oyster reef restoration.
- By December 31, 2006 the Virginia CZM Program expects to close-out its FY 2003 award from NOAA. A few final products remain to be received, but we expect to close out the award with less than \$2,000 of the \$3,219,250 award being returned to NOAA. DCR was unable to spend about \$1,900 of one of its coastal nonpoint program grants from this award.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff have been preparing for the Living Shoreline Summit that will be held in Williamsburg on December 6 and 7. The Summit will bring together scientists, resource managers from state and local governments, private nonprofit groups, contractors and consultants from both Virginia and Maryland and focus on ways to advance the concept of living shorelines as a means of controlling shoreline erosion. Virginia CZM helped sponsor the Summit through

two \$5,000 grants to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Staff has participated in the Summit steering committee and will facilitate and speak at several sessions. A total of 168 people have registered for the Summit.

Reporting Date: __January 19, 2007__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On Monday, February 12, the Virginia CZM Program will launch the Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS) – <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/coastalgems.html>. Visit this site now for a general overview of Coastal GEMS. Coastal GEMS is a gateway, or starting point, for accessing more comprehensive coastal resource information – location, value and management - which should be considered in planning efforts and in making management decisions. This first version of Coastal GEMS will include over 30 layers showing water, shoreline, land, and recreational features, wildlife resources, and conservation planning tools and examples. Additional layers will be added in future updates of Coastal GEMS. The Program has been funding and working with its member state agencies, regional planning district commissions, universities, and non-profit organizations for several years to develop and compile the spatial and non-spatial information incorporated into Coastal *GEMS*.
- On Wednesday, February 14, the Virginia CZM Program will hold a Coastal GEMS Open House at the General Assembly. The Program will be highlighting and demonstrating Coastal GEMS at an exhibit in the GA building lobby from Monday, February 12 – Friday, February 16.
- The Coastal Policy Team will meet on February 1 at DEQ to discuss the upcoming grant year, NOAA's evaluation of the CZM Program, laws or regulations that should be incorporated into the VA CZM Program, follow-up on the Living Shorelines Summit, the next round of performance measures to be developed for habitat indicators and initial planning for the 2007 Coastal Partners Workshop to be held in December 2007.
- Comments on the draft Section 312 Evaluation of the Virginia CZM Program are currently due back to NOAA on January 26. Staff will be requesting an extension of this deadline to February 5 in order to incorporate comments from a discussion of the evaluation during the February 1 Coastal Policy Team meeting.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On January 17 the Program Manager attended the Middle Peninsula PDC and Friends of Dragon Run event to launch a DVD produced through a grant from the VA CZM Program. Copies of the DVD are available if you would like to view it.
- A meeting of the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program (VOHP) partners has been scheduled for January 25 from 1-5 at the Virginia Institute of Marine. The meeting is being held to develop a long term oyster management plan for the Rappahannock River. The VOHP was formed by the Virginia CZM Program

back in 1999 when the program dedicated \$.5M/per year for 3 years in CZM funds for oyster reef restoration.

- The Program Manager will participate in the January 31 “Southern Tip Partners” meeting on the Eastern Shore to develop plans for future acquisitions or easements on the southern tip of Northampton County. The partners include federal, state and local agencies and The Nature Conservancy.

Reporting Date: __January 26, 2007__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On January 24-25 the CZM Program co-hosted the Coastal Avian Partnership meeting on the Eastern Shore. We had funded development of a barrier island avian management plan in 1996 and recently funded an update of accomplishments since 1996. Nearly all of the goals set in 1996 were met. This week’s meeting was to begin to update and set new goals for the next 10 years for the all bird resources on the Eastern Shore. This new avian plan will become a component of the Seaside Heritage Program’s Management Plan which CZM is funding and for which we have contracted with UVA’s Institute for Environmental Negotiation.
- On January 25 the CZM Program reconvened its “Virginia Oyster Heritage Program” (VOHP) partners. This group had not met for several years but the Marine Resources Commission requested that the group reconvene and work on a management plan for the Rappahannock River. The meeting resulted in a consensus among watermen, scientists, oyster producers and resource managers that our goal should be a “sustainable oyster industry” and that we should develop a management scheme that allows for a rotational harvest, sanctuary areas, upper size limits on oyster takes and other features. Meeting notes will be written up and presented to the Secretary and the Oyster Blue Ribbon Panel at their meeting in late February. VIMS and VMRC agreed to do some quick work on where the remaining large oysters are located and on circulation/spatfall modeling in preparation for the next meeting of the VOHP on March 9 at which the plan will be further developed. It is hoped that this plan for the Rappahannock can be used as a template for plans for the rest of Virginia’s coastal zone. A plan for the seaside of the Eastern Shore would become a component of the Seaside Heritage Program management plan mentioned above.
- On January 26, 2007, CZM staff met with Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission staff and Jason Koptish of Vanguard Web Studios to view and discuss the pilot project for a “Coastal Experiences” web-based trip planning tool for the Middle Peninsula Tourism Council – Virginia’s River Country. This website, slated to go online to the public in February 2007, offers information to tourists related to coastal zone resources, such as things to do, places to stay, places to dine, local events, and maps. If the site proves successful, the CZM Program will consider expanding it to include all regions of Virginia’s coastal zone.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff attended the Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee (NPSAC) meeting at DCR on January 25. In addition to updates on grant programs (WQIF, Section 319, Bay Implementation, and Coastal Nonpoint) and the TMDL process, the group discussed possible future roles of NPSAC. One item of particular interest was the plan that would be required through the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Waters Clean-up and Oversight Act (HB 1150). The plan will need to be updated every six months and the members of NPSAC felt there would be a role for the committee in reviewing these updates.

Reporting Date: __February 9, 2007__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Coastal Policy Team met at DEQ on February 1. A major topic was how/where to make the budget cuts required. We expect to receive \$2,662,850 for FY 2007 which will begin October 1, 2007 and run through September 30, 2008. The FY 2006 award was \$2,803,000. The FY 2003 award was \$3,219,250. As salary and fringe (health care) costs are increasing, this award is decreasing. This has created the need to continually cut back on what can be accomplished with CZM funds. Another topic was NOAA's request to diversify our source of match funds. NOAA believes Virginia has been relying too much on WQIF dollars and has failed to invest state funds in the CZM program.
- The Coastal Policy Team also discussed other program suggestions NOAA offered in their draft evaluation findings document received in December. Although the evaluation concluded that Virginia's CZM Program was operating well and no "necessary actions" were noted, some of the suggestions caused CZM staff and the Coastal Policy Team concern in that they generally seemed to be asking for more efforts to be undertaken despite the decrease in funding.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff participated in the winter meeting of the Coastal Planning District Commissions on January 30 in Richmond. CZM staff provided information on issues before the Coastal Policy Team and on the upcoming release of Coastal GEMS. PDC staff gave updates on coastal management issues they are addressing through the technical assistance grants they receive from Virginia CZM.
- On Jan 31 the CZM Manager participated in the Southern Tip Partners meeting. This group is comprised of federal and state agencies, The Nature Conservancy and the Eastern Shore Land Trust. Under the recently signed Southern Tip MOU, these partners work together to identify lands to be acquired and funds with which to buy them. USF&WS reps noted that the southern tip of VA's Eastern Shore remains a very high national priority for them. This group is also coordinating habitat restoration efforts in the area. A meeting to identify lands and funds for the next round of CELCP (Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation

Program – NOAA), CZM and LWCF (Land & Water Conservation Fund – USFWS) funds will be held March 28.

- On February 2, CZM staff met with the Director of VGIN Dan Widner and his staff, DEQ OIS staff, and the VCU contractor who is developing Coastal GEMS. Discussed was the development of Version 2 of Coastal GEMS and how VGIN can be of service to the CZM Program and VCU during this time to prepare the Coastal GEMS application for migration to the VITA servers. VGIN is very positive about the success of Coastal GEMS and the services VGIN could provide to enhance the application and eventually expand its collaborative and comprehensive mapping effort to a statewide system.
- On February 6, the CZM Program Manager and staff participated at the General Assembly GIS Day to showcase the upcoming release of Coastal GEMS. Legislators, agency representatives, and the Secretary of Technology took a strong interest in this Internet mapping application, which provides a gateway to Virginia's coastal resource data through the collaborative effort of agencies. By having multi-agency data and information in one place, management decisions can be simplified, a proactive approach can be taken to land use planning at the local level, and citizens can become more involved in coastal resource management.

Reporting Date: __February 9, 2007__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The CZM manager is working with Jim Wesson of the Marine Resources Commission and DEQ's economist, Vijay Satyal, to analyze the potential economic impacts of various oyster management scenarios for the lower Rappahannock River. The VA Oyster Heritage Program partners will meet again at VIMS on March 9 to flesh out details of various rotational harvest schemes for the Rappahannock River.
- The CZM manager is working under a contract with UVA's Institute for Environmental Negotiation to develop a Seaside Management Plan for the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore. The Management Plan is an outgrowth of the 6 year "Seaside Heritage Program" which CZM initiated in 2002 and is funding with over \$2.5 million through September 2008. A partners meeting, including representatives from the 2 counties, DCR, MRC, DGIF, VIMS, William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology, Accomack-Northampton PDC, and Eastern Shorekeeper will meet for a 2 day retreat (Feb 28 – Mar 1) to work out management plan goals and necessary steps to reach those goals. The plan will encompass management of various seaside habitats that have been created by the SHP (oyster reefs, SAV beds, predator-free shorebird nesting areas and Phrag-free salt marshes), as well as management of water quality and sustainable industries such as ecotourism and shellfish aquaculture.

Events/Agency Visits:

- CZM staff worked all week demonstrating their new Coastal GEMS internet mapping system in the lobby of the General Assembly. On Wednesday we held a "launch celebration" in Room 5 East of the GAB. Rex Springsten of the Richmond Times Dispatch attended and wrote a brief article on Coastal GEMS. WAMU, an NPR affiliate in the Washington DC area, also aired a brief radio interview with the CZM manager on February 14 and 15.
- The CZM manager will present two projects at the March 7-9 national Coastal Program Managers' meeting in Washington, DC: the Coastal GEMS project and the social marketing project, Chesapeake Club, which VA CZM is helping to fund in the Richmond and Hampton Roads area following its successful debut in the Washington DC area last year.
- The CZM manager participated in a conference call of the Delmarva Atlantic Watershed Network (DAWN) on Feb 9. The DE, MD and VA CZM managers are working together with local planners and local elected officials (using MD CZ M funds) on regional land and water use issues. A spring/early summer workshop on technology & needs assessment to analyze build-out scenarios is being planned. That will be followed by a fall workshop on how policies differ among the states and eventually a plan for regional protection of water quality and wildlife habitat for the long term.

Reporting Date: __March 2, 2007__

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia CZM Program has been asked by NOAA to contribute to a new permanent exhibit - "NOAA Heritage/NOAA Today" - at Nauticus in Norfolk. The panel will highlight the importance of coastal zone management to the Commonwealth. The exhibit will be unveiled in a ceremony scheduled for May 21.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff attended a joint training meeting of the Richmond Regional and Crater Planning District Commissions on Tuesday, February 27. Each coastal PDC that receives technical assistance funds from the Coastal Program is required to host at least four training programs for their local government coastal resource management staff each year. This meeting centered on the concept of conservation corridor planning as it has been implemented in the Hampton Roads PDC area. Virginia CZM staff discussed the current Section 309 strategy for conservation corridors and the \$316,000 in CZM grants that will be available to PDCs during the next three years.
- Virginia CZM Program Manager helped to facilitate the Seaside Heritage Program Partners meeting to begin development of a Seaside Management Plan on February 28-March 1. The plan will focus on strategies to protect water

quality, habitat and wildlife as well as promote aquaculture, ecotourism and other sustainable industries. The next partners meeting will be held on April 19.

- Virginia CZM staff attended a Forest Stewardship Committee meeting at the Dept. of Forestry Central Office on March 1. DOF gave presentations on the accomplishments of the Forest Land Enhancement Program and the Forest Stewardship Program over the last year, such as the success of the “underserved landowner outreach program.” A draft of the updated Forest Stewardship Operating Plan was also presented to the group for feedback and discussion, as well as eligibility criteria that will be used to define priority areas for future Forest Legacy Program funds, which will be included in a coming update of the Assessment of Need document. The status of 2007 and 2008 Forest Legacy projects was also discussed and the 2009 request for proposals which will occur this spring. The Stewardship Committee will meet in late August to review and select 2009 Forest Legacy proposals.

Reporting Date: __March 9, 2007__

Events/Agency Visits:

- The Coastal Management Fellow attended the NOAA Coastal Services Center/Environmental Careers Organization Annual Fellowship Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina from February 20-23, 2007. The meeting included project presentations by the second-year Fellows, a discussion of first-year Fellows’ project experiences, and a Q&A roundtable session with former Fellows. Current Fellows also participated in two interactive seminars entitled “Skills for Change Events” and “Strategies and Tactics to Create the Career and Life You Really Want”, both of which were presented by Kevin Doyle of the Environmental Careers Organization. The week-long meeting culminated in a field excursion to Bull Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, where Fellows were treated to an eight-mile nature walk through one of the largest, unspoiled barrier islands in South Carolina.
- The Virginia CZM Program will again be co-sponsoring the Back Bay Forum which will be held on March 15 in Virginia Beach. CZM staff will be attending the Forum and display two exhibits; one general display about the Virginia CZM Program and another about Living Shorelines. Information on the Forum is available through the Back Bay Restoration Foundation's website at www.bbrf.org. The Back Bay watershed, although it contains significant coastal resources and is facing severe threats from encroaching development, receives little outside funding assistance because it is not within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Virginia CZM has supported various coastal resource management efforts in this area for over 15 years. This year, in addition to supporting the Forum, Virginia CZM will be providing additional funds to analyze BMP options for the Nawney Creek watershed of Back Bay to support the TMDL Implementation Plan workgroup for this area.
- Television and newspaper ads began appearing this week for the Chesapeake Club in Richmond and Hampton Roads. Over 645 spots will appear between March 5 and April 9 on affiliate and cable stations, and 12 newspaper ads will

appear in the Richmond Times Dispatch, Daily Press and Virginian Pilot. The Virginia CZM Program is providing 50% of the funding for the ads through its coastal nonpoint grant from NOAA. Chesapeake Club, a social marketing campaign, urges homeowners to do their part to reduce nutrients flowing into streams, rivers and the Bay by waiting until fall to fertilize their lawns, when fertilizer runoff is less likely and less damaging to the Bay. The Chesapeake Club is innovative in its use of humor to engage its audience and appeals to their enjoyment of the Chesapeake lifestyle and seafood – most specifically the Blue Crab. Chesapeake Club ads use slogans such as “Save the Crabs... Then Eat ‘Em”, “The Lunch You Save May Be Your Own”, and “Protect the Crabcake Population.” The campaign, developed by the Chesapeake Bay Program, and successfully run in the Washington D.C. area, is coming to Richmond and Hampton Roads as a result of a partnership among partners in the Virginia CZM network – the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and local governments, who will help coordinate the distribution of Chesapeake Club materials, including lawn signs and coasters, to homeowners, lawn care services and restaurants. The ads can also be viewed on the Chesapeake Club website at www.chesapeakeclub.org.

- Omar of the Reef, official mascot of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program’s oyster restoration and gardening efforts, will be traveling to Chiba Prefecture, Japan next week to assist with outreach at the U.S.-Japan Oyster Reef Symposium on April 8. The collaborative symposium, organized by Japanese researcher Urara Takashima, will bring together oyster experts from the two countries, including Dr. Mark Luckenbach from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, to focus on the ecological value of natural oyster reef habitat. Research on oysters in Japan has historically focused on commercial oyster aquaculture. Urara Takashima visited Virginia last spring to learn more about the state’s oyster reef restoration efforts and gardening practices after discovering wild oysters in Tokyo Bay. The partnership between Virginia and Ms. Takashima began with an e-mail to the Virginia CZM Program for more information about oyster reef habitat. The program responded with oyster educational materials, including images of Omar. Ms. Takashima shared these materials in her efforts to educate Japanese citizens about the value of oyster reef habitat. At the behest of school children, who thought Omar needed a Japanese friend, she created “Kaki-hime”, or “princess oyster”. A Japanese translation of Virginia’s oyster gardening manual is also being distributed.
- Virginia CZM staff have begun planning for the 2007 Biennial Coastal Zone Partners Workshop. The workshop is the premiere gathering of Virginia’s CZM network partners to review coastal management issues, projects and activities, goals and future needs and direction. The workshop will be held in the Hampton Roads area on December 6 & 7. A planning committee of state and local CZM representatives will be meeting this month to outline the workshop agenda and to prioritize the expansive list of CZM topics that could be discussed.

Reporting Date: __ March 16, 2007 __

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM Coastal Planner participated in the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERRVA) Coastal Training Program Advisory Board meeting on March 14 in Gloucester Point. The Advisory Board provides input on training priorities for coastal resource managers. Key topics discussed for training included restoring riparian buffers, constructing living shorelines, and planning for sea level rise.
- Virginia CZM Manager attended the Coastal States Organization annual meeting in Washington, DC on March 6. Congressional staffers briefed CSO members on upcoming federal legislation relevant to coastal management issues. The House is expected to introduce climate change legislation no later than July 4, 2007 and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation is working on a Coastal and Ocean Assistance Fund that would use 5% of OCS energy revenues (expected to be about \$400M/yr) to annually fund coastal management efforts and coastal land acquisition. CSO members spent considerable time discussing reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act and whether the CZMA should be broadened and strengthened to be *the* federal Act that deals with Climate Change Impacts.
- Virginia CZM Manager gave a presentation at the annual CZM Managers meeting in Washington (March 7-9) on Coastal GEMS and CZM funding of the Chesapeake Club social marketing campaign (Save the Crabs...Then Eat 'Em TV ads, etc.). Several states (Hawaii and Louisiana expressed interest in using the campaign in their states.
- Virginia CZM Coastal Planner attended the Back Bay Forum, 2007 in Virginia Beach on March 15. The Forum was hosted by the Back Bay Restoration Foundation and supported by a grant from the Virginia CZM Program. A broad range of topics were covered including various habitat, water quality and resource management issues.
- Virginia CZM Manager gave a presentation on Coastal GEMS (the new internet mapping system of coastal resources and facts) at the DCR workshop on Land Conservation and the Chesapeake Bay.

Reporting Date: __ March 23, 2007 __

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Virginia CZM staff are working on the next issue of the program's magazine – *Virginia Coastal Zone Management*. This Spring/Summer issue will feature articles on: "living shorelines" and recommendations out of the joint Virginia/Maryland Living Shorelines Summit in December 2006; a new oyster management approach developed by the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program partnership and recently presented with very positive response to the Oyster Blue Ribbon Panel; launch of Virginia Coastal GEMS; Virginia CZM's role in land

acquisition and conservation; an update on the expansion of Chesapeake Club into Hampton Roads and Richmond; and a Jamestown 2007 look at how our coastal zone has changed in 400 years. The magazine should be published by the end of May.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff participated in the program evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERRVA) on Tuesday, March 20. The evaluation is required under Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act and occurs every 3 years. The evaluation team included representatives from NOAA as well as other state National Estuarine Research Reserve System programs. The team was most interested in how Virginia CZM and CBNERRVA coordinated their efforts. Joint efforts highlighted were research, policy development and promotion of "Living Shorelines" and joint efforts on coastal management training for municipal officials.
- Virginia CZM Coastal Planner participated in the Virginia Clean Marina Program's Marina Technical and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, March 22. Virginia CZM is currently providing Coastal Nonpoint funds to help support the Clean Marina Program. The Program also received funding from the General Assembly to support a full-time position for the next two years. Initiatives to be completed under the Virginia CZM grant include developing strategic, business and marketing plans for the program as well as outreach materials and assessing the feasibility of a marina water quality monitoring program.
- CZM Staff attended a Middle Peninsula local planner's meeting on March 21. The MPPDC discussed the outcome of a public forum held in Gloucester County this past January on waterfront use conflicts. The PDC presented the localities with various mandated tools they could use to regulate activities within their jurisdictional boundaries that are creating conflicts. The PDC discussed upcoming projects that aim to clarify the complexity of regulatory boundaries along shorelines for the general public. The PDC also updated the localities on legislation passed by the 2007 General Assembly that may have an effect on future planning initiatives.

Reporting Date: __ March 30, 2007 __

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Several land parcels were identified in the Dragon Run for consideration for acquisition using about \$500k in FY 2005 CELCP funds. The parcels will be presented to the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority at its April 13th meeting. The MPCBPAA would serve as the landowner of these parcels.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM Manager participated in a Southern Tip partners meeting on March 28. Through the interagency Southern Tip MOU, the partners agreed to work together to identify both funds and parcels for acquisition. At this meeting 18 high priority parcels encompassing about 2,000 acres were identified in the southern tip and are now being prioritized by each partner agency. At \$20,000 per acre, this would cost about \$40 million. Given these high land prices and the hemispheric importance of this area for birds, the partners agreed that some sort of fund-raising campaign would need to be initiated that would tap private sources. Although we have been quite successful in protecting a large portion of the southern tip with government funds, it does not seem likely, given current state and federal budget constraints, that \$40M in public funds could be secured before this area gets developed. FY 2007 CZM funds (\$200k) will be dedicated to this area and the southern tip partners will work together this summer to prepare a \$3M CELCP proposal for the FY 2009 national competition. FY 2009 CELCP proposals will likely be due next October.
- The Virginia CZM Program plans to give \$5k to the American Lung Association for its May Clean Commute Month campaign and \$5k to help support the May 9-11 Working Waterways conference in Norfolk.