



# Virginia Wetlands Report



Volume 25, Issue 2

A Biannual Publication Focused on Virginia Wetland Issues and Training

Fall 2010

## CCRM Living Shorelines Website Update

The Center for Coastal Resources Management developed its living shorelines website several years ago. Funding for a website update was provided by DEQ's Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program through a grant from NOAA. After review and guidance from focus groups website upgrades include:

- a link to a decision tree that helps determine the environmentally preferred approach to protecting currently undefended shorelines.
- an extensive section describing design and build criteria for nonstructural and structural shoreline treatment options.
- a FAQ (frequently asked questions) page with answers, as well as links to additional information,



- a map with living shoreline public demonstration projects including address, GPS location and contact information,
- before and after photos in an expanded gallery with a split screen and larger sized photos, and
- improved shoreline planting suggestions and an updated list of plant vendors.

See the new website at:

<http://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshorelines>

## Decision Tree for Currently Defended Shorelines

A decision tree for undefended shorelines was introduced at our Spring 2010 workshop. The next decision tree for tidal shoreline management is currently under development and will cover Currently Defended Shorelines where structures, such as existing revetments, bulkheads, groins, marsh sills and offshore breakwaters are already in place.

A comprehensive manual will provide guiding principles and photograph examples to assist users.

## Hampton CCRMP Pilot Project

The Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM) is partnering with the City of Hampton to assist in the development of a Comprehensive Coastal Resource Management Plan (CCRMP). The CCRMP will address current shoreline condition, tidal marsh distribution within the city, shoreline treatment options to abate chronic erosion problems, potential conservation corridors, and climate change strategies.

### In this issue:

#### WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



#### CCRM Update

Thursday, November 4, 2010

at VIMS

See inside for information & registration!

Also

Tidal Wetlands News & Events



## **General Assembly mandates VIMS study of shoreline management in Virginia**

The Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution during the 2010 session tasking the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with a study of shoreline management in Virginia. The study report is to be delivered to the General Assembly prior to the opening day of the 2011 Session.

The resolution specified that the study shall (i) review tidal shoreline management in the Commonwealth and similarly situated states; (ii) identify potential changes to the regulatory structure of tidal shoreline management to reduce the cost and time required to issue a permit; (iii) identify regulatory innovations that would increase adoption of living shorelines among shoreline landowners; and (iv) make specific recommendations to achieve the sustained protection of tidal

shoreline resources. The study report is to be delivered to the General Assembly prior to the opening day of the 2011 Session.

## **Comprehensive Monitoring of Ecological and Erosion Protection Functions of Chesapeake Bay Living Shorelines**

Funded by: Chesapeake Bay Trust

Living shorelines are typically designed to control erosion, while simultaneously enhancing estuarine habitats. The performance of the designs in meeting these objectives has not been extensively documented. This leaves managers to make decisions on erosion control designs without the luxury of quantitative supporting evidence. To begin to address this issue, we have designed a monitoring protocol to answer these FIVE key regulatory questions:

1. Are marsh-sills functionally equivalent to natural wetland habitats (i.e. do they support similar biological communities and utilization)?
2. What is the ecological consequence of converting subtidal (subaqueous) bottom to vegetated marsh-sill habitat?
3. Does offshore subtidal habitat support similar biological communities when adjacent to structures (riprap, sill) versus natural wetland?
4. What is the benthic production trade-off in conversion of intertidal to hard structure (sill, riprap)?
5. What is the erosion protection value of living shorelines (marsh-sill design)?

We are studying three locations (two in Maryland, and one in Virginia). At each site we are monitoring and comparing a living shoreline (sill and marsh planting), a natural marsh, a natural beach, and a riprap revetment.



# WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

”What’s Up? CCRM Update”

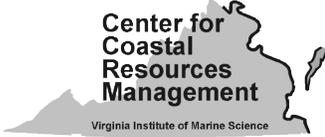
Thursday, November 4, 2010

Watermen’s Hall Lobby & Auditorium  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am - 3:30 pm Workshop

Workshop Web Site: [ccrm.vims.edu/Fall2010.html](http://ccrm.vims.edu/Fall2010.html)



A workshop will be held at VIMS for local government staff, advisory board members, marine contractors, permitting agents, environmental consultants, and anyone else interested in coastal resources management in the Commonwealth. The planned sessions will provide an update on projects currently underway at CCRM.

## Planned Workshop Topics

- CCRM Living Shorelines updated website
- Coastal management decision tree for currently defended shorelines
- Development of the Hampton Comprehensive Coastal Resource Management Plan (CCRMP)
- Joint Resolution study of shoreline management in Virginia
- Living Shoreline monitoring project
- Derelict crab pot recovery update
- York River survey
- and other updates!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration - \$25 (includes lunch).

Deadline for payment & registration: October 28, 2010

If paying by VISA/MasterCard please email ([dawnf@vims.edu](mailto:dawnf@vims.edu)) or fax (804-684-7179) registration form  
AND call Dawn at 804-684-7380 with credit card information.

Make checks payable to: VIMS Tidal Wetlands Workshop  
Please mail: Tidal Wetlands Workshop/CCRM  
P.O. Box 1346  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

*The Virginia Wetlands Report is a biannual publication of the Wetlands Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary. To subscribe to this newsletter, please contact:*

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## Tidal Wetlands News & Events

**The Gulf Oil Spill: A Report from the Front Lines**, 7:00 pm, October 28, 2010. VIMS After-Hours Lecture. Details at:  
[http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/events/2010/oct\\_ah\\_lecture.php](http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/events/2010/oct_ah_lecture.php)

**Chesapeake Watershed Forum**, Nov. 11-14, 2010, Shepherdstown, WV. Sponsored by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Details at:  
[http://allianceforthebay.org/?page\\_id=823](http://allianceforthebay.org/?page_id=823)

**Restore America's Estuaries Conference**, Nov. 13-17, 2010, Galveston, TX "Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy"  
<https://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

**CBNERR – Enhance your MS4 program – Outreach & monitoring strategies for local governments**. Dec.8, 2010. Details at:  
[http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal\\_training/upcoming\\_workshops/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal_training/upcoming_workshops/index.php)

**Society of Wetland Scientists – South Atlantic Chapter**, March 7-8, 2011. "Wetlands, Water Resources, and People": Joint meeting in Reston with Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Details at:  
[http://www.sws.org/regional/southatlantic/sac\\_mac\\_joint\\_meeting\\_2011.html](http://www.sws.org/regional/southatlantic/sac_mac_joint_meeting_2011.html)

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