Shellfish Aquaculture Vulnerability Model

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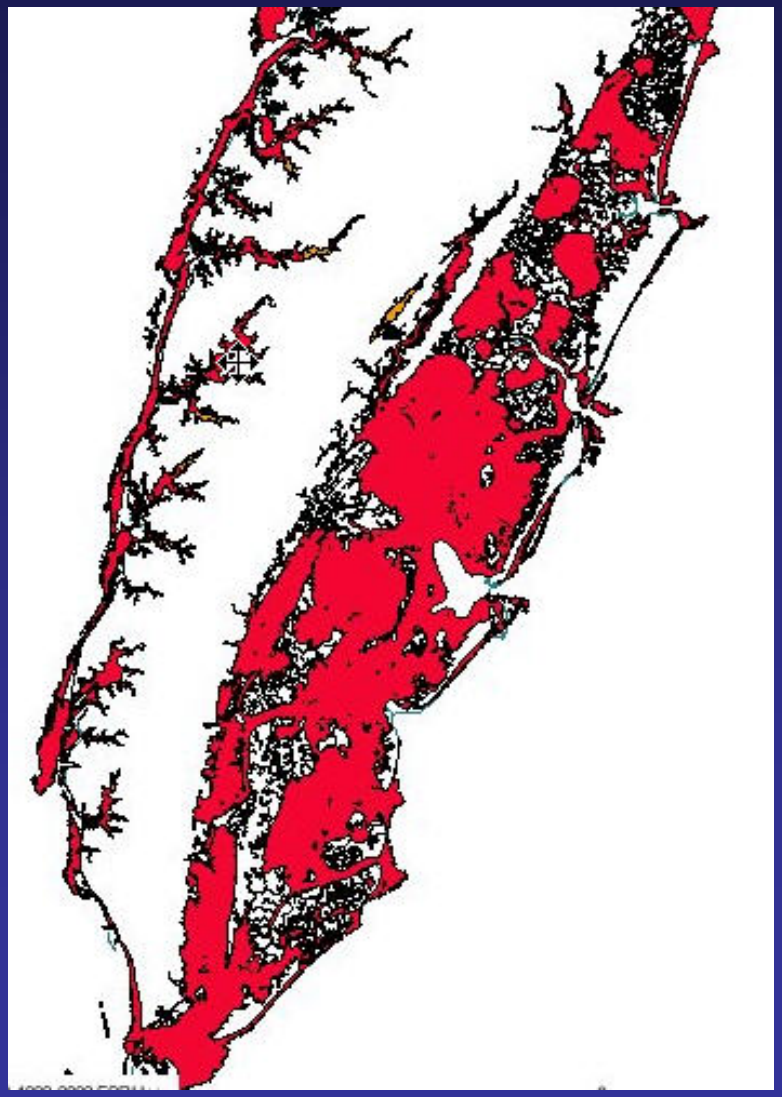
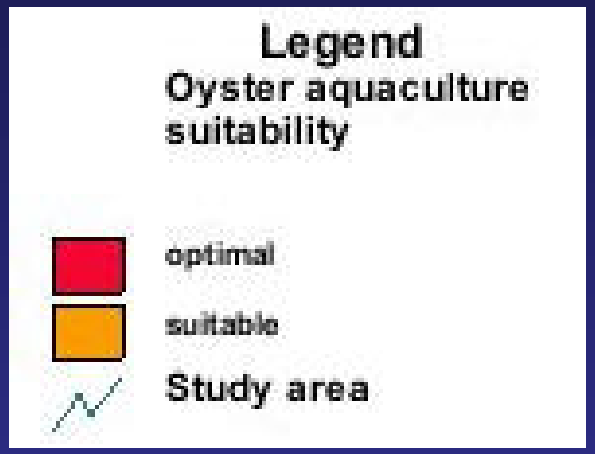
Project History – Phase I



Northampton County, VA



Parameters Considered

SAV

Bathymetry

Salinity

Water Quality

Aquaculture Suitability – Phase II

OBJECTIVE

- To be more spatially discriminating
- Develop a product that would be useful for evaluating other use conflicts (e.g. land use) associated with aquaculture

Criteria for Assessing Vulnerability Integrates the Following Attributes

- Bathymetry
- Salinity
- Shellfish Condemnation Zones
- SAV (presence/absence)
- Land use *
- Local Zoning *

Land Use Designations (NLCD, 2001)

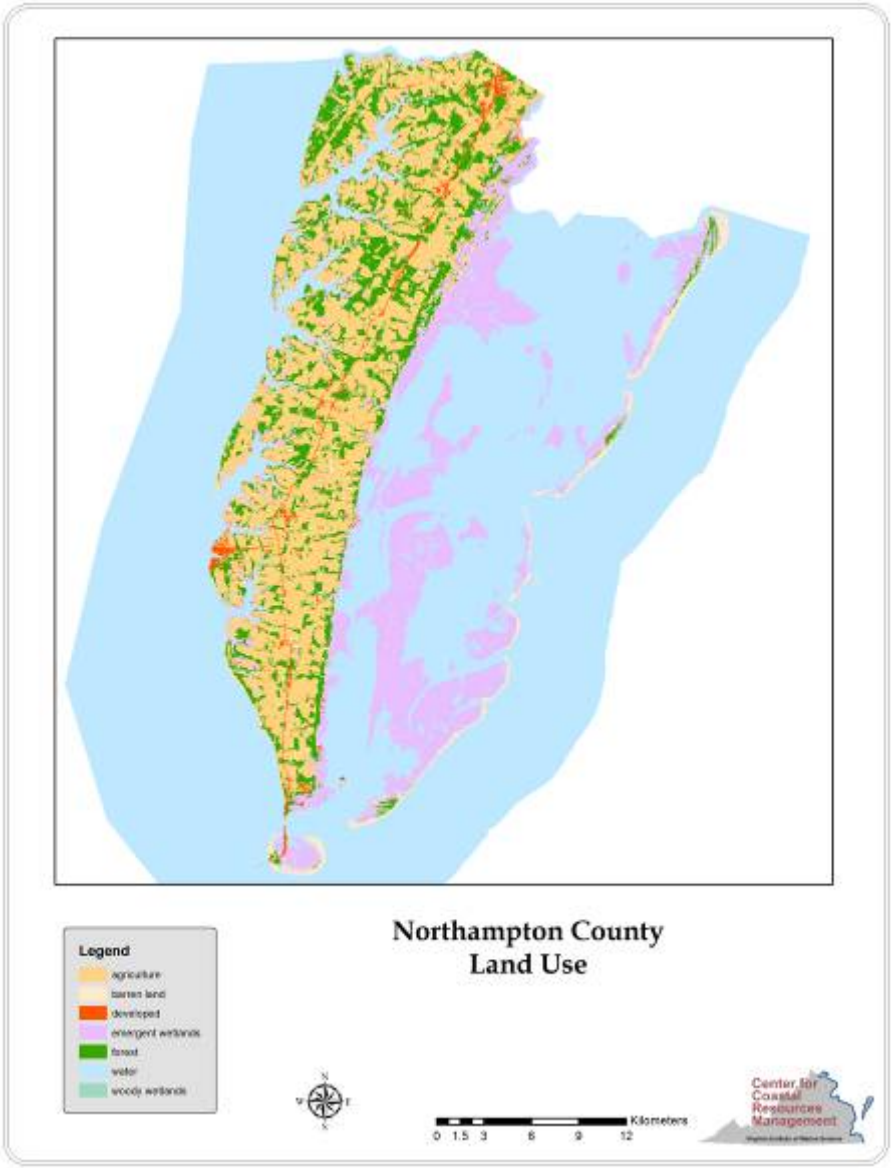
- Natural:

  forests, wetlands, scrub-shrub, barren, etc

- Developed and Agriculture:

  low-high density development, crop and pastureland

- Developed and Agriculture with forest buffers


Northampton County
Land Use
Legend
agriculture
barren land
developed
emergent wetlands
forest
water
woody wetlands
Kilometers
0 1.5 3 6 9 12
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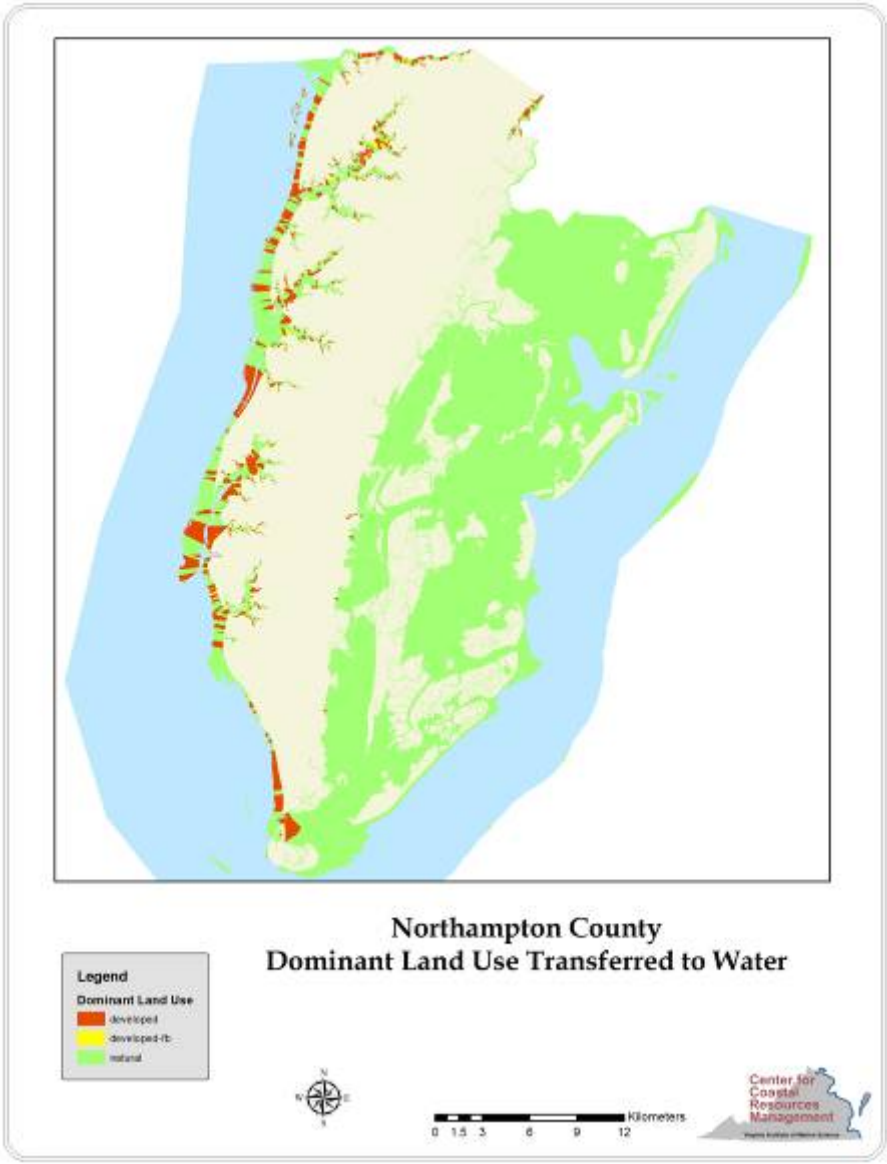
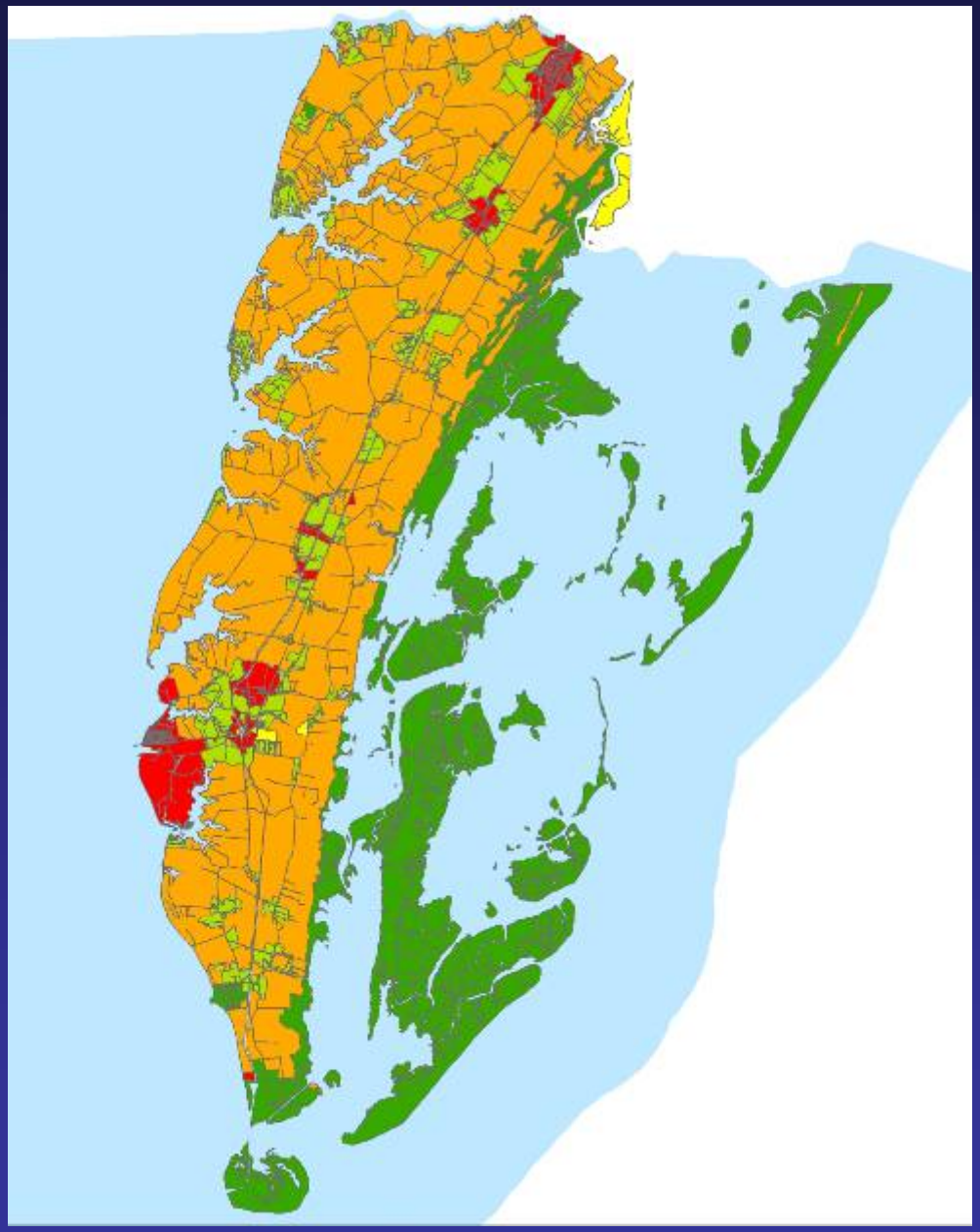
Management


Northampton County
Dominant Land Use Transferred to Water
Legend
Dominant Land Use
developed
developed-fb
natural
Kilometers
0 1.5 3 6 9 12
Center for
Coastal
Resources
Management

County Zoning Risk Assessment Values

Northampton County:	Rating	Score
C (conservation)	A	1
CD_R1 (single-family residential)	B	2
CD_RR (rural residential)	B	2
RV_R (rural village residential)	B	2
RV_RM (rural village mixed residential)	B	2
RV_RR (rural village rural residential)	B	2
A1 (agriculture)	C	3
RV_C (rural village commercial)	C	3
RWVA (waterfront village?)	C	3
RWVC (waterfront village commercial?)	C	3
RWVR (waterfront village residential?)	C	3
EB_CW (commercial waterfront)	D	4
TOWN …	D	4



Northampton County

Local Zoning

- A
- B
- C
- D
- other

PHASE I vs. PHASE II

Suitability Index	Vulnerability Index
Optimal	Risk Level 0
	Risk Level 1
Suitable	Risk Level 2
	Risk Level 3
Unsuitable	Risk Level 4

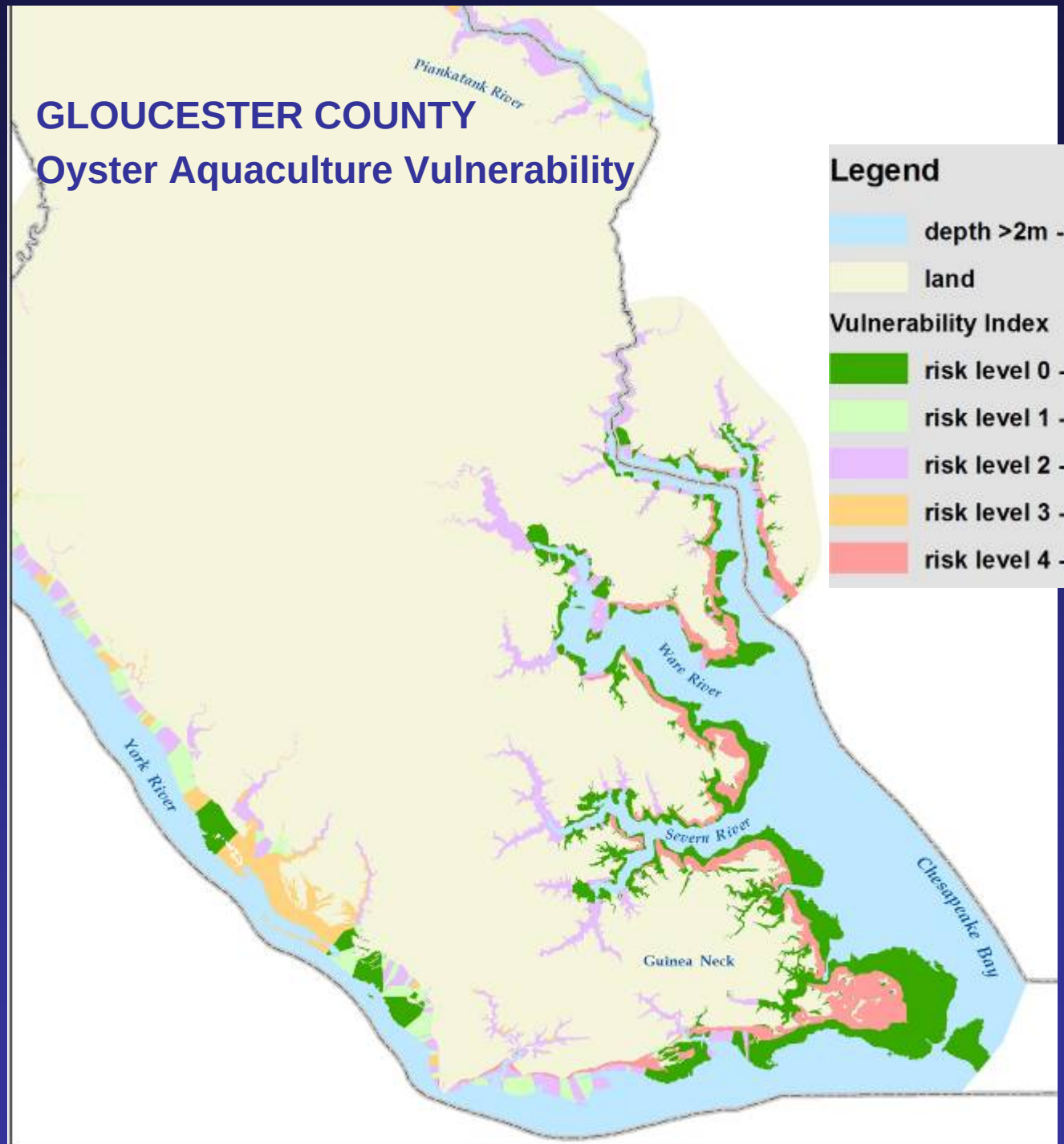
Shellfish Aquaculture Vulnerability Index

Risk Level 0	No Threats
Risk Level 1	Minimal Risk
Risk Level 2	Existing Water Quality Issues
Risk Level 3	Future Water Quality Issues Likely
Risk Level 4	Significant Ecological Conflicts Exist

Model Criteria and Output

	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
SAV	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	present
Salinity	≥20	≥15	≥15	≥15	<15
Shell. Clos.	Open	Open	**Open** **Seas.Open** **Condemed**	**Open** **Seas.Open** **Condemed**	prohibited
Bathym.	≤ 2m	≤ 2m	≤ 2m	≤ 2m	>2m
Dom. LU	Natural	Natural Dev-FB	Natural Dev-FB Devel.	Natural Dev-FB Devel.	n/a
Zoning	A	A	A,B	B,C,D	n/a
Z. Mod.	If B→1 If C,D →3	If B,C, D →3	If C,D →3	None	n/a

GLOUCESTER COUNTY
Oyster Aquaculture Vulnerability



Legend

- depth >2m - study limits for shellfish growing
- land

Vulnerability Index

- risk level 0 - no current or impending threats
- risk level 1 - minimal risk
- risk level 2 - existing H2O quality concerns
- risk level 3 - future H2O quality concerns possible
- risk level 4 - ecological use conflicts present

Legend

- depth >2m - study limits for shellfish growing
- land

Vulnerability Index

- risk level 0 - no current or impending threats
- risk level 1 - minimal risk
- risk level 2 - existing H2O quality concerns
- risk level 3 - future H2O quality concerns possible
- risk level 4 - ecological use conflicts present

Eastern Shore
Hard Clam Aquaculture
Vulnerability Model
Plate 5

0 1 2 4 6 8 Kilometers

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Legend

- depth >2m - study limits for shellfish growing
- land

Vulnerability Index

- risk level 0 - no current or impending threats
- risk level 1 - minimal risk
- risk level 2 - existing H2O quality concerns
- risk level 3 - future H2O quality concerns possible
- risk level 4 - ecological use conflicts present

Eastern Shore
Hard Clam Aquaculture
Vulnerability Model
Plate 3

0 1 2 4 6 8 Kilometers

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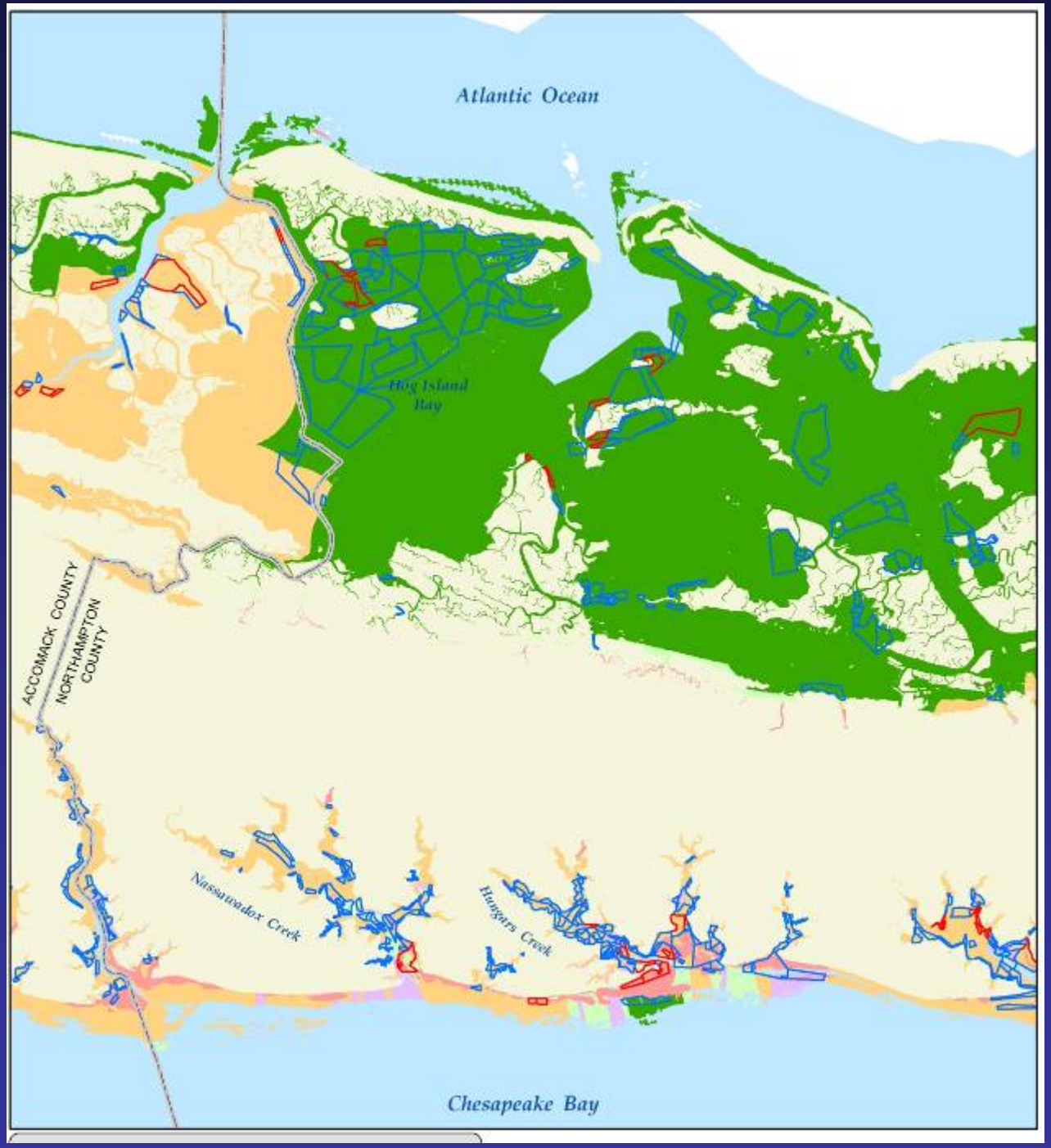

MODEL REVIEW

Active Leases

Inactive Leases

From VMRC, 2007

Acres of Active Leases By Risk Category

	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Accomack					
Oyster A	0	4.19	0	167.07	1.62
Clam A	0	0	**1.3**	**391.58**	22.06
Gloucester					
Oyster A	37.67	0	91.6	238.04	188.39
Clam A	0	0.5	54.24	25.92	22.41
Northamp.					
Oyster A.	171.66	6.18	32.02	18.85	1.58
Clam A.	1231.52	55.32	13.27	314.41	225.01

Next Steps

- Incorporate the model into Coastal GEMS
- Model for the lower Rappahannock River Baylor Grounds

http://ccrm.vims.edu/