

FINAL

STRATEGY: Seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore SAMP CATEGORY: Special Area Management Plans

Summary

In 1990 the Virginia CZM Program initiated a Northampton County Special Area Management Plan. While much was accomplished, zoning to protect sensitive natural areas was never adopted. However the latest version of such an ordinance did meet with public approval as expressed at a public hearing and those Supervisors who voted against the ordinance were subsequently voted out of office. Meanwhile in 2002 the Virginia CZM Program initiated the Seaside Heritage Program. The goals of that program are to restore the coastal habitats of the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore and to promote, in a sustainable fashion, economic activities such as ecotourism and aquaculture. The Seaside Heritage Program has been funded through Section 306/306A of the CZMA and is slated to continue through FY 2007.

As we move beyond habitat restoration, ecotourism and aquaculture into a management plan for the seaside, it seems timely to expand the Seaside Heritage Program into traditional SAMP activities; i.e. the development of new enforceable policies that would serve to protect our recent investments on the seaside.

Through the Seaside Heritage Program, we already have the key players "at the table." This includes the USF&WS, the Virginia Departments of Conservation & Recreation, Game and Inland Fisheries and Environmental Quality, Accomack and Northampton Counties, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, the University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, the Eastern Shorekeeper and The Nature Conservancy. However a SAMP effort would require a stronger involvement by the two Counties.

Work will begin on a management plan using FY 2005 and 2006 Section 306 funds. These funds will be contracted to an academic institution to begin negotiating and drafting an agreement among the state, federal and non-profit entities as to management of the resources which they control. Additional funds through Section 309 would serve to better involve local governments and allow for the development of local land use policies that would protect the resources of the barrier island – lagoon system on the seaside. These funds might also complement efforts in the Aquaculture Strategy to zone areas for shellfish culturing.

Enforceable Policies/Outcomes

- Northampton County ordinance(s) designed to protect seaside resources
- Accomack County ordinance(s) designed to protect seaside resources
- General Memorandum of Understanding among all relevant federal, state, local and non-profit parties as to the management of seaside resources

Tasks

| | Timeframe | Est. Budget |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Task 1: | Year 2 | \$50,000 |
| Task 2 | Year 3 | \$75,000 |
| Task 3: | Year 4 | \$77,000 |
| Task 4: | Year 5 | \$78,000 |
| | Total | \$280,000 |

| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Total Request |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| \$0 | \$50,000 | \$75,000 | \$77,000 | \$78,000 | \$280,000 |