

Accomack County, Virginia

Digital Shoreline Inventory Report - Description and Disclaimer

The Comprehensive Coastal Inventory Program (CCI) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is generating new Shoreline Inventory Reports for coastal localities in Virginia. This effort compliments a parallel effort in Maryland by the same group. Documents known as Shoreline Situation Reports were developed by VIMS in the 1970s for Virginia and have been the foundation for shoreline management planning in Tidewater Virginia ever since. CCI has developed new protocols for collecting, disseminating, and reporting data relevant to shoreline management issues using state of the art mapping and remote sensing techniques. The new Shoreline Inventory Reports are being generated on a county by county basis for Maryland and Virginia, and describe conditions along their tidal tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. This series is published entirely in digital format.

The data inventory developed for the Shoreline Inventory is based on a three tiered shoreline assessment approach. This assessment characterizes conditions that can be observed from a small boat navigating along the shoreline or by using observations made remotely at the desktop using high resolution imagery. The three tiered shoreline assessment approach divides the shorezone into three regions:

1) the immediate riparian zone, evaluated for land use; 2) the bank, evaluated for height, cover and natural protection; and 3) the shoreline, describing the presence of shoreline structures for shore protection and recreational purposes.

The 2016 Inventory for Prince George County was generated using on-screen, digitizing techniques in ArcGIS® - ArcMap v10.2.2 while viewing conditions observed in Bing high resolution oblique imagery, Google Earth, and 2013 imagery from the Virginia Base Mapping Program (VBMP). These data sources allowed the inventory to be generated without additional field work. Four GIS shapefiles are developed. The first describes land use and bank conditions (AccomackCo_lubc_2016). The second portrays the presence of beaches (AccomackCo_beaches_2016). The third reports shoreline structures that are described as arcs or lines (AccomackCo_sstru_2016). The final shapefile includes all structures that are represented as points (AccomackCo_astru_2016).

The shapefiles use a shoreline basemap updated in-house from the 2013 VBMP high resolution digital terrain model. The shoreline is re-coded to reflect features and attributes observed. The metadata file accompanies the shapefiles and defines attribute accuracy, data development, and any use restrictions that pertain to data.

This site provides access to all downloadable files. The links are at the bottom of this page. **When downloading data from this site, the users agree to all conditions outlined in the disclaimer below.** The text report includes an outline of methods. The Map Viewer illustrates the conditions mapped from the imagery. Tables quantify data based on river systems. These sources can be downloaded with Adobe Acrobat Reader. GIS data are available as shapefiles.

Disclaimer for Digital Shoreline Inventory Reports

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