



# Virginia's Atlantic Coast Recreational Use Mapping Project

## How Do You Recreate on Virginia's Atlantic Coast and Seaside Bays of the Eastern Shore?

We'd like to know how, when and where you and others use these areas. We need your help to better understand which areas are important to your recreational activities so that they can be mapped and basic data can be added to an online portal that lets you view ocean resources and human uses in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean ([www.midatlanticocean.org](http://www.midatlanticocean.org)).

As a member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), Virginia, through its Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is collecting information on how the public uses the Atlantic coast of Virginia. These baseline data will inform planning efforts being undertaken by Virginia CZM to help develop a Virginia Ocean Plan and to help Virginia CZM and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) to develop the Seaside Special Area Management Plan. Collecting data on the variety of ways you use the Seaside Bays and Atlantic Ocean will help us plan for reducing use conflicts in our coastal waters, maximizing efficiency, and enhancing environmental and economic productivity.

State and federally managed waters of Virginia and the U.S. are used in many ways: commercial fishing, aquaculture, shipping, military exercises, sand mining, habitat for wildlife, and recreation.

## Your Input Is Needed!

**What:** Mapping Virginia's Atlantic Coast Recreational Uses Workshop

**When:** July 11 & 12, 2012

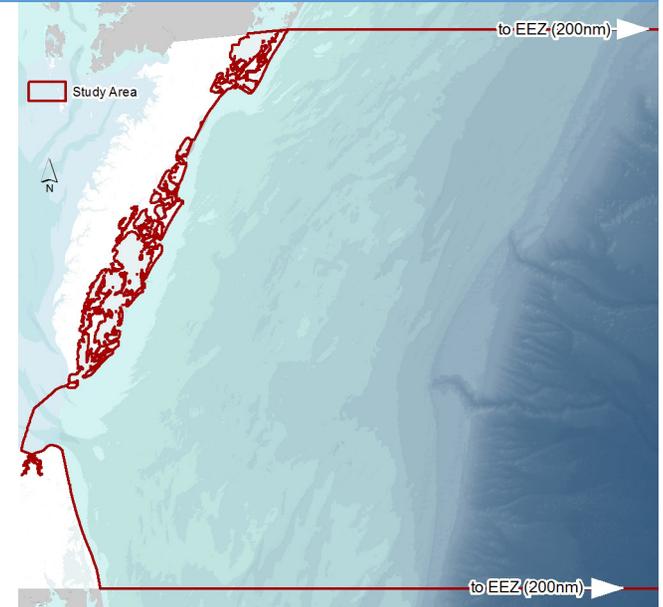
Participants will attend on just one day (8:30 am – 4:00 pm) and can choose which day they prefer. Lunch will be provided.

**Where:** Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, Virginia

**Who:** recreational & charter fishers; boaters; paddlers; life guards; surfers; divers; wildlife enthusiasts; ecotourism business owners; local, state, & federal government representatives; non-profit organizations; local citizens

**Why:** To compile recreational use information for ocean planning efforts to reduce marine-use conflicts, maximize use efficiency, and enhance environmental and economic productivity.

**RSVP To:** Curt Smith, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission at [csmith@a-npdc.org](mailto:csmith@a-npdc.org) or (757) 787-2936 ext. 114



With new and expanding coastal and ocean uses emerging such as energy production and increased shipping and considering Virginia's coastal population is increasing (from 3.6 million in 1986 to 5.1 million in 2010), the pressure is mounting to ensure that there is space for both traditional and new uses and that conflicts are minimized.

Some mapped human use data exist, but Virginia currently has no recreational water use data for its Atlantic coast and Seaside Eastern Shore Bays. So basic data on how we use our coastal waters will be collected in a number of ways, including: inviting residents to share their knowledge about recreational uses at workshops using geographical information systems technology and using aerial photography to document uses at busy times.

## Participatory GIS Workshop

Participants in this workshop will use computers and “e-beam” technology to map coastal and ocean recreational activities – the first time this approach has been used in Virginia. But don’t worry – no computer experience is necessary. Participants are invited to attend for a full day – on either July 11 or July 12, 2012 – and to join a group of 5-10 other stakeholders to discuss and share their knowledge of different recreational uses (i.e. recreational and charter fishing, kayaking, boating, surfing, barrier island day use, etc.). Additional opportunities for stakeholders to share recreational use information may be offered as resources allow and to expand participation from the Virginia Beach area.



Participants will draw on digital maps projected onto a wall using a stylus that emits signals to an adjacent reader which immediately adds the shape they draw to the map. This innovative method quickly and efficiently allows users to share their thoughts, compare notes and learn from others in the group. The data and maps created will be shared with participants for their confirmation and approval before being shared publicly.

## Why Participate?

The coast of Virginia is getting busier every day. There is a great deal of interest in developing offshore energy from wind, oil and gas. More and more ships are using the waterways. Residents continue to boat and fish. And all these uses will likely increase. This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to provide accurate information about how people are already using these areas and how they might want to use them in the future. As different government agencies start planning for how we could use these coastal and ocean waters, it’s fundamental they begin with an understanding of how the waters are already being used. Making information on recreational uses available to governmental agencies will help ensure access for recreational activities into the future.



## Recreational Use Categories To Be Mapped:

- **Boating for Hire Uses**  
Charter trips for fishing, diving & snorkeling, party cruises, wildlife & scenic viewing, & transport
- **Recreational Fishing Uses**  
From motorized vessels, from kayak & non-motorized vessels, dive fishing, from the shore
- **General Recreational Uses**  
Motorized boating, paddling, sailing, scuba/snorkel/diving, shore use, water sports, swimming

## Reserve Your Spot in the Workshop Today!

### RSVP to:

Curt Smith, A-NPDC  
(757) 787-2936 ext.114  
[csmith@a-npdc.org](mailto:csmith@a-npdc.org)

### For more about the project:

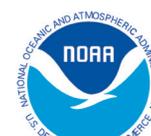
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Virginia Coastal Zone  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



A-NPDC

