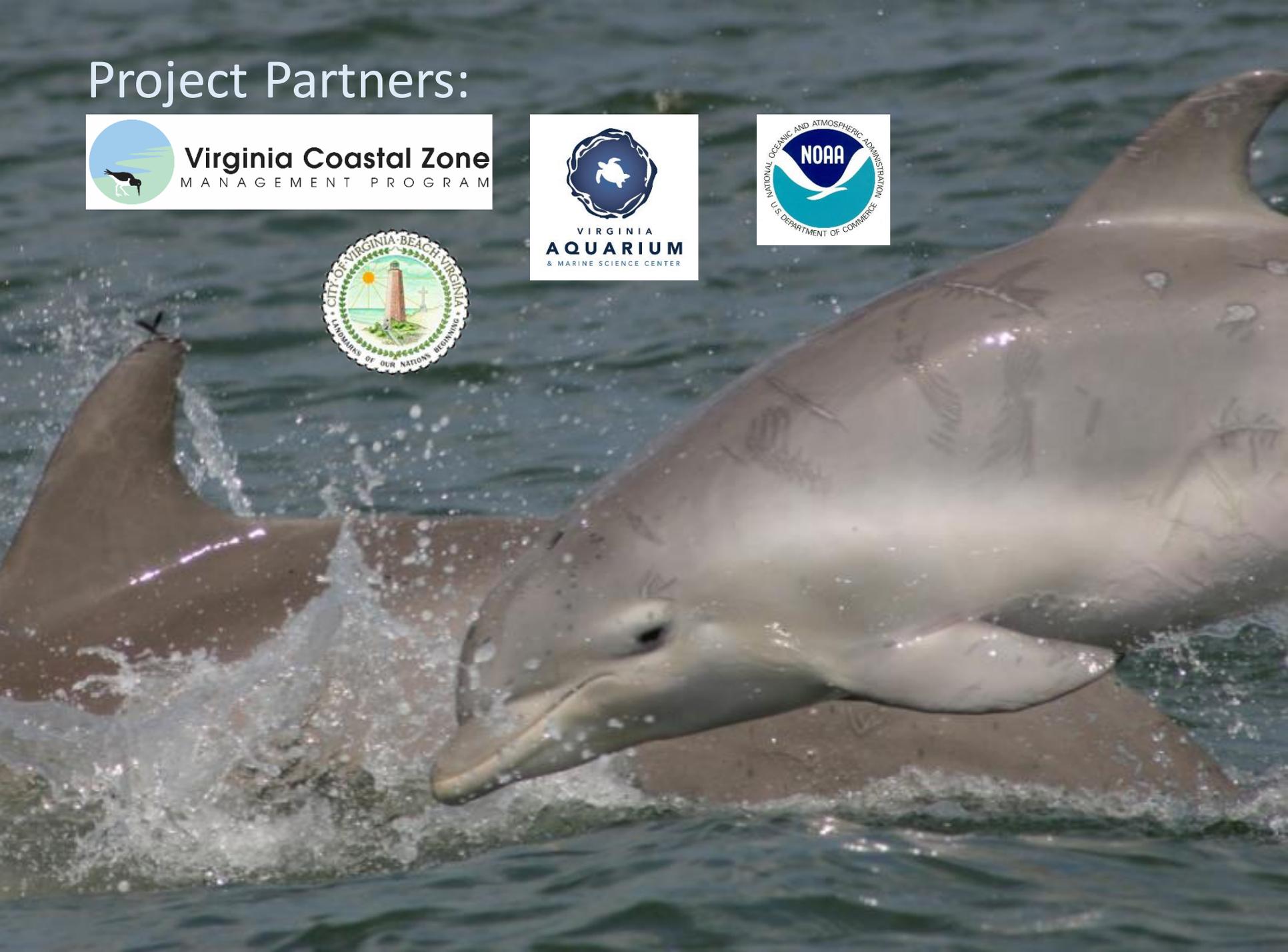
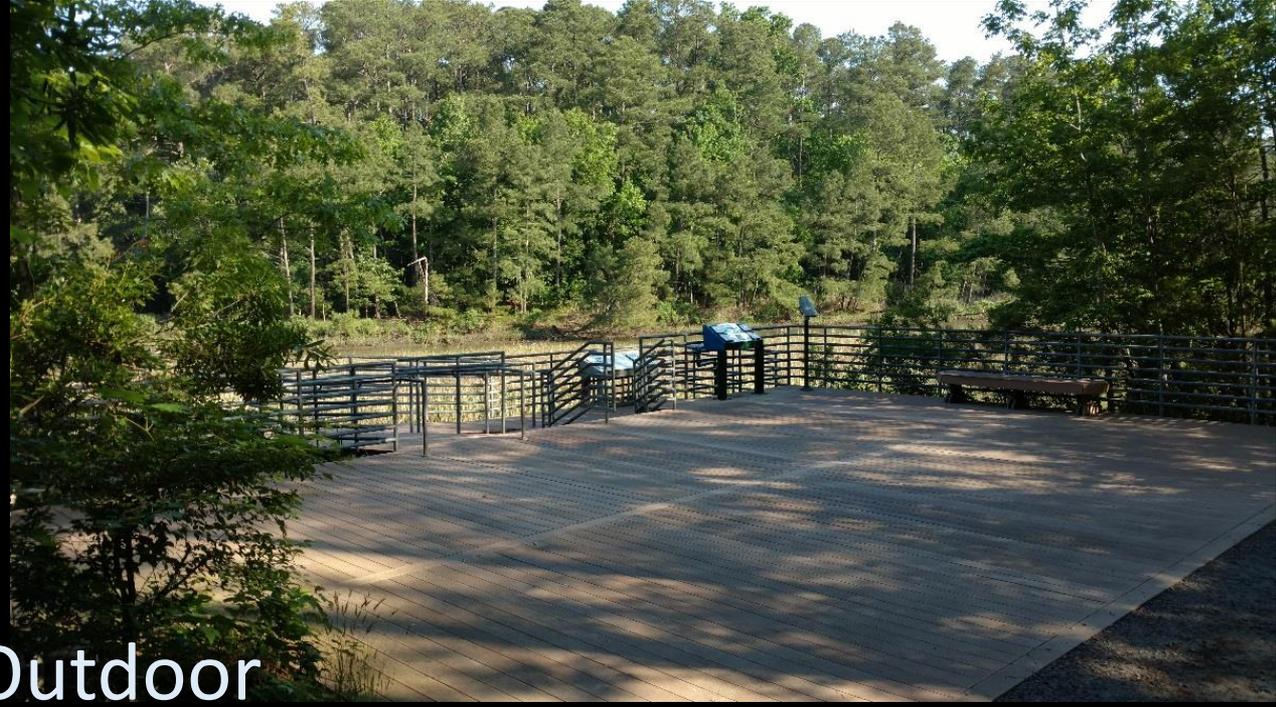
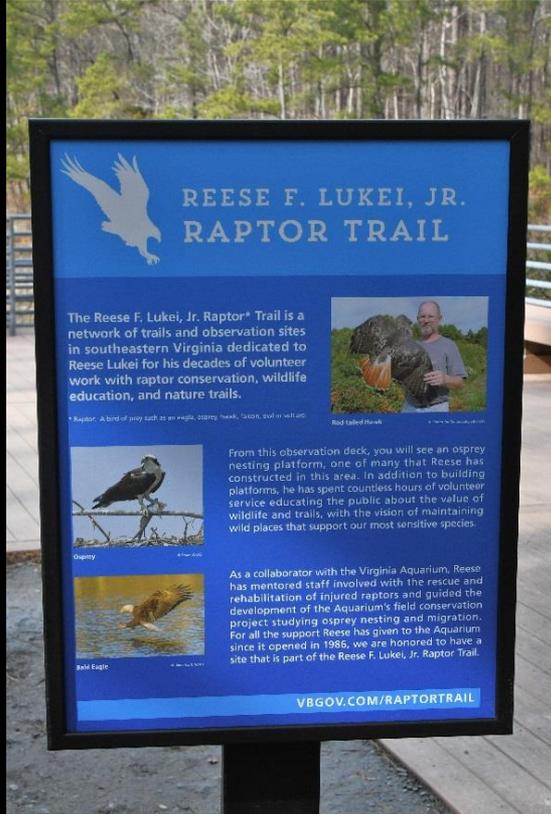


# BrainWaves at the Beach: Coastal & Ocean Science Education for Everyone



# Project Partners:

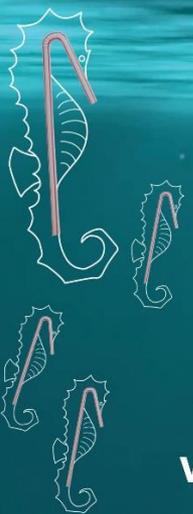
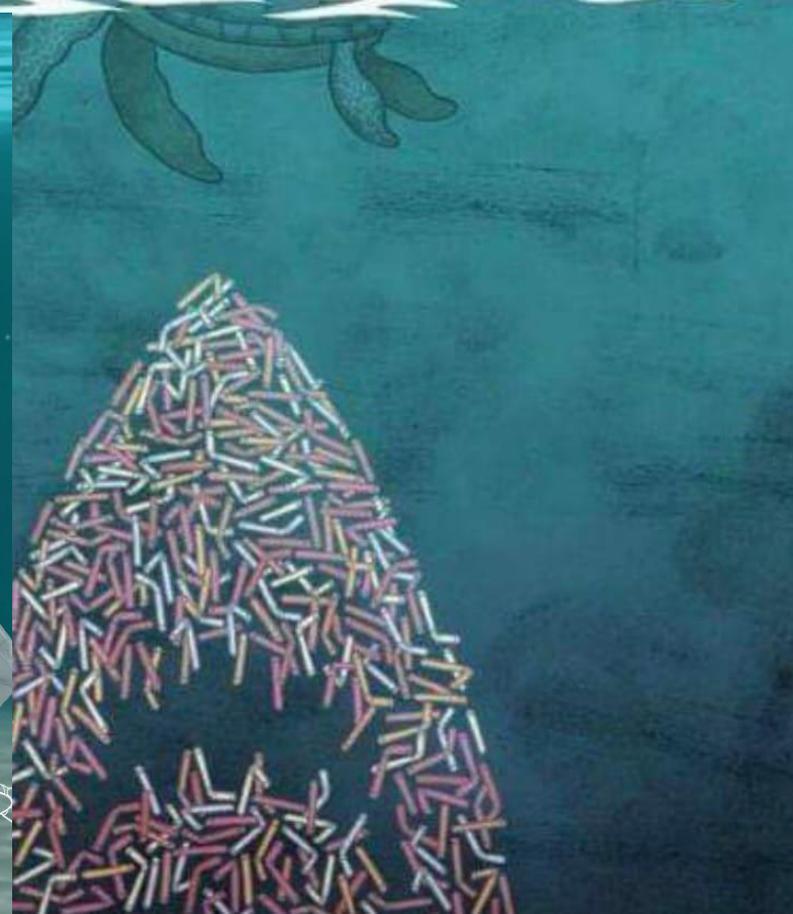
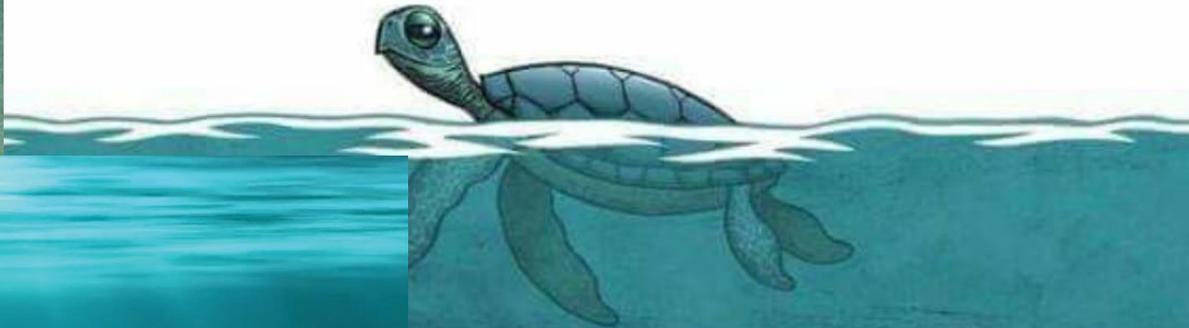




# Outdoor Signage



# STRAWS



In an effort to keep our oceans clean and animals safe, we no longer provide single-use straws or cup lids.

[www.OurHands.org](http://www.OurHands.org)



# BrainWaves Exhibit on boardwalk at 16<sup>th</sup> Street



# BrainWaves Exhibit prototype design



## Brainwaves at the Beach

## Marine Mammals

### Who's in the Neighborhood?

More than 30 marine mammal species come to feed in Virginia's food-rich waters. All are migratory, and when and where you see them depend on the species. Bottlenose dolphins and manatees are summer visitors often seen close to the beach, while pilot whales and humpback dolphins live offshore, near the Gulf Stream. Sperm whales, harbor porpoises, and seals show up in winter from colder regions to the north.



### Know Your Neighbors

Learning to identify marine mammals can help you understand their behavior, needs, and how to protect them. Some species, like bottlenose dolphins, are highly intelligent and can learn to recognize people. Others, like manatees, are more timid and may be injured by boat propellers. Knowing the difference can help you avoid these situations.

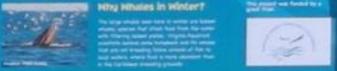


### Walrus or Porpoise?

Walrus and porpoise are both small marine mammals that look alike. Walrus have a large tusk and a thick layer of blubber. Porpoise are smaller and have a more rounded body. They are both found in the same areas of the ocean.

### Ice Seals in Virginia Beach?

Ice seals are a common sight in Virginia Beach. They are a type of seal that lives in the ocean. They are often seen near the beach, and they are a popular attraction for visitors. They are also a source of food for other animals.



### Why Whales in Winter?

Whales migrate to warmer waters in winter to feed. They have a thick layer of blubber that helps them survive in cold water. They also need to eat a lot of food to keep their blubber from melting away.

### Neighborhood Alert!

Because marine mammals are vital members of a balanced ecosystem, Federal laws are in place to minimize the impact of human activities on their health, behavior, and habitat. Any action that changes the behavior of a marine mammal is considered harassment. For example, it is illegal to swim with, chase, or feed wild marine mammals because these actions disrupt their natural behaviors and can endanger their lives.

### Beware Boats

Boats are a leading cause of death for marine mammals. They can be struck by propellers, and they can be injured by noise. Boats should be kept at least 100 yards away from marine mammals.



When in a boat, stay at least 100 yards from marine mammals. Do not swim with, chase, or feed wild marine mammals.



### Accidental Entanglement

Marine mammals can become entangled in fishing gear, marine debris, and other objects. This can cause injury or death. If you see a marine mammal entangled in an object, do not touch it. Call the Virginia Aquarium for help.



### Dangerous Debris

Marine mammals can be injured or killed by marine debris. This includes fishing gear, plastic, and other trash. Do not litter, and do not touch marine debris. If you see marine debris, call the Virginia Aquarium for help.



**Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program**  
If a marine mammal is stranded on the beach, the Virginia Aquarium is authorized by NOAA Fisheries to provide the stranding response. Stranding response is a service that provides stranding response to marine mammals. If you see a marine mammal stranded on the beach, call the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team's 24-hour hotline at (757) 437-6159.

VirginiaAquarium.com





March 19, 2004 Courtesy of Florida Marine Research Inst.

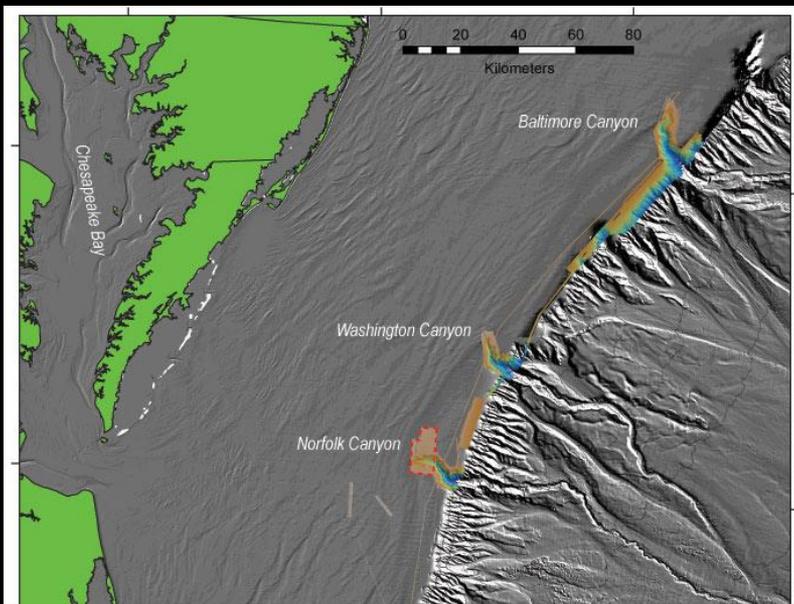


# Ocean Planning

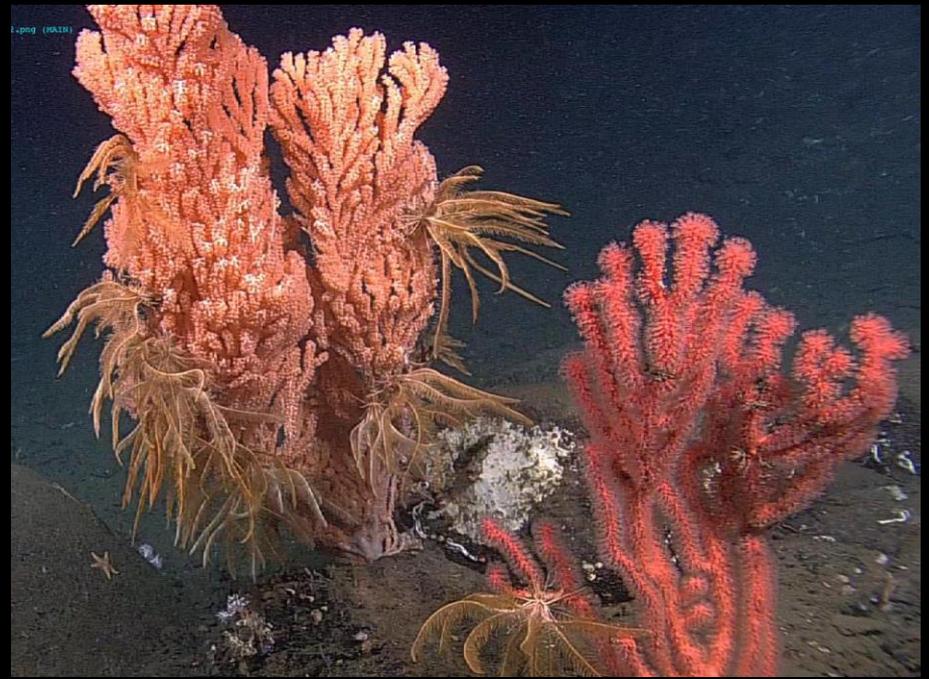


# Marine Debris





# Norfolk Canyon



Questions ?

