

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Overview

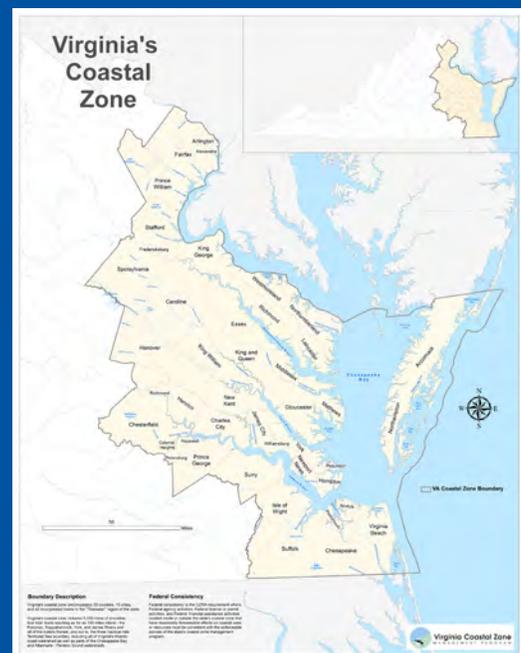
Protecting, restoring, and strengthening our coastal ecosystems and economy.

Photo courtesy of NOAA.

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is a network of Virginia state agencies and local governments, established in 1986 through an Executive Order, which administers enforceable laws, regulations and policies that protect our coastal resources and foster sustainable development. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) serves as the lead agency for Virginia's networked program. Through an office headquartered at DEQ, it helps agencies and localities develop and implement coordinated coastal policies and solve coastal management problems. The overarching goal is to protect our coastal resources and strengthen our coastal economy.

The Virginia CZM Program's Coastal Policy Team (CPT), whose members represent all of the program's networked agencies, facilitates cooperation among the agencies and provides a forum for discussion and resolution of cross-cutting coastal resource management issues. The CPT proposed a series of goals for the program, which are now contained in the Executive Order. Attached is a series of fact sheets highlighting the program's accomplishments towards achieving some of these goals.

The Virginia CZM office at DEQ also administers the program's annual grant award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management. Since 1986, Virginia has received over \$61 million in federal Coastal Zone Management Act funding, matched by over \$51 million in state and local funds, to implement its Coastal Zone Management Program. As a "maximum-funded state" Virginia receives about \$2.5 million annually. Together, Virginia's localities (represented by Virginia's 8 Coastal Planning District Commissions), state agencies and NOAA form an effective intergovernmental partnership.



Although only 29 percent of Virginia's land area lies within the "Coastal Zone", more than 60 percent of Virginia's citizens call it home. Virginia's 2010 population was 5,044,179.



Virginia CZM Program Networked Agencies

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Marine Resources Commission
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Historic Resources
- Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy
- Department of Transportation
- Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Coastal Resource Management Areas

- Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands
- Fisheries
- Subaqueous Lands
- Dunes and Beaches
- Point Source Air Pollution
- Point Source Water Pollution
- Nonpoint Source Water Pollution
- Shoreline Sanitation
- Coastal Lands

Areas of Geographic Concern

- spawning/nursery/feeding grounds
- coastal primary sand dunes
- barrier islands
- significant wildlife habitat areas
- significant public recreation areas
- significant sand and gravel resource deposits
- underwater historic resources
- highly erodible/high hazard areas
- waterfront development area

For more details about the Virginia CZM Program:

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Photo by Virginia CZM Program.