

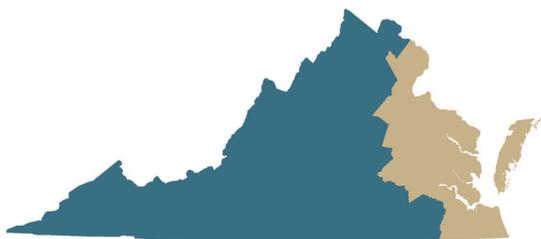
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN VIRGINIA



The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program develops solutions to coastal management issues to achieve more vital and sustainable coastal communities and ecosystems.

The Virginia CZM Program links 11 state agencies, 8 coastal Planning District Commissions and 44 Tidewater cities and counties to:

- Protect and restore coastal resources, habitats and species; protect air quality; restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters; and reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property.
- Promote sustainable ecotourism, increase and improve public access; provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture; and, promote renewable energy production and appropriate extraction of minerals.
- Promote informed decisions through up-to-date technical advice/scientific data; avoid and minimize coastal resource use conflicts; ensure sustainable development on the coast; and, support water dependent access.



OVER **\$8 BILLION** OF VIRGINIA'S G.D.P. COMES FROM COASTAL ZONE COUNTIES

VIRGINIA HAS **3,315 MILES** OF COASTLINE

5 MILLION+ PEOPLE LIVE IN VIRGINIA'S COASTAL ZONE

WHERE THE WATER MEETS THE LAND: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL COLLABORATION IN VIRGINIA

Recent Highlights and Outcomes:

- Played key role in developing the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan - one of the nation's first two regional ocean plans certified by the National Ocean Council. Virginia CZM Program Manager led development of the Healthy Ocean Ecosystem actions for the plan and is now the State Co-lead for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body.
- Coordinated completion and promotion of the nation's first plan to specifically protect and enhance working waterfront infrastructure.
- Advanced coastal resiliency through local shoreline management plans and integrated coastal hazards issues into local comprehensive plans.
- Initiated public campaigns and published native plant guides for 4 coastal regions engaging tens of thousands of citizens in increasing native vegetation to protect water quality and improve habitat.
- Produced and began implementation of the first state plan on the East coast to reduce marine debris.
- Restored 6,200 acres of eelgrass on the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore. Reared 200,000 bay scallops to maturity. Wild population now estimated at over 78,000.



Partners

Federal Partners:

- NOAA Office for Coastal Management
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Defense
- Coast Guard

Regional Partners:

- Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

State Partners:

- Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
- Dept. of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Impact Review
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Sea Grant
- Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Local Partners:

- 29 counties, 17 cities and 42 incorporated towns
- 8 regional coastal planning district commissions

Non-Governmental Partners:

- Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Native Plant Society
- Wetlands Watch

Academic Institutions:

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Longwood University/Clean Virginia Waterways
- College of W&M Coastal Policy Center

Key Priorities:

- Implement the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan working with federal, state and tribal partners. Maintain and enhance the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal.
- Protect property and habitat by improving coastal resiliency at the state and local level. Promote the use of "living shorelines" in the face of rising sea levels.
- Stimulate job development in ecotourism, marine fisheries and aquaculture by protecting public access and working waterfronts.
- Maintain Virginia's economic and ecological health by conserving significant habitat through coastal land acquisition and restoration.
- Encourage collaboration among public and private partners and businesses to increase the use and availability of native plants for their habitat and water quality benefits.
- Engage the public and change behavior to reduce marine debris and implement other actions identified in the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan.

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