

**A program of the
Virginia Department of
Environmental Quality,
Division of Environmental
Enhancement**

Virginia

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR 2002

CZMA program approved:
1986

Coastal population in 2000:
4,472,584

Miles of coastline:
3,315

CZMA funds:
\$2,000,000

CZMA enhancements funds:
\$540,000

CZMA nonpoint funds and
special funds:
\$570,000

State and other matching
funds:
\$2,570,000

Total:
\$5,680,000

Note: This fact sheet highlights
activities for October 2002 through
September 2003.

Program Goals and Objectives

The Virginia Coastal Program manages and oversees activities that affect the Commonwealth's coastal resources. The Program's mission is to protect, restore and strengthen Virginia's coastal ecosystems and economy. The 10 goals of the coastal program are:

- Protect and restore coastal resources, habitats and species.
- Restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters.
- Provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture.
- Avoid and minimize coastal resources conflicts.
- Promote informed decision making by maximizing the availability of up-to-date education information, technical advice and scientific data.
- Promote sustainable ecotourism, increase and improve public access.
- Reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property.
- Promote renewable energy production and appropriate extraction of minerals.
- Protect air quality.
- Ensure sustainable development on coastal lands, support access for water-dependent development.

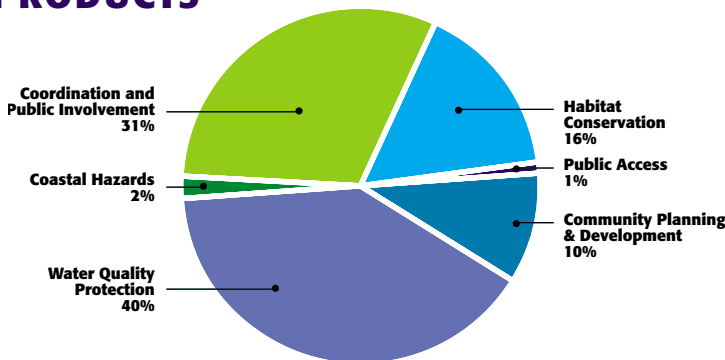
Key Accomplishments

- Initiated Seaside Heritage Program to restore damaged habitats (seagrass, oyster reefs, and bird nesting sites) and economic opportunities (ecotourism, fishing and aquaculture) on the Atlantic Coast of Virginia's Eastern Shore.
- Completed Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) on water use conflict issues on the North Landing River and on improvement of the wetlands mitigation process in the Southern Watersheds, Virginia.
- Conducted extensive aerial and ground studies of dune sites and systems resulting in a new dunes classification system, expansion of inventory studies to jurisdictions not covered by the Dunes and Beaches Act and completion of an assessment of secondary dunes most at risk of disturbance or loss due to development.
- Selected as a semi-finalist for the Innovation in American Government Award, given by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, for creating the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program, a public-private partnership. This program has resulted in the restoration of over 80 sanctuary oyster reefs and more than 1000 acres of oyster habitat in Virginia's coastal zone.

OUTCOMES AND PRODUCTS

COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: \$1,768,546

- Coordinated multi-partner Seaside Heritage Program and Oyster Heritage Program
- Developed GIS use-suitability models to locate optimal and suitable aquaculture sites and booklet summarizing Virginia's laws and regulations pertaining to shellfish aquaculture
- Provided outreach to public, including bi-annual magazine Virginia Coastal Management
- Facilitated adoption of new science standards of learning in Virginia schools, including significant content on watersheds, water quality, Chesapeake Bay, and air quality



COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: \$546,451

- Development and implementation of Dragon Run Watershed Special Area Management Plan
- Adopted Northampton County Ground Water Protection Ordinance
- Supported creation of Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority

COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION: \$893,425

- Developed protocols for nontidal wetlands mitigation
- Produced GIS data layers of shorebird survey data
- Drafted Environmental Codes of Practice and Best Management Practices for clam culture
- Planted 1.7 million submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) seeds over 17.5 acres around Gull Marsh
- Built oyster reefs in Swash, Cedar Island and Kegotank bays on Virginia's Eastern Shore
- Mapped the current Seaside Phragmites invasion - 58 patches mapped, covering an area of 112 acres

COASTAL HAZARDS: \$110,000

- Conducted analysis of dune resources and management, expanded inventory of dunes adding the counties of Accomack and Lancaster, and the cities of Hampton and Norfolk

COASTAL WATER QUALITY PROTECTION: \$2,306,578

- Implemented Virginia's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program
- Certified 18 marinas as Virginia Clean Marinas
- Drafted BMP guide for stream stabilization and restoration projects
- Conducted assessment of coastal stream segments for a watershed prioritization tool based on aquatic health

PUBLIC ACCESS: \$55,000

- Development of 70-mile Seaside Water Trail on Virginia's portion of the Delmarva from Kiptopeke to Chincoteague
- Identified improvements needed to ecotourism sites on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Virginia

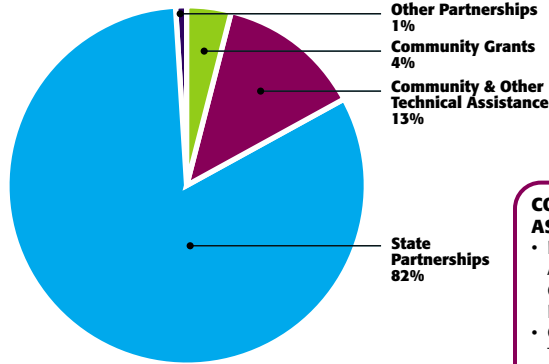
FUNDING RECIPIENTS

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS: \$62,000

- Funded Virginia Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response Program, which responded to 565 strandings

STATE PARTNERSHIPS: \$4,656,496

- Coordinated Virginia Naturally – network of 350 partners dedicated to environmental education
- Funded nontidal wetland permitting and compliance activities within the coastal zone
- Funded review of 1343 projects to assess potential impact to natural heritage resources and to recommend ways to avoid or minimize these impacts
- Mapped 36,283 hectares (89,659 acres) of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
- Compiled all available water quality data from the Virginia seaside bays – over 400 sites on seaside spanning the period 1962-2003 compiled containing over 41,000 entries
- Provided technical expertise and training to citizen monitoring groups to enhance their effectiveness and capabilities to provide water quality information
- Conducted Ecotour Guide Certification Course on Eastern Shore and certified 19 guides



COMMUNITY GRANTS: \$247,000

- Positions in Middlesex and King William counties reviewed development plans for E & S, Storm Water Management, Bay Act and wetland protection requirements
- Implemented Special Area Management Plan for the Southern Watershed of Virginia – cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: \$714,504

- Implemented Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act in Northampton, Accomack and Surry Counties and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission
- Conducted annual Eastern Shore Heritage Tourism Workshop
- Inventoried public aquaculture float systems on Mobjack Bay and Ware and Severn Rivers
- Staffed the Rappahannock River Basin Commission
- Enabled more than 1780 CBPA, Wetlands, and Erosion and Sediment Control inspections in the Northern Neck
- Supported On-Site Disposal System Technical Guidance Program

PARTNERS

Virginia State Agencies (Departments of Environmental Quality, Conservation and Recreation, Game and Inland Fisheries, Transportation, Forestry and Health; Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department)

Educational Institutions/Programs (Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary, Virginia Sea Grant, University of Virginia, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Virginia Marine Science Museum, Virginia Commonwealth University, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System in Virginia)

Non-Profits (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation)

Virginia Planning District Commissions (Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck, Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia, Crater, Richmond Regional, Accomack-Northampton, Rappahannock Area)

NOAA Offices (Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management/NOAA, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration)

Other Federal Agencies/Offices (Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense – Navy)

Regional Organizations (Virginia Office of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Virginia Office of the Chesapeake Bay Program)

Private Partners (Cherrystone Aquafarms, Coastal Conservation Association of Virginia, Watermen of Virginia, Kellum Brand Seafood)

Virginia Counties and Cities

Virginia Seafood Council

Virginia Chamber of Commerce

PRIORITIES AND NEEDS

The key priorities of the Coastal Program for the next year are the following:

- Mapping of Virginia's blue and green infrastructure to better link local land use policies and state water use policies
- Move forward on recommendations to improve secondary and riverine dunes and beach management
- Completion of inter-agency shoreline management consensus document
- Continue efforts to restore seaside habitats and ecotourism
- Expand technical assistance grants to localities for coastal NPA programs

If provided more funding and support, the Coastal Program would seek to accomplish the following:

- Acquire sensitive coastal lands through Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funds
- Increase habitat restoration efforts
- Fund continued implementation of the Virginia Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
- Provide additional support to program partners tracking Virginia's coastal indicators
- Increase and enhance ecotourism and coastal public access

STATE CONTACT:

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