



Virginia Wetlands Report



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Shallow Water Habitat and Dredging

Dredging in tidal waters is a commonly proposed activity that is often considered necessary and acceptable. Dredging in waters of any depth can be associated with adverse impacts including habitat removal, burial of bottom-dwelling organisms, increased turbidity, decreased flushing, and alteration of current patterns, sediment, water quality, and salinity. When the water depths proposed for dredging are shallow, all these adverse effects are expected in addition to changes to the ecosystem functions of primary production, secondary production, nutrient processes, and potential predator-prey interactions.

When sunlight reaches the bottom in shallow waters, it supports the growth of photosynthetic bottom-dwelling microalgae. These microalgae remove nitrogen from the waterway. In this way, the shallow water habitat acts as a nitrogen sink. Bottom-dwelling algae also contribute to the estuarine food web, and shallow water areas can support high levels of secondary production, such as bottom-dwelling worms, mollusks, and crustaceans that are prey for a number of predatory species such as flounder and blue crabs.

Shallow waters serve as forage area and refuge for juvenile crabs and finfish as well as adults of small finfish species. Dredging may change available prey and allow predators to have enhanced access to the shallow areas that previously served as refuge.

Research at VIMS and other institutes has helped reveal the many functions of shallow water habitats. At the workshop, we will share the results of CCRM and VIMS research related to this topic. We will also talk about how improved knowledge of shallow water systems can help inform regulatory decisions.

In this issue:

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



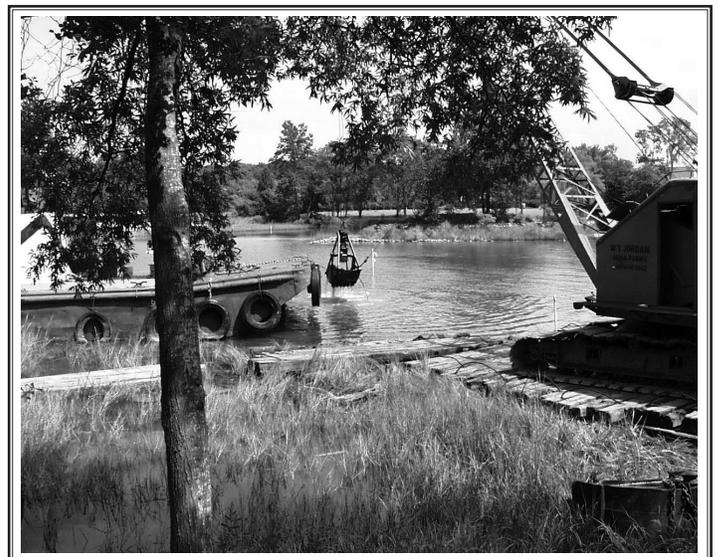
Current Issues in Coastal Resources

Thursday, September 17, 2009
at VIMS

See inside for information & registration!

Also

Tidal Wetlands News & Events



Marine Debris: Derelict Crab Pots

Marine debris is a global problem that injures and kills marine life, interferes with navigational safety, causes economic losses to fishing and coastal industries, and poses a threat to human health. The Chesapeake Bay is continually polluted with a wide variety of marine debris including derelict crab traps. Derelict (lost or abandoned) blue crab traps (pots) can continue to capture and kill

animals for several years depending upon salinity and wave climate. Over the past several years, CCRM has used a variety of techniques and technology to study the effects and abundance of derelict crab pots, and ways to lessen their adverse impacts on the marine environment. Dr. Kirk Havens will share the results of this research and ongoing efforts to rid the Bay of marine debris.



Visit the marine debris project web site for more information
http://ccrm.vims.edu/marine_debris_removal/index.html

Tidal Wetland and Beach/Dune Assessment

A concern that frequently arises in the permit process is how to assess the marine environmental impacts of proposed activities. Determining impacts is a vital component of the decision-making process and important to the establishment of compensation requirements. The upcoming workshop will address this concern with lecture and field training in impact assessment, including interpretation of the permit application, determination of jurisdictional boundaries, identification of tidal datum indicators, and wetland and dune plant identification.



WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Current Issues in Coastal Resources

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Watermen's Hall Lobby & Auditorium

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA



8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Workshop

Workshop Web Site: ccrm.vims.edu/Fall2009.html

A workshop will be held at VIMS for local government staff, advisory board members, marine contractors, permitting agents, environmental consultants, and anyone else interested in coastal resources in the Commonwealth. Sessions will include morning lectures in the McHugh Auditorium in Watermen's Hall, and an afternoon field session on campus.

Bring a sweater for the auditorium and field shoes, sunscreen, and a hat for the field session.

Planned Workshop Topics

- Shallow water habitat and dredging
- Marine debris: derelict crab pots
- Assessment of impacts to tidal wetlands, beaches, and dunes
- Tidal wetland and dune plant identification

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Registration - \$25 (includes lunch).

Deadline for payment & registration: September 11, 2009

If paying by VISA/MasterCard please email (dawnf@vims.edu) or fax (804-684-7179) registration form
AND call Dawn at 804-684-7380 with credit card information.

Make checks payable to: VIMS Tidal Wetlands Workshop
Please mail: Tidal Wetlands Workshop/CCRM
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Tidal Wetlands News & Events

The Virginia Wetlands Report is a biannual publication of the Wetlands Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary. To subscribe to this newsletter, please contact:

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New VIMS Shoreline Inventories. The Comprehensive Coastal Inventory at VIMS recently completed shoreline inventories for Mathews County, Lynnhaven Bay, New Kent County, York County and the City of Newport News. These new inventories will join others already available on-line.

http://ccrm.vims.edu/gis_data_maps/shoreline_inventories/index.html

August 27, September 24, October 22, 2009. VIMS After-Hours Lecture Series, 7:00 pm. Join VIMS scientists for engaging public lectures with coastal management topics that include climate change effects, the development of wind energy and challenges associated with oil discovery and extraction off Virginia's coast.

<http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/events/2009/index.php>

September 26, 2009. Fall Heirloom and Native Plant Sale. The Hermitage Foundation, Norfolk, VA .

<http://www.hermitagefoundation.org/index.asp>

Updated Joint Permit Application (JPA) The Norfolk District Corps of Engineers, Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission have issued a revised version of the Standard Joint Permit Application (JPA).

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/technical%20services/Regulatory%20branch/JPA.asp>

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