



# Virginia Wetlands Report



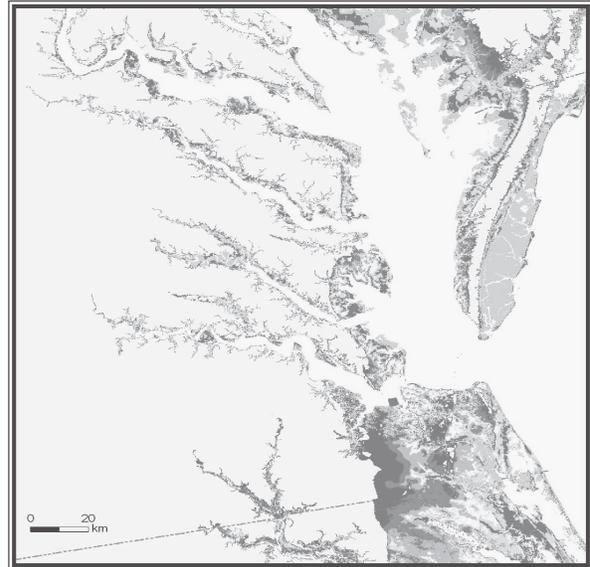
Volume 27, Issue 1

A Biannual Publication Focused on Virginia Wetland Issues and Training

Spring 2012

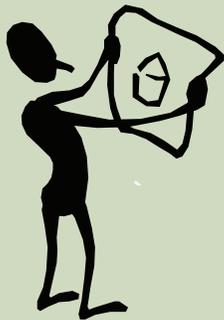
## Sea Level Rise – State of the Science

As the impacts of rising sea level become more prevalent, localities are turning attention to strategies for adapting to the risks of more frequent flooding and storm damage. The information that supports their efforts to plan comes from analysis of sea level records and trends, as well as growing understanding of the many factors that affect local sea levels. A summary of current understandings will be presented along with the latest information on expected future trends in sea level in southeastern Virginia.



### In this issue:

#### WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



### Planning for the Future

Thursday, May 24, 2012

at VIMS

See inside for information & registration!

ALSO

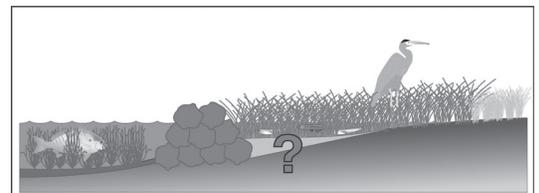
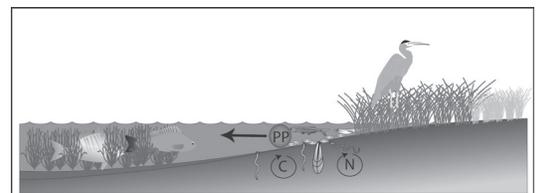
Tidal Wetlands News & Events

## Living Shorelines Research

During 2010-2012, CCRM scientists conducted research to evaluate habitat conversion trade-offs of living shoreline placement and the effectiveness of living shorelines for erosion protection. Research results will be discussed at the upcoming workshop.



*Sample collection*



*Effects on nutrient cycling and productivity*



## 2012 General Assembly Session

While there were some interesting bills introduced in the 2012 session of the General Assembly, only a few are of note from an environmental perspective. Companion bills, HJ 50 and SJ 76, require VIMS to conduct a study of strategies to address recurrent flooding. The study area includes all of Tidewater and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The study will officially start July 1, and must be submitted no later than the first day of the 2013 session. Also of interest is the Governors Executive Reorganization Plan (HJ49 and SJ 66). This bill eliminates and combines several advisory boards. One change is the move of the storm water MS4 permitting program from DCR to DEQ. Perhaps most important, it initiates an administrative study to evaluate the water quality programs particularly with regard to the Watershed Implementation Plans for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

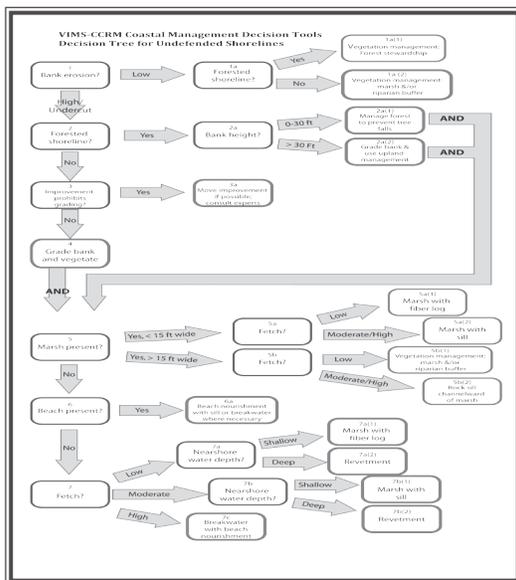
## Living Shoreline General Permit Update

The Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 964 during the 2011 session which required, in part, that VMRC establish and implement a general permit that authorizes and encourages the use of living shorelines as the preferred alternative for stabilizing tidal shorelines. VMRC will give an update on this process at the upcoming workshop.



## Shoreline Management Study

Virginia Institute of Marine Science completed a General Assembly mandated study of shoreline management at the end of 2010. Elements of the study included: a review of tidal shoreline management in Virginia and other states; a look at potential regulatory changes to reduce the cost and time required to issue a permit; identification of options to promote the use of living shorelines; and recommendations to achieve the sustained protection of tidal shoreline resources. A brief overview of the study will be presented.



## Master Gardeners Integrated Shoreline Evaluation Assistance Program

Master Gardeners on the Northern Neck of Virginia have recently begun a program in which they assist shoreline property owners in applying the VIMS-CCRM shoreline decision trees and integrated shoreline management approach to address management of their shorelines. A representative from the Master Gardeners will be on hand to discuss the program.

# WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

## Planning for the Future

Thursday, May 24, 2012

Watermen's Hall Lobby & Auditorium

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

8:00 am - 9:00 am Check in

9:00 am - 3:30 pm Workshop

Workshop Web Site: [ccrm.vims.edu/Spring2012.html](http://ccrm.vims.edu/Spring2012.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 management in the Commonwealth. Speakers include VIMS CCRM scientists, VMRC engineers, and Master Gardeners.

### Planned Workshop Topics

- Sea Level Rise – State of the Science
- Living Shorelines General Permit – Background and Update
- Living Shorelines – Research Results
- Application of the VIMS-CCRM Decision Trees
- General Assembly Updates
- and other topics!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration - \$25 (includes lunch).

**Deadline for payment & registration: May 17, 2012**

If paying by VISA/MasterCard please email ([dawnf@vims.edu](mailto: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

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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Produced by: CCRM Communications Committee

This report was funded, in part, by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and by the Virginia Coastal Program of the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant NA11NOS4190122 – Task #8 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, under the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies or DEQ.

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## Tidal Wetlands News & Events

### VIMS Discovery Workshops Sponsored by CBNERRS.

June 19, 2012 - Ocean Chemistry and Acidification

July 17, 2012 - Fish of the York River

August 21, 2012 - Streams to Sea: Watersheds

October 23, 2012 - Mad Lab

Details at: [http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/education/public\\_programs/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/education/public_programs/index.php)

### Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals – Spring Workshop

May 11, 2012. Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond, VA.

“Threats to Aquatic Resources in VA.” Details at: <http://www.vawp.org/>

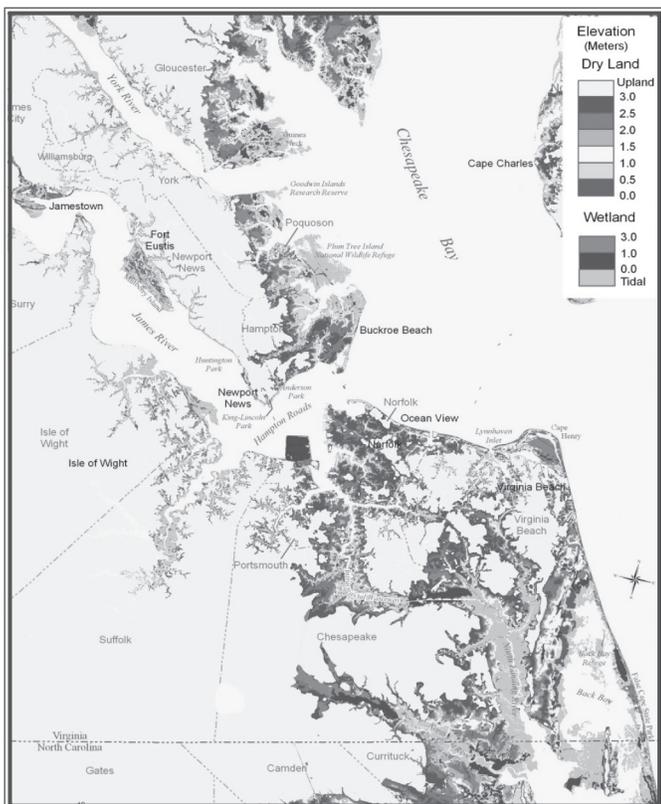
### VIMS Marine Science Day May 19, 2012, Gloucester Point.

The annual open house event for VIMS. 10am to 3 pm on Saturday.

Details at: <http://www.vims.edu/public/msd/>

### Society of Wetland Scientists – Joint meeting with INTECOL “Wetlands in a Complex World” June 3-8, 2012, Orlando, FL. Details at: <http://www.sws.org>

### The Coastal Society’s 23rd International Conference June 3-6, 2012, Miami, FL. “Our Coasts, Our Heritage: Ecosystem Services for the Common Good.” Details at: <http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html>



## Elevations of Land Close to Sea Level

Elevations are above spring high water, which is the average high tide during new and full moons, and approximately the inland boundary of tidal wetlands. This map is a general graphical representation of elevations in the area depicted, not designed to estimate the precise elevations at specific locations. Actual elevations at specific locations may be 75 cm above or below the elevations shown, Source: J. G. Titus and J. Wang. 2008. “Maps of Lands Close to Sea Level along the Mid-Atlantic Coast.” US EPA

[http://maps.risingsea.net/CCSP/F.2\\_HamptonRoads50cm\\_Titus\\_and\\_Wang\\_2008.jpg](http://maps.risingsea.net/CCSP/F.2_HamptonRoads50cm_Titus_and_Wang_2008.jpg)