

Semi-Annual Report
April 27, 2010

**A Regional Guidebook for Applying the Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Approach to
Flats in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain**

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Center for Coastal Resources Management

Assistance #: CD-97386001

Budget/Project Period: December 2008 – September 2010

Grantee's Project Officer: Kirk Havens

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Federal Funding: \$77,747

Federal Funds Expended: \$51,123

Federal Funds Remaining: \$26,624

The objective of this project is to develop a finalized HGM guidebook for coastal plain flats in the Mid-Atlantic. The Mid-Atlantic flats guidebook will provide guidance in determining functions associated with flats for use in the regional regulatory programs. The project task is to combine HGM guidance developed in Delaware and Virginia into a guidebook for the Mid-Atlantic. The final product is a Regional HGM Guidebook for Coastal Plain Flats. The project specifically addresses the three EPA national program priorities of 1) regulation (enhance wetlands protection) 2) improving the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation, and 3) refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources.

Task 1: Develop a finalized HGM Guidebook for Coastal Plain flats in the Mid-Atlantic.

Summary of Activities

Review of extant state models has been completed. First workshop with HGM experts has been concluded. This workshop involved the participation of Mr. Charlie Rhodes (EPA) and was held at the Smithsonian Estuarine Research Center on April 15/16 2009. Workshop outcome determined a number of metrics that could potentially be combined between the various models. Preliminary review of potentially similar metrics has been completed. Several statistical methods have been utilized to test relationships across both VA and DE methods and variables. In depth analysis of various model data is continuing. A second workshop is scheduled for May 4/5 2010.

Accomplishments/Problems

No additional field data collection was determined to be necessary at the April 2009 meeting. A follow up meeting of expert panel members is planned for May 4/5 2010. Discussion and decision on additional field data collection will take place at this meeting. The need to meet with Army Corps of Engineers necessitated time extension on project and schedule adjustment (see timeline below). Meeting with ACOE is anticipated for Summer/Fall 2010.

Schedule

Analysis of site data from different state models is ongoing. Combination of potential variables in an aggregated model will be discussed at Spring meeting.

Project Milestones and Deliverables

Timeline	Task Schedule
December 1, 2008	Project Start
April 2009	First expert workshop - COMPLETED
October/November	Progress Report - COMPLETED
May - January 2010	Data analysis - ONGOING
March/April 2010	Second expert workshop – PENDING 05/04/2010
April 2010	Progress Report – COMPLETED
August/Sept 2010	Waterways Experiment Station interaction - PENDING
November 2010	Final Report - PENDING