



Final Project Summary

Your final project summary is an important contribution to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program's communication efforts and will be used to produce accomplishment reports, fact sheets and **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Web Site** information.

Please submit this form electronically to: Virginia.Witmer@deq.virginia.gov.

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NOAA Grant #:	NA08NOS4190466	Grant Year:	2008	Task #:	94.01
Agency/Locality:	Virginia Institute of Marine Science				
Project Title:	Living Shoreline Design and Construction Guidance Manual				
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PROJECT SUMMARY: Please confine your summary to the space provided below. Remember to:

- write for the public
- do not use first person
- include an abstract of project results
- provide a brief description, and titles, of publication(s) and/or dataset(s) produced
- describe how products will be distributed and if available on-line, please give the **Web address!**

In December 2006, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Zone Management Program held a Living Shoreline Summit to promote the use of this shore management strategy. The Summit showed that there is great potential for living shorelines, but that more work is needed to ensure waterfront property owners are aware of this technique as early as possible in the decision process. Providing educational programs for consultants and contractors who work in this field to ensure that they are familiar and comfortable with living shoreline strategies is one way to achieve this. As a result, funding was provided to develop living shoreline design guidance for shore protection.

The guidelines are meant to address the need to educate consultants, contractors, and other professionals in the use of living shoreline strategies. It provides the necessary information to determine where they are appropriate and what is involved in their design and construction. The guidelines focus on the use of created marsh fringes but also touch on the use of beaches for shore protection. The guidelines were created for the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay estuarine system but may be applicable to other similar estuarine environments.

Included in the report are design considerations for living shoreline strategies as well as case studies of different types of existing structures. These provide examples of successful projects in the Virginia-portion of Chesapeake Bay. Also included are design examples of typical structures. Recommendations made in Shoreline Studies Program's Mathews County Shoreline Management Plan were used as a base for discussion. Site data was gathered for two sites where sills would be the preferred shore management strategy. Once designed, the sill cost was contrasted with the cost of a revetment, which often is the preferred method of shore protection.