

**Semi-Annual Report
March 2009**

**ON-GOING DEVELOPMENT OF NONTIDAL WETLAND
INVENTORY AND MONITORING STRATEGY FOR VIRGINIA**

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Center for Coastal Resources Management

This project includes work specifically aimed at moving the inventory and monitoring data into routine use in management and permitting decisions. This project will begin model validation (Level III) in the Piedmont and Ridge and Valley and begin wetlands condition status and trends analysis for the coastal plain.

Task 1: Level III Assessment of Nontidal Piedmont and Valley & Ridge Wetlands

Summary of Activities

The current model validation (level III) sampling will be extended to at least 20 sites in the Piedmont and Valley & Ridge.

Accomplishments/Problems

Piedmont and Valley & Ridge sites have been selected.

Schedule

Validation sampling (avian and amphibian) will begin in May.

Task 2. Re-calibration of Wetland Condition Model for Coastal Plain

Resample of (Level II) Coastal Plain NWI mapped wetlands to investigate possible changes between surrounding landuse and wetland stressors.

Summary of Activities

The initial level II calibration sample totaled approximately 1,200 sites. The re-calibration will involve a stratified random sample of approximately 120 sites (10%).

Accomplishments/Problems

Sites have not yet been selected.

Schedule

Sampling is scheduled for Spring 2010.

Task 3: Facilitated Management Application of Inventory and Monitoring Data,

This task involves coordination with DEQ staff during to design and implement procedures to facilitate the routine application of inventory and monitoring data to regulatory decisions on wetland permits.

Summary of Activities

Develop and test new analytical protocols modeled on procedures now used for tidal wetlands management in Virginia. The specific design of both the user interface and the materials delivered will be driven by DEQ staff input during the project. The goal is to automate the processing of data base information necessary to support DEQ decision-making.

Accomplishments/Problems

Protocols are being modified to fit the nontidal wetlands model.

Schedule

Meeting with DEQ and EPA personnel scheduled for April 2009.

Task 4. Public Outreach, and Technology Transfer

Continue to transfer data to the VIMS website for public use as the data are finalized.

Summary of Activities

Information gathered from this project is disseminated through the VIMS website, as well as newsletters and scientific meetings and forums.

Accomplishments/Problems

Data is in the testing phase for future use by local governments (for comprehensive planning process and zoning), regulatory agencies (for cumulative impact analysis), researchers (for developing new studies and research questions), and the general public (for wetland and watershed awareness).

Schedule

Ongoing.