April 30, 2025

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Semiannual Section B.2-4 Report
For the Period from October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

SECTION B.2 PERMIT ADMINISTRATION, MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

1) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

a) DEQ – Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Virginia CZM Program staff continued to work with our partner agencies to implement the Program over the last 6 months. For a full description of staff activities, please refer to the Section A report for Task 1.01.

b) DEQ – Water Permitting Programs

DEQ- Virginia Water Protection Permit (VWPP) Program

The Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit Program authorizes surface water withdrawal activities[1] and activities in wetlands and surface waters that may or may not require a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality certification. The data presented herein is for the *Tidewater region* of the Commonwealth.

During the reporting period of October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, the VWP Permit Program issued 93 general permit coverages and eight individual permits; processed 14 Notices of Planned Change on general permit coverages; and processed 11 individual permit modifications in Virginia's coastal counties.

The average time to process a general permit coverage was 21 days, and the average time to process an individual permit was 253 days.

Approximately 133.6 acres of non-tidal wetland impacts and zero tidal impacts occurred during the reporting period. During this reporting period, approximately 100 wetland credits were purchased at compensatory mitigation banks or through in-lieu fee programs, and approximately 11 acres of preservation was received as compensatory mitigation.

During the reporting period, 10 compliance actions[2] on individual permits and 23 compliance actions on general permit coverages were taken. Compliance actions for two of the general permit coverages are still active at the time of this report. Additionally, 11 compliance actions were taken on activities not associated with a VWP individual permit or general permit coverage, and one of these is still active at the time of this report.

The VWP Permit Program continues to coordinate permitting actions with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. DEQ's VWP Permit Program did not receive comments or concerns during the reporting period about expediting decision-making for the management of coastal resources. DEQ tracks various steps in permitting processes through the Permit Enhancement and Evaluation Platform (PEEP) tool available on DEQ's web site. One goal of this tool is to identify any potential improvements in permitting efficiency on the part of applicants and relevant agencies.

[1] While VWP permits may authorize surface water withdrawal activities, data specific to streams, stream flow, or water quantity are not included in this program summary.

[2] Warning Letter (WL), Notice of Violation (NOV), or Request for Corrective Action (RCA).

DEQ – Virginia Pollution Abatement (VPA) Water Permitting Program

The Virginia Pollution Abatement permit (VPA) is required for facilities that manage industrial or municipal wastewater, animal waste, biosolids or industrial residuals in such a manner that they do not have a discharge from the site. For example, an agricultural facility that temporarily stores wastewater to be land applied as part of an irrigation/fertilization program.

During the period between October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, ten VPA – Individual Permit (IP) permit applications were received.

- Six applications were for reissuances of permits authorizing the land treatment of industrial or municipal wastewater. Two applications were for reissuances of permits authorizing the land application of biosolids. One application was for the reissuance of a permit for a facility that stores biosolids. One application was for the modification of a permit for the land application of biosolids.
- During this period, a permit authorizing the land application of biosolids was issued and a major modification was completed for a permit authorizing the land application of biosolids. Also, during this period, four permits were reissued: one permit authorizes the storage of biosolids, one authorizes the land application of industrial wastewater, and two authorizes the land application of biosolids. All of the applications for the completed actions were submitted during an earlier period.

During the period between October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, ten VPA – General Permits (GPs) applications were received. The permit actions were completed during this period.

- For the VPA General Permit for Poultry Waste Management (PWM), one application was received for the issuance of coverage under the general permit and was completed during this period. Five additional applications were received for permit changes, four of the applications were seeking to make changes to their operations and one was to change the ownership.
- For the VPA General Permit for Animal Feeding Operations and Animal Waste Management, four applications were received for the reissuance of coverage under the general permit; these actions were completed during this period.

VPDES/VPA/VWP - October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025										
	Permits Issued / Avg Proc. Days		Permits Reissued / Avg Proc. Days		Permits Modified / Avg Proc. Days		Denied / Avg Proc. Days		Permits Reissue Pending / Avg Proc. Days	
VPDES										
VPA	1	300	4	794	1	274	0	NA	22	691
VPA GP	1	32	4	10	5	16	0	N/A	0	N/A

DEQ – Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Water Permitting Program

CZM VPDES Issued/Reissued/Modified/Denied October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025*										
	Permits Issued / Avg Proc. Days		Permits Reissued / Avg Proc. Days		Permits Modified** / Avg Proc. Days		Denied / Avg Proc. Days		Permits Reissue Pending / Avg Proc. Days	
VPDES	1	378	21	517	1	51	0	NA	37***	NA

* Information from CEDS (Comprehensive Environmental Data System) database
** Major modifications
*** This represents existing VPDES individual permits expired but pending through March 31, 2025.

There is a total of 263 individual municipal and industrial CZM area VPDES individual permits. This includes 12 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) individual permits. This number and the numbers in the table represent typical activity in the program.

There are also numerous facilities registered under general permits in CZM areas including 44 vehicle wash, 114 concrete products, 8 cooling water, 354 domestic sewage ≤ 1,000 GPD, 55 nonmetallic mineral mining, 28 petroleum, 16 potable water treatment, 43 seafood processors, and 515 industrial stormwater. These represent typical numbers for permit registrants in CZM areas in Virginia. There are also 63 registrants under the MS4 general permit. There are a number of general permit coverages that are automatically covered under a permit (e.g., pesticide applications and hydrostatic testing) and are not entered into the CEDS database. There are also 60 registrants under the nutrient trading general permit, but these facilities are included in the individual permit count.

c) DEQ – Water Program Enforcement and Compliance

DEQ continues to apply both informal and formal enforcement measures in the enforcement program. Reference the graphics on the next page.

Informal measures, such as Warning Letters, are used in those cases where non-compliance is not significant in nature and where compliance can be achieved in a short period of time. For the period October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, DEQ issued 11 Warning Letters for violations of VPDES, VPA, VWPP, and Ground Water program requirements.

Formal enforcement actions are used in those cases where non-compliance is more serious or may take a significant amount of time to correct. Formal measures generally involve the issuance of a Notice of Violation followed by a Consent Order, or an Executive Compliance Agreement in the case of a state agency. In some cases, Unilateral Administrative Orders or court orders may be sought. Between October 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, DEQ issued 17 Notices of Violation for violations of VPDES, VPA, VWPP, and Ground Water program requirements. During the same period, the agency concluded enforcement cases with the issuance of 21 Consent Orders that assessed a total of $272,173.43 in civil charges.

The three regions in the Coastal Zone Management area that are included in the Water Program's formal and informal enforcement measures graphics are the Tidewater, Piedmont, and Northern Regions.

Water Program Enforcement - Warning Letters and Notice of Violations in the Coastal Zone Management Area

FILTERS:

Date Sent
10/01/2024 to 03/31/2025

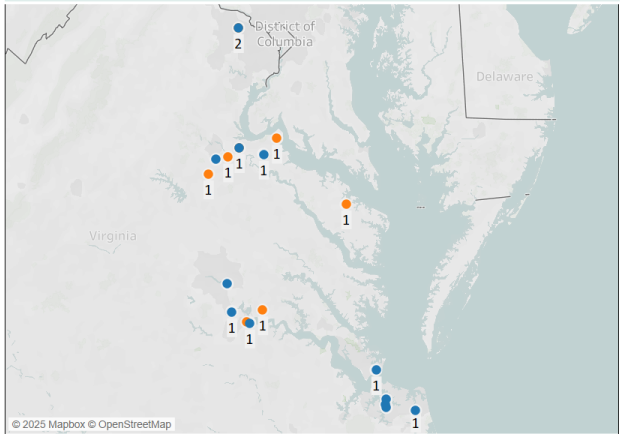
Region Office Name
Multiple values

Permit Type
Multiple values

Number of Warning Letters and NOVs per Region in the Coastal Zone Management Area

	Grand Total	Northern	Piedmont	Tidewater
Grand Total	28	12	10	6
NOV	17	6	5	6
WL	11	6	5	0

Warning Letters and Notice of Violation in the Coastal Zone Management Area



Water Program Enforcement - Consent Orders and Civil Charges in the Coastal Zone Management Area

FILTERS:

Executed Date
10/01/2024 to 03/31/2025

Region Office Name
Multiple values

Total Number of Consent Orders in the Coastal Zone Management Area

Enforcement Action Type	
Grand Total	22
Consent Order	21
IFF/1186 Order	1

Total Civil Charges in the Coastal Zone Management Area

Enforcement Action Type	Executed Date	Enforcement Action Nu..	
Grand Total			$272,173.43
Consent Order	10/01/2024	NR24-0742	$1,603.00
	10/08/2024	PR24-0305	$25,630.38
		PR24-0516	$2,492.88
		PR24-0701	$4,630.50
		PR24-0759	$4,630.50
	10/15/2024	NR24-0768	$2,290.00
	10/24/2024	NR24-0769	$1,603.00
	10/28/2024	NR24-0752	$3,704.40
	11/07/2024	PR23-1110	$13,255.90
	11/12/2024	PR24-0603	$4,857.13
		PR24-0776	$1,603.00
	11/18/2024	PR24-0816	$1,145.00
	11/20/2024	VR23-0720	$30,148.00
	12/02/2024	NR24-0822	$8,103.38
	12/19/2024	PR24-0513	$19,291.18
		TR24-0425	$8,126.00
	01/17/2025	NR23-1023	$10,782.20

d) DEQ – Air Permitting Program

OFFICE OF AIR PERMIT PROGRAMS
PERMITS ISSUED REPORT FOR
VIRGINIA'S COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Period: October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

PERMIT TYPE	NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED	AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME (Days)
PSD & NA	0	NA
Major	1	102
**Minor	83	22
Administrative Amendment	5	13
Exemptions	8	27
State Operating	0	NA
Federal Operating (Title V) Initial Issuance	1	694
Federal Operating (Title V) Renewal	15	202
Acid Rain (Title IV)	0	NA
Total Number Permits Issued	**113**	

* The average processing time is determined by computing the difference between when the application was deemed administratively complete and when the permit was issued.

Note: The information provided for this report includes data from the Northern Virginia Regional Office, Piedmont Regional Office, and the Tidewater Regional Office only.

Definitions:
Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) = A source which emits **250 tons or more** per year of any regulated pollutant or is one of 28 specific industries listed in the state regulations and will emit 100 tons per year of a regulated pollutant.
Major = A source which emits, or has the potential to emit, **100 tons or more** per year of any air pollutant.
Minor = A source which emits, or has the potential to emit, **less than 100 tons** per year of any air pollutant.
Administrative Amendment = Administrative changes made to the permit to clarify or correct an issued permit. For example, typographical errors, name changes, etc.
Exemptions = Facilities are exempted from permitting requirements by exemption levels defined in 9 VAC 5-80-1105.
State Operating= Permit written pursuant to 9 VAC 5-80-800 et al.
Federal Operating (Title V) = a source that emits **10 tons or more** per year of any hazardous air pollutant, **or 25 tons** per year of any combination of hazardous air pollutants or emits any criteria pollutant above 100 tons per year.
Acid Rain (Title IV) = Permits issued specifically to address SO_2 and NO_x from electric generating units covered under the Acid Rain regulations.

OFFICE OF AIR PERMIT PROGRAMS
PERMITS PENDING REPORT FOR
VIRGINIA'S COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Permits pending as of March 31, 2025

PERMIT TYPE	NUMBER OF PERMITS PENDING
PSD & NA	2
Major	0
Minor	66
Administrative Amendment	0
Exemptions	4
State Operating	6
Federal Operating (Title V) Initial Issuance	10
Federal Operating (Title V) Renewal	33
Acid Rain (Title IV)	0
Total Permits Pending	**121**

Note: The information provided for this report includes data from the Northern Virginia Regional Office, Piedmont Regional Office, and Tidewater Regional Office only.

OFFICE OF AIR PERMIT PROGRAMS
PERMITS WITHDRAWN AND APPLICATIONS DENIED REPORT FOR
VIRGINIA'S COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Period: October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

PERMIT TYPE	NUMBER OF PERMITS WITHDRAWN	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DENIED
PSD	0	0
Major	0	0
Minor	7	0
Administrative Amendment	1	0
Exemptions	1	0
State Operating	0	0
Federal Operating (Title V)	1	0
Acid Rain (Title IV)	0	0
Total Permits Rescinded	**9**	**0**

Note: The information provided for this report includes data from the Northern Virginia Regional Office, Piedmont Regional Office, and Tidewater Regional Office only.

e) DEQ – Air Program Enforcement and Compliance

DEQ continues to apply both informal and formal enforcement measures in its air enforcement program. Reference graphic on the following page.

Informal measures include Requests for Corrective Action and Warning Letters. These actions are used in those cases where non-compliance is not significant in nature and where compliance can be achieved in a short period of time. During the six-month period beginning October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, DEQ issued 0 Requests for Corrective Action, and 2 Warning Letters.

Formal enforcement measures are used in those cases where non-compliance is more serious or may take a significant amount of time to correct. Formal measures generally involve the issuance of a Notice of Violation and negotiation of a Consent Order, or an Executive Compliance Agreement in the case of a state agency. In some cases, Unilateral Orders or court orders may be pursued. Between October 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, DEQ initiated 14 new formal enforcement actions via issuance of Notices of Violation and issued 0 Consent Orders; assessing $3,931,977.32 in civil charges.

The three regions in the Coastal Zone Management area that are included in the Air Program's formal and informal enforcement measures graphics are the Tidewater, Piedmont, and Northern Regions.

Air Program Enforcement - Actions and Civil Charges in the Coastal Zone Management Area

FILTERS:

Date Executed
10/1/2024 to 3/31/2025

Region Office Name
Multiple values

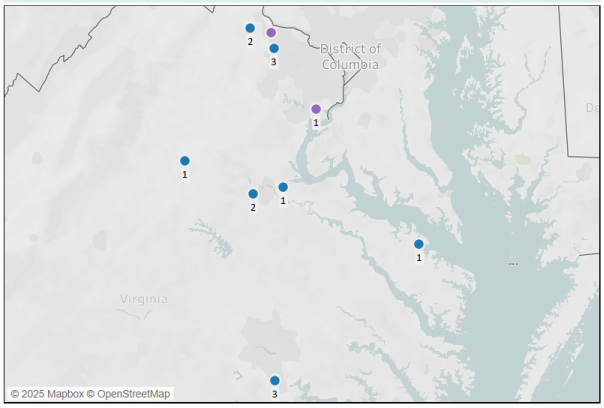
Air Coastal Zone - Formal and Informal Enforcement Actions in the Coastal Zone Management Area

Consent Order	
Notice of Violation	14
Request for Corrective Action	
Warning Letter	2
Grand Total	16

Air Coastal Zone Civil Charges in the Coastal Zone Management Area

Executed	Id	NOV Number	
Grand Total			$3,931,977.32
10/7/2024	300000009301	ANRO002734	$225,807.48
	300000009336	ANRO002811	$39,780.00
10/8/2024	300000009367	APRO002772	$2,456,244.00
12/16/2024	300000009571	ANRO002998	$5,570.00
1/7/2025	300000009335	ANRO002795	$16,644.00
1/21/2025	300000009321	ANRO002767	$813,528.00
1/28/2025	300000009340	ANRO002825	$122,928.00
2/10/2025	300000009591	APRO002862	$251,475.84
10/2/2024	300000009419	ANRO002917	
12/4/2024	300000009005	ANRO002410	

Notice of Violations in the Coastal Zone Management Area



Action Type
Consent Order
LOA

f) DEQ – Erosion and Sediment Control

Summary of Specific Outputs:

Specific Outputs	Progress / Status
9 CZM Chesapeake Bay Land Disturbing Activities Permitted - Projects less than 1 acre found within Chesapeake Bay Designated Areas.	Permit coverage has been issued and projects are under construction. Compliance is achieved through ongoing permit review, technical assistance, and project inspection.
206 CZM Small Construction Activities Permitted- Land Disturbing Activities greater than or equal to 1 acre and less than 5 acres.	Permit coverage has been issued and projects are under construction. Compliance is achieved through ongoing permit review, technical assistance, and project inspection.
57 CZM Large Construction Activities Permitted- Land Disturbing Activities greater than or equal to 5 acres and less than 10 acres.	Permit coverage has been issued and projects are under construction. Compliance is achieved through ongoing permit review, technical assistance, and project inspection.
86 CZM Large Construction Activities Permitted- Land Disturbing Activities greater than or equal to 10 acres and less than 50 acres.	Permit coverage has been issued and projects are under construction. Compliance is achieved thru ongoing permit review, technical assistance, and project inspection.
11 CZM Large Construction Activities Permitted- Land Disturbing Activities greater than or equal to 50 acres and less than 100 acres.	Permit coverage has been issued and projects are under construction. Compliance is achieved thru ongoing permit review, technical assistance, and project inspection.
5 CZM Large Construction Activities Permitted- Land Disturbing Activities greater than or equal to 100 acres.	Permit coverage has been issued and projects are under construction. Compliance is achieved thru ongoing permit review, technical assistance, and project inspection.
374 Total CZM Land Disturbing Activities Permitted thru coverage under the Construction General Permit.	Coastal Zone Management resources are conserved and restored through permit compliance.

Supplemental Narrative:

Considerable erosion and sediment control and stormwater management progress occurred during the performance period. New and improved requirements for project stabilization during construction and recently enhanced post construction requirements will result in further improvements to coastal zone resources. The new post construction requirements have been developed to more closely mimic predevelopment hydrology found in a naturally wooded site condition. The implementation of these new requirements will result in less downstream sediment export and fewer nutrient export impacts from land development.

g) DEQ- Office of Stormwater Management – Local Government Assistance Programs- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act

Summary
Program Description
The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act program is designed to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and other waters of the State by requiring the use of effective land management and land use planning. Specifically, these requirements fall into three implementation phases. Phase I consists of local governments designating and mapping Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas (CBPAs) and adopting land use and development performance criteria to protect those features. CBPAs include Resource Protections Areas (RPAs) and Resource Management Areas (RMAs). RPAs are made up of tidal wetlands, tidal shores, nontidal wetlands connected and contiguous to tidal wetlands or perennial streams and a 100-foot fully vegetated buffer. RMAs include lands adjacent to RPAs that are made up of land features such as highly erodible soils, steep slopes, and floodplains. Sixty of the 84 Tidewater localities have identified their entire jurisdiction as RMA. Phase II consists of the incorporation of water quality protection measures into local comprehensive plans. Phase III involves the review and revision of local land use codes to include specific standards that implement water quality performance criteria.

Technical Assistance & Training
During the reporting period October 1, 2024– March 31, 2025, staff continued to provide technical assistance and training to Bay Act localities. For this period, three outreach events were conducted, and 61 instances of technical assistance or outreach, including site plan review, were documented.

Environmental Impact Reviews
Through the Environmental Impact Review process, staff continued to review plans for State and Federal projects to ensure those projects were consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. During the reporting period, 76 environmental impact reviews were conducted.

Compliance Reviews
During the reporting period, the next round of compliance reviews continued, 15 localities reviews have begun. Of the 15 locality reviews, one has been completed and four are near completion. During these reviews, staff assess how well local governments are ensuring that impervious cover and land disturbance are minimized, and indigenous vegetation is preserved on approved development projects and if other Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act general performance criteria are being applied to the use and development of land.

2) Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

a) VMRC – Habitat Management Division

During the period October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, the Habitat Management Division received 1,212 applications for projects involving State-owned submerged lands, wetlands or dunes. These applications were for projects such as piers, boathouses, boat ramps, marinas, dredging and shoreline stabilization. As the clearinghouse for the Joint Permit Application all applications were assigned a processing number by the Division and forwarded to the appropriate agencies, including, local wetlands boards, the Norfolk District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Quality, VIMS and others as necessary.

A public interest review was initiated and site inspections were conducted for those projects requiring a permit from the Marine Resources Commission. Likewise, Habitat Management staff also conducted site inspections for all projects requiring a local wetlands board permit and evaluated each local board decision for Commissioner review. Habitat Management staff also conducted compliance inspections on permits issued by VMRC and local wetlands boards.

The Habitat Management Staff completed actions on 1,351 applications received during the period. Action on most applications was completed within 90 days after they were received. As such, a number of the actions taken during the period were for applications received prior to October 2024. Similarly, those applications received near the end of the current reporting period are still under review. Habitat Management Staff also participated in the inter-agency review process involving general permits for Virginia Department of Transportation projects.

In addition to staff actions, the full Commission considered 51 projects. During the reporting period the Commission considered 22 protested projects or projects requiring a staff briefing, The Commission also approved 29 projects over $500,000.00 in value.

During the reporting period, local wetland boards throughout Tidewater Virginia reviewed 125 projects involving tidal wetlands. Of this total, 106 were approved as proposed, 15 were approved as modified, 2 were denied, 1 was determined to not require a permit, and 1 is still pending. Of the total decisions, 26 required compensatory mitigation. Of these, 18 projects required either the purchase of credits from a tidal wetlands bank or from completing on or off-site compensation, and 8 required an in-lieu fee payment, accounting for 18,190 square feet of tidal wetlands compensatory mitigation for the permitted impacts.

b) VMRC – Fisheries Management Division

At the October 2024 meeting, the agency approved the closure of the upcoming 2024 - 2025 winter blue crab dredge fishery season.

At the December 2024 meeting, the agency amended Chapter 4VAC20-252 "Pertaining to Atlantic Striped Bass" to 1) adjust the commercial Chesapeake area striped bass quota from 983,393 pounds to 914,555 pounds and 2) remove existing regulatory language that prohibits commercial striped bass harvesters from obtaining both Chesapeake area and Coastal area tags at one time.

At the January 2025 meeting, the agency updated the Commission's Guidelines for Establishment, Use, and Operation of Tidal Wetland Mitigation Banks in Virginia (January 1, 1998) and its Wetlands Mitigation-Compensation Policy and Supplemental Guidelines Regulation (Chapter 4VAC20-390) developed pursuant to the legislative mandate of Chapter 334 of the 2023 Acts of the Virginia General Assembly (HB 1950).

At the February 2025 meeting, the agency amended Chapter 4VAC20-1360 "Pertaining to Commercial Electrofishing" to maintain three electrofishing licenses and the existing harvest areas, to expand the areas where electrofishing is prohibited to be within 300 yards of all piers and fixed fishing devices, to maintain the 100 yard buffer from all other marked fishing gear, and to remove the maximum size limit for electrofishing.

At the March 2025 meeting, the agency amended Chapter 4VAC20-510 "Pertaining to Amberjack and Cobia", to amend the recreational minimum size limit to 43 inches; repeal the one fish over 50-inch allowance in the recreational fishery; and establish the recreational fishing season.

c) VMRC – Law Enforcement Division

Enforcement under "Other Agency" refers to summons issued for other agencies' laws, code or regulation sections. The majority of the summons in this category are for DWR regulations on boating safety laws, expired boat registration, no life jackets, flares, etc.

Summons under "Police Powers" are all criminal vs fisheries. These are the reckless driving, drunk driving, driving without a license/suspended license, shoplifting, and possession of controlled substances.

VIRGINIA MARINE POLICE
ARRESTS/CONVICTIONS SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

REPORT FORMAT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR AREA: ALL AREAS
START PERIOD: 10/01/2020
END PERIOD: 09/30/2025

Category	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Convictions	Arrests	Convictions	Arrests	Convictions	Arrests	Convictions	Arrests	Convictions	Arrests
	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	13	2	3
Buyers	5	5	5	6	0	0	1	1	0	0
Casting Garbage/Trash	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	2
Clams	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	1	0	0
Commercial Fishing License	11	17	13	28	6	9	5	8	0	2
Conchs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crabs	38	54	41	57	32	39	19	33	1	1
Federal Violation	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
FIP Violations	14	19	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
Fish	194	206	122	141	105	120	195	226	41	46
Freshwater Fish without license	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	0
Freshwater Fishing without a license	6	6	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
Gill Nets	4	8	10	11	4	5	0	2	1	1
Habitat/Wetlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0
License Tags	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	2	0	0
Mandatory Reporting	0	4	1	7	4	4	1	3	0	0
Misc	5	5	5	9	35	38	60	75	17	21
Non-residents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NSSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Agencies	167	190	186	258	134	159	50	61	0	0
Oysters	32	50	38	51	38	45	11	18	8	9
Piers	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Police Powers	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	3	3
Removal of Obstructions	3	3	5	5	3	7	2	10	2	2
Resisting officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Safe Boating Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	38	24	24
Shellfish	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
SW Recreational License	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	34	10	10
SW Recreational Licenses	42	48	71	81	51	58	21	21	0	0
TOTALS:	**523**	**619**	**504**	**664**	**419**	**493**	**458**	**569**	**111**	**126**
PERCENT OF CONVICTIONS:	**84.49%**		**75.90%**		**84.99%**		**80.49%**		**88.10%**	

3) Virginia Department of Health (VDH) – Division of Shoreline Sanitation

From October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, the VDH Division of Shellfish Safety and Waterborne Hazards had:
314 acres of shellfish grounds formerly open year-round now closed to harvesting year-round,
724 acres of shellfish grounds formerly closed year-round now open to harvesting year-round,
71 acres of shellfish grounds formerly open year-round now seasonally closed,
465 acres of shellfish grounds formerly closed year-round now seasonally opened,
482 acres of shellfish grounds formerly seasonally closed now closed year-round, and
488 acres of shellfish grounds formerly seasonally opened now opened year-round.

The statistics on applications for sanitary facilities at marinas and other places where boats are moored are usually contained in this section of the Section B.2-4 Report. However, VDH did not report on these statistics for this reporting period.

4) Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

a) DCR - Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Nutrient Management
DCR Nutrient Management Staff have been active in developing and reviewing nutrient management plans as well as other nutrient reduction activities to achieve the Commonwealth's nutrient reduction commitments of the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs. In the coastal zones of Virginia, DCR staff have overseen the development of nutrient management plans covering 108,429.37 acres during the reporting period (10/1/2024 – 3/31/2025). Many plans are active for up to three years with all new or revised acreage developed by DCR planners in the coastal zones during the reporting period summarized in the following table:

CZM Basin	Number Of Plans	CZM Crop Acres	CZM Hay Acres	CZM Pasture Acres	CZM Specialty Acres	Total
Albemarle Sound	11	11712.84	1.97	0.87	-	**11715.68**
Atlantic Ocean	8	2095.89	-	-	-	**2095.89**
Chesapeake Bay Coastal	37	10494.08	14.84	34.12	-	**10543.04**
Chowan	17	4570.54	127.25	5.12	-	**4702.91**
James	29	15763.05	128.35	96.78	4.90	**15993.08**
Potomac	31	6951.95	224.09	129.72	1.63	**7307.38**
Rappahannock	73	25916.36	471.24	285.87	303.30	**26976.77**
York	89	26055.76	2280.07	758.78	-	**29094.62**
Total:	**295**	**103560.47**	**3247.81**	**1311.27**	**309.83**	**108429.37**

Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service

DCR's Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service (SEAS) was established in 1980 by the Virginia General Assembly as a resource for shoreline landowners and communities. The program provides unbiased, science-based technical assistance on environmentally sound shoreline management alternatives to private property owners and public land management agencies that are experiencing erosion on tidal shorelines or non-tidal streambanks and impoundments. Services provided by SEAS include on-site field investigation and analysis of erosion concerns, written advisory reports with recommended solutions, review of engineering designs and construction plans, on-site construction inspections, and guidance on available financial incentive programs.

For this reporting period, SEAS staff conducted 120 site visits, wrote 50 advisory reports, evaluated 37,345 feet of shoreline, and reviewed and provided comments on 62 joint permit applications (JPAs). During a site visit, staff walks the shoreline with the owner and assesses the cause(s) of the erosion problem. Staff then review with the owner, what they believe are the most appropriate shoreline erosion control and protection strategies for that site. The suite of solutions to shoreline erosion varies along a continuum of green-to-grey infrastructure (e.g., marsh toe revetments of oyster shell bags, stone sills with sand nourishment and marsh vegetation plantings, offshore gapped breakwater systems, riprap revetments, wood or vinyl bulkheads). Living shorelines are the Commonwealth's preferred alternative – and *de facto* permitting option – for stabilizing eroding tidal shorelines.

SEAS is working with VIMS, VMRC, DEQ, and others to 1) identify shoreline management practices (e.g., living shorelines) across tidal Virginia that qualify for Chesapeake Bay TMDL WIP pollutant reduction credits, 2) verify that installation of these practices meets the specifications set out by USEPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, and 3) quantify and report the earned pollutant reduction credits as part of the Commonwealth's efforts to meet goals established in the WIP. The first round of these pollutant reduction credits was reported to DEQ in October 2017; subsequent rounds were reported annually thereafter. During this reporting period, an additional 206 sites have been verified and the associated pollutant reductions were reported to DEQ in October 2024 (see table below).

SEAS continues implementation of a $1M, three-year grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to accelerate the scale and the rate of living shoreline implementation in Rural Coastal Virginia. During this reporting period, NFWF approved a no cost extension request; the grant is now scheduled to end in April 2025. During this reporting period, work extended across the project's four objectives: 1) grow and enhance the existing partnership of entities engaged in living shoreline implementation; 2) develop a cache of shovel-ready living shoreline projects with completed designs; 3) construct new living shorelines on socially vulnerable sites; and, 4) document the installation of recently implemented shoreline management projects for crediting towards WIP goals. During this reporting period, SEAS 1) worked with VIMS to present living shoreline designs to landowners for the cache of shovel-ready projects; 2) continued to work with local SWCDs to expand the availability of a living shoreline financial incentive program for residential property owners (VCAP) in a previously ineligible geography; 3) strengthened relationships with multiple federally-recognized Tribes by hosting a tour of the first living shoreline funded thru the State's agricultural cost-share program; 4) continued to work with VIMS to beta test the ShoreWatch application which is a tool for consistently collecting living shoreline monitoring data following newly established protocols; and, 5) worked with the Mattaponi Indian Tribe and VIMS to initiate construction of a living shoreline with grant funds on the Tribe's Reservation.

	Submitted October 2024	Total Submitted 2017-2024
Protected Shoreline (ft)	41,439	417,115
Number of Sites	206	2,008
Newly Planted Marsh/Wetlands (sq-ft)	104,360	944,387
Pollutant – TN [Total Reduction (lbs/yr)]	10,876.5	51,214.1
Pollutant – TP [Total Reduction (lbs/yr)]	7,546.4	34,916.8
Pollutant – TSS [Total Reduction (tons/yr)]	6,200.1	28,754.1

b) DCR - Division of Natural Heritage

This report lists projects and activities conducted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-NH) during this period that were not funded by or otherwise reported to the VCZMP.

Inventory

In October of 2024, Vegetation Ecologist Joey Thompson found a previously unknown population of Chapman's Purpletop (*Tridens chapmanii*, G3S1) in Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County. Specimens from the population were confirmed to be Chapman's Purpletop in January 2025 with the help of the Senior Botanist. The rare population of plants was found in a well-preserved section of woodland along Swift Creek Lake. Chapman's Purpletop is globally rare and known from only two other extant populations in Virginia in New Kent County and James City County. This work was done as part of a cooperative ecosystem mapping project between Natural Heritage and State Parks.

Chapman's Purpletop at Pocahontas State Park.

On November 7, 2024, botany staff submitted the final report for the annual Dominion Rare Plant Powerline Survey project. In June and September, staff visited approximately 14 powerline rights-of-way across four southern Piedmont counties. Several rare plants were found this year, including Torrey's Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum torreyi*, G2/S2), Purple Dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*, G5/S1), Northern Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium* var. *yuccifolium*, G5T5/S2), and Smooth Coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*, G2G3/S2, Fed T/State T). A few watchlist plants were also documented during the surveys.

Left: Ecologist Joey Thompson searching for rare plants. Right: Purple Dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*, G5/S1)

Senior Zoologist Steve Roble was the lead author of a paper published on January 9, 2025, in *Banisteria*, the scientific journal of the Virginia Natural History Society, documenting the species composition, distribution, flight seasons (all have fall-active adults), larval hostplants (typically only one or a few species), and conservation status of the moth genus *Papaipema*. This is the largest genus of moths in the diverse family Noctuidae that is endemic to North America, consisting of 48 described and 7 undescribed species. Of these, 29 species have been documented in Virginia, including 2 of the undescribed species. Nearly half (14) of the species were new records for Virginia and 8 species (6 rare, 2 uncommon) were first found in the state by Division of Natural Heritage (DNH) biologists during more than 30 years of field surveys. Nine species of *Papaipema* are tracked as rare species by DNH, including one that is disjunct from the nearest known population in Ohio by more than 250 miles. Seven other species of *Papaipema* are on the DNH animal watchlist. Several species are globally rare because of widespread population declines in the Northeast during recent decades due to factors such as habitat loss and fragmentation, overbrowsing of larval foodplants by deer, and invasive species. Virginia now appears to be a stronghold for these species.

Examples of 15 species of Papaipema moths collected in Virginia.

On January 21, 2025, DCR-Natural Heritage Field Zoologist Andrew Rapp submitted the final report for a project involving surveys for state rare and federally under review Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*; G3S1S2). Frosted Elfins historically occurred across the state utilizing its host plants Sundial Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) and Yellow Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*). Due to habitat loss across its range, Frosted Elfin populations have been reduced into small, isolated populations. In 2024, Frosted Elfins were detected at eight sites across the state including two new sites in the mountains of western Virginia. Prior to these mountain discoveries, the species had not been seen in Virginia's mountains since 1994. This is an encouraging sign that more wait to be discovered in Virginia's mountains. Surveys in 2024 also included larval surveys in coordination with the Daniels' Lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History McGuire Center. Two Frosted Elfin caterpillars were collected and will be the start of a captive rearing effort to boost populations at diminishing sites in Virginia. While conducting surveys for Frosted Elfin, zoology staff encountered new sites for state rare Mantled Baskettail (*Epitheca semiaquea*, G5S1) and Southern Plains Bumble Bee (*Bombus fraternus*, G3S1S2). These surveys were funded under a Section 6 grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

A Frosted Elfin site with Sundial Lupine present (right).

On March 31, 2025, DCR-Natural Heritage Field Zoologist Andrew Rapp submitted a final report on zoological surveys conducted in 2024 for an ongoing project with Fairfax County Parks. The project aims to inventory broad taxonomic groups within Fairfax County Parks to inform future management. Surveys in 2024 targeted eight parks and produced one state rare and six watchlist species. The state rare species was the Fringed Loosestrife Oil-collecting Bee (*Macropis ciliata*, GNR S2). Fringed Loosestrife Oil-collecting Bees, as the name suggests, specialize on loosestrifes (genus *Lysimachia*), from which they collect oil to feed their young and line their nests. Watchlist species include breeding Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*, G5 S2B), Alewife Floater (*Utterbackiana implicata*, G5 S3?), Yellow Bumble Bee (*Bombus fervidus*, G3G4 S3), Nondescript Dagger Moth (*Apamea* cariosa, G4 S1S3), Aster Borer Moth (*Papaipema impecuniosa*, G5 S2S4), and Furtive Forktail (*Ischnura prognata*, G4 S3). These surveys were funded by the Fairfax County Parks Authority.

Photos of a male Fringed Loosestrife Oil-collecting Bee specimen by the USGS Bee Lab.

Prescribed Burning

On November 6, 2024, DCR enjoyed another successful year participating in and hosting the annual fire refresher/RT 130 for the Virginia Interagency Prescribed Fire Partnership. This annual refresher training is part of the National Wildfire Coordination Group training series developed for line-going personnel on operations and decision-making issues related to fireline safety to recognize and mitigate risk, maintain safe and effective practices, and reduce accidents and near misses. The interagency partnership has been fortunate to have Pocahontas State Park provide use of a conference room for classroom portion and the equestrian area for field rotations, focusing on key standard operating procedures and lessons learned. Although each agency rotates the LEAD responsibility, DCR's Natural Heritage Southeast Stewardship Region is heavily involved in putting this on through agency logistics, and representation as instructor and leadership. This year's training focused on medical responses, managing an incident within an incident, and rapid evacuation options. At least part of the success of this training is credited to the stellar

performance from DCR's Rebecca Wilson, Southeast Region Supervisor, Eastern Fire Manager, and Longleaf Pine Restoration Specialist, as the (acting) victim of a UTV accident.

Participants of the 2024 Virginia Interagency Fire Refresher at Pocahontas State Park.

Participants reviewing best practices and performing field exercises.

On March 11-12, 2025, DCR-Natural Heritage stewardship staff, assisted by staff from The Nature Conservancy, Department of Wildlife Resources, and US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) completed two prescribed burns at South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve in the City of Suffolk. March 11th burns were conducted on the southern portion (Corinth Chapel Road) of the preserve: Units 1 (131 acres), and part of unit 2 (74 acres). The March 12th burn, located on the northern side of the preserve (west of a large settlement pond) was 232 acres, all totaling 437. These were the Southeast Region's first prescribed burns of the 2025 season. Both areas of the preserve support a population of sundial lupine, and the timing of these burns was critical for optimizing their growth and reproduction. Guidance from the FWS suggested the burns be conducted when the leaves of the lupine are just beginning to emerge from the ground, a narrow window of time that is hard to predict. The lupine is the host plant for the Frosted Elfin butterfly, a critically imperiled animal in Virginia that is showing an alarming decline in populations throughout its range. The Southeast Region Steward, Darren Loomis, kept a close eye on the lupine patches and the burn was conducted within the optimal time frame.

Prescribed fire at South Quay Sandhills NAP on March 12.

Natural Area Preserve Stewardship

On October 29, 2024, 11 Natural Heritage staff from Main Street Centre in Richmond assisted the Southeast Region Stewardship staff with clearing small hardwoods from a small area at South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve. The area is a known location for the host plant (Sundial Lupine) of a rare butterfly. By removing small trees and shrubs it is hoped the additional sunlight will increase the lupine growing there and improve the butterfly population. In total, a 0.6-acre area was cleared.

Left: Before clearing. Right: After clearing.

DNH staff in area cleared to improve habitat for Lupine.

On October 29, 2024, DCR-Natural Heritage Longleaf Pine Restoration Specialist, Rebecca Wilson, met staff from the Department of Forestry, The Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Old Dominion University and Historic Rivers Chapter Master Naturalists at DOF's Suffolk Nursery to remove (i.e. "de-plug") native grass and forb seedlings from propagation containers. This was one of the final steps in a grant funded longleaf pineland groundcover restoration project that started in November 2023. In May 2024, local ecotype native seeds were sown into specialized containers and propagated over the growing season by DOF staff at Sussex Nursery. This recent interagency "de-plugging" event entailed removing seedlings from containers and packing them into boxes. The seedlings will be held in cold storage until the conditions are right to out-plant into a field at TNC's Racoon Creek Pinelands project area, thus establishing the first interagency native Virginia seed orchard dedicated to longleaf pineland groundcover species in the Southeast Region. Contracted planting crews will begin the out-planting effort as soon as there is adequate soil moisture to ensure transplantation success. It is hoped that the seedlings will survive and reproduce, producing seeds in 2025 that can be harvested and used to expand the orchard. In time, this orchard will produce plant materials for use in longleaf pinelands groundcover restoration projects. While efforts to produce a native longleaf pine tree seed orchard have been ongoing for decades, this is the first foray into native longleaf pine ecosystem groundcover.
https://photos.app.goo.gl/2ryLD3ckyWv1uTGy6

Interagency staff and volunteers work to remove native groundcover seedlings from nursery containers.

On October 28-30, 2024, Natural Heritage Coastal Region Public Access Technician, Will Mears, and Stewardship Technician, Jack Saladino, aided the UVA Virginia Coast Reserve Long-Term Ecological Research Center staff and researchers on Hog Island. Hog Island is a Barrier Island located about six miles north of Wreck Island Natural Area Preserve. The goal of this field work was to take sediment cores from Hog Island foredunes and complete elevation and vegetation surveys. Twelve transects were established and continuous elevation surveys were run using survey-grade GPS technology prior to core collection. The cores will go to the University of North Carolina for analysis (e.g. carbon storage, age of the dunes, etc.). While one group conducted the elevation surveys and another collected cores, the last group was performing vegetation surveys to analyze nearby vegetation by each core. This was a field effort in collaboration with The University of North Carolina and Virginia Commonwealth University. VDCR staff and UVA LTER Coastal Research Center staff often lean on one another for assistance, as we're out in the coastal wilderness working in remote locations. The findings from this research will be available for public use and applicable to learning more about Wreck Island, as the islands formed at a similar time and have been exposed to the same environmental stressors over time. Working with research partners provides strong partnerships in the region and allows us to learn more about our Natural Area Preserves for better management.

Sampling gear is moved along the shoreline of Hog Island, researchers collecting sediment cores, Hog Island from within the low dunes.

On October 30, 2024, DCR-Natural Heritage Northern Region staff wrapped up a second round of a tire cleanup project at Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve. Drought conditions over the summer and fall, along with the recent treatment of a dense kudzu patch, revealed several additional tire dump sites within the recently acquired Accokeek Bottomlands Addition. Approximately 700 tires were found in an old farm pond and an adjacent ravine. With the assistance of VOF staff from Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve, the tires were removed over four workdays. Thanks again to Phil Hathcock and Michael Cross with the Rappahannock Regional Landfill for providing two dumpsters and assisting with the project. Including the 300 tires removed in July, approximately 1,000 tires have been recently cleared from Crow's Nest.

Old farm pond prior to cleanup (left), and staff inspecting the load for safety prior to transport (right) at Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve.

On December 16, 2024, Coastal Region Stewardship staff removed a large, derelict fishing net from the Chesapeake Bay shoreline at Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve. The net had been reported by Eastern Shore Virginia Master Naturalists serving on the Savage Neck Dunes Volunteer Stewardship Committee on Friday, December 10th. The tide had buried much of the gear including net, buoys, and float rope. Because it was located in the lower intertidal zone, there was no chance in disturbing larval burrows of the federally listed Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle (*Habroscelimorpha dorsalis dorsalis*). The net had to be dug out, cut into manageable strands, walked 300 yards down the beach, and loaded into an ATV on the upland managed public access trail. The derelict fishing gear was filled with bryozoans and several other animals were released alive including clumps of oysters, spider crabs, blue crabs, and other small crustaceans. Once removed the derelict gear filled the bed of a pickup truck and the weight of all refuse was 1,500 pounds.

Coastal Region Operations Steward Bryan Ehrenfried and Coastal Region Public Access Technician Will Mears process derelict fishing gear.

On January 10-12 and 24-26, 2025, two DCR-Natural Heritage staff, Chesapeake Bay Operations Steward, Hali Haskins, and Southwest Steward, Laura Young, completed Search Team Operations (STO) training. This advanced search and rescue training was hosted and conducted by Virginia Department of Emergency Management as part of their twice annual Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) academy. Topics included Search and Rescue strategy and tactics, land navigation, and patient packaging.

DCR trainees in attendance

Trainees practicing patient transport technique.

On February 25, 2025, Coastal Region Stewardship staff joined partners with the USFWS, researchers with Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW), and volunteers for both groups to survey for balloons and to clean up marine debris along the shoreline at Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge. CVW staff are currently writing an 11-year report for this project, data from which has helped provide appropriate guidance to reduce the number of balloons entering the marine environment and causing animal mortalities. In our efforts, we were working under a USFWS Research Permit as the entirety of Fisherman Island is closed to the public year-round. These efforts increase DCR staffs' knowledge and strengthen partnerships in the region.

From top left, clockwise: DCR staff removing tangled netting materials, DCR staff removing fishing lines, CVW staff speaking to group, USFWS vehicles on FINWR with CBBT in the background.

On March 13-14, 2025, Coastal Region Steward Shannon Alexander joined private and public sector partners at a Wetlands Restoration certification course organized by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and hosted at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge and the Volgenau Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR). This hands-on training included the creation of a wetland near the TNC VCR office, which will be used as a demonstration and youth education resource. Under the grant that allowed this course to be free of charge for all participants, DCR's Coastal Region Steward was also able to have the course instructor, Thomas Biebighauser, on site at two Coastal Region Natural Area Preserves (NAP) for the entirety of Saturday March 15. While at Cape Charles NAP and Magothy Bay NAP, Mr. Biebighauser and the Steward took many soil cores, measurements, and discussed potential opportunities for restoring freshwater wetlands at those locations. The wetlands would be restored in old fields that were ditched and drained over the last several hundred years, and which could result in restored freshwater resources for birds and wildlife and allowing invertebrates and herpetofauna to thrive.

Top left and right: T. Biebighauser educating from within the partially constructed wetland at TNC VCR; Bottom left: Coastal Region Steward Shannon Alexander with T. Biebighauser; Bottom right: Wetland Restoration Course participants learning to categorize soil.

On March 28, 2025, Kevin Heffernan (DCR Invasive Species Coordinator) and AG Sweany (DCR Invasive Species Specialist), both FAA-certified drone operators, partnered with DCR's Meghan Ponton (Northern Region Public Access Technician) and DWR biologists Jeffrey Cooper and Jordan Green to assess bald eagle nests at Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve. The team successfully conducted three flight missions to determine nest activity and nestling age. The drone flights will minimize disturbance to the nests by allowing DWR staff to determine the appropriate timing for banding the chicks and will also support DWR's mission to track the spread of avian influenza in Virginia.

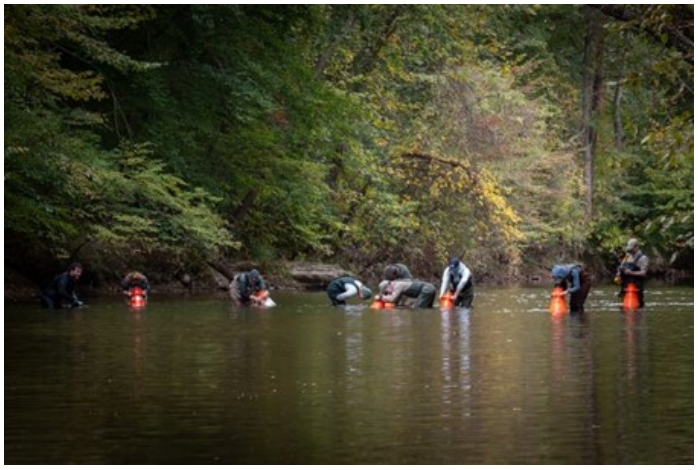
Two bald eagle nestlings at Crow's Nest NAP. Image taken from a safe distance using a Mavic 3 drone by Kevin Heffernan.

On March 30, 2025, DCR Northern Regional Supervisor, Michael Lott, participated in a symposium titled "The Rappahannock Fall Line: An Intersection." This was a free, public symposium that explored the ecological, historical, and cultural significance of the Rappahannock River Fall Line, by examining its role in shaping both the region's natural environment and human history. Michael's presentation focused on the relationship between the Potomac Creek Heronry protected at Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve and the Rappahannock River. Each spring, nesting Great Blue Herons congregate along the fall line of the Rappahannock near Fredericksburg to take advantage of the annual river herring and shad run. The annual run represents an important food source for the nesting herons. It is common to see herons flying back and forth from Crow's Nest to the river during early spring and several dozen herons are often seen and photographed. Following the presentation, participants were invited to join DCR and University of Mary Washington staff on a walk to the river to observe the herons. Approximately 100 people attended the presentation.


Nesting Great Blue Herons at Crow's Nest (left), and foraging along the Rappahannock River (right).

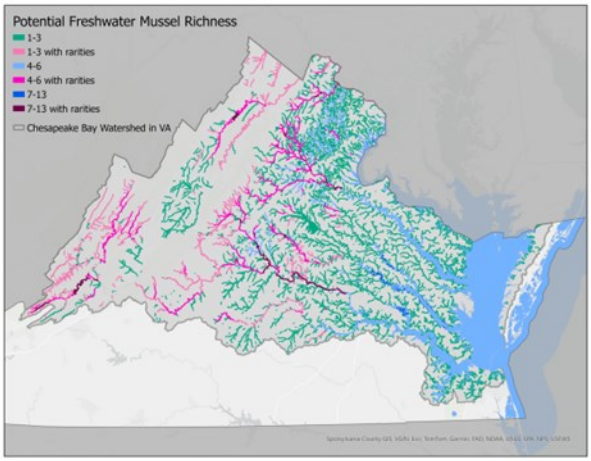
Information Management

On October 15, 2024, following the release earlier this month of the final Mussel Richness Map (MRM) - that identifies potential habitats, estimates total richness, and indicates rarity of native freshwater mussels - staff from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR), Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) and Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) met to conduct a survey for freshwater mussels in the South Anna River in Hanover County to collect data for better understanding of mussel distributions and diversity, and to help validate the map. The team surveyed 275 meters of stream with 8 observers and found 295 mussels, all of which were the eastern elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*). The survey was combined with a media event to raise awareness of the most imperiled group of animals in North America and the ecosystem services they provide, including filtering pollutants from water. In an appreciated show of support from the Administration, the event was attended by the Senior Policy Advisor of the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. This project was funded by a Chesapeake WILD grant, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, through the CBF. To view the final map, visit the Natural Heritage Data Explorer and select the "Potential Freshwater Mussel Richness" layer: https://vanhde.org/content/map. The results of this project will inform several planning efforts, including a statewide freshwater mussel conservation plan being developed by the VDWR.

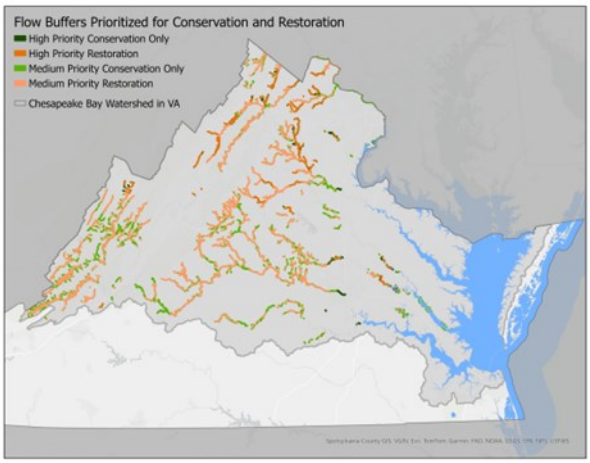

Staff scientists from the VDCR, VDWR, and CBF use aquascopes
to conduct a survey for freshwater mussels in the South Anna River in Hanover County.

Shiva Torabian, VDCR Spatial Ecologist, measures a freshwater mussel found during the survey.

On March 28, 2025, in a webinar hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), the Spatial Ecologist, Shiva Torabian, and the Chief of Biodiversity Information and Conservation Tools, Joe Weber, presented new mapping tools to conserve and restore freshwater mussel habitat. The presentation covered the biodiversity and ecological integrity benefits of freshwater mussels, the methods used to develop the richness and buffer layers for the Mussel Richness Mapping project, and the uses of these tools. The *Potential Freshwater Mussel Richness* (PFMR) layer represents the diversity of predicted habitats for the 19 native freshwater mussel species of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed. By incorporating habitat models for all native mussel species, the PFMR provides a comprehensive approximation of native mussel diversity and serves as a valuable resource for guiding freshwater mussel conservation and restoration efforts. This layer is closely related to the *Flow Buffers Prioritized for Conservation and Restoration* layer, which utilizes the PFMR to delineate flow buffers for targeted conservation and restoration efforts. The buffers are strategically prioritized based on mussel richness and rarity, nutrient loading, and land cover characteristics. By considering topographic flow paths, the buffer layer ensures that interventions are placed where they will have the most impact on water quality and mussel habitat enhancement. Both layers are now available on the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer. Although final attendance is unknown at this time, the webinar invitation was circulated widely by the CBF to partners throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, resulting in registration by federal (USEPA, USACE, USF&WS, NOAA), state (NY, PA, DE, MD, VA), and local governments, as well as nongovernment organizations, educational institutions, and interested citizens. The webinar recording will be distributed to registrants and made available by the CBF. The project was funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant through the CBF.



Map of Potential Freshwater Mussel Richness for the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Map of prioritized flow buffers to guide conservation and restoration activities in the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Outreach and Education

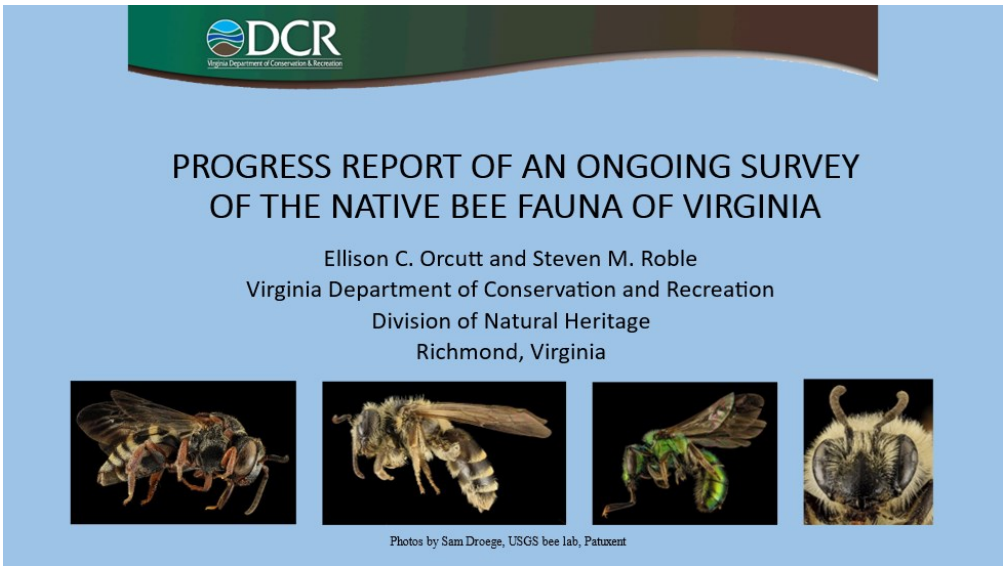
On October 12, 2024, Rene' Hypes, DCR-Division of Natural Heritage's Environmental Review Coordinator, participated in a Wilderness Inquiry and Blue Star Families event for military families. The main mission was to get individuals outdoors, recreating and on the water. Among the many activities, Natural Heritage had an outreach booth with bee, butterfly, and other insect displays that were of great interest to both children and their parents. Participants learned about the rusty-patched bumblebee, the only state listed bee in the Virginia and other interesting insect facts. Natural Heritage appreciated the opportunity to engage with military families to increase awareness about our program and join state parks in this event.

DCR-Natural Heritage display at the Blue Star Family Event at Westmoreland State Park

On October 17, 2024, DCR's Chesapeake Bay Region Supervisor, Zach Bradford, gave a presentation about the Northern Neck's wild orchids to the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society during their monthly meeting. The presentation introduced the 30 attendees to the 23 native orchids that grow in the region. The attendees learned about native orchid ecology and natural history and were introduced to how Native American refuse heaps, six-million-year-old fossil scallops, and lunar tide cycles influence the distribution of some of the area's wild orchids. The presentation concluded with an introduction to eight more orchid species that grow in nearby areas and should be sought on the Northern Neck.

The Northern Neck is home to Virginia's last remaining coastal plain population of Orange Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*).

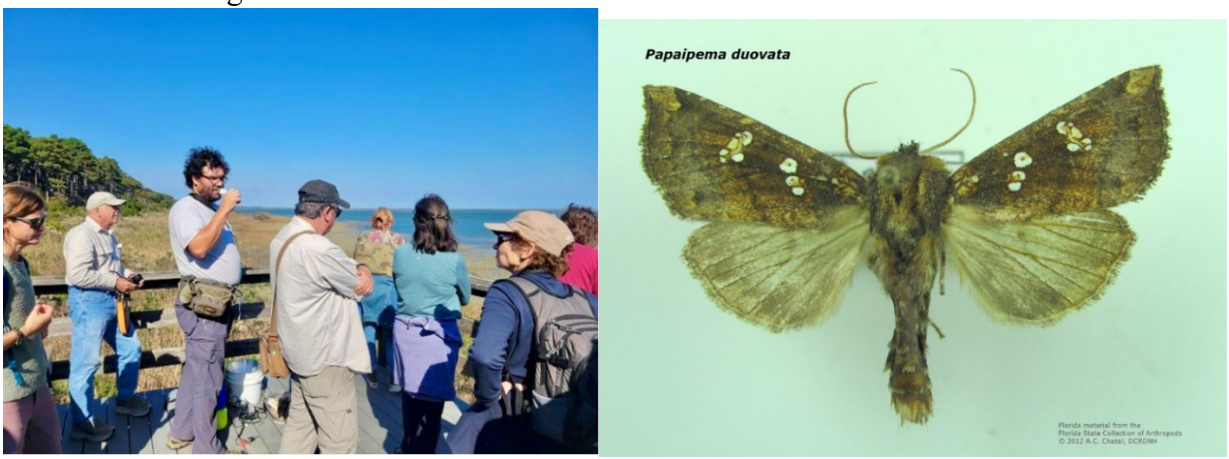
On October 19, 2024, DCR's Senior Zoologist, Dr. Steve Roble, gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the Virginia Natural History Society held at Radford University. The talk to approximately 50 attendees summarized a decades' worth of field and lab efforts by the Division of Natural Heritage zoology team to document the composition, distribution, and conservation status of the native bee fauna of Virginia. The attendees learned that the current number of bees known from Virginia is 483 species, including 462 natives, and 20 of these species are currently included on the Natural Heritage rare animal list. The federally endangered rusty patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) has been a major focus of Natural Heritage bee surveys since 2018, but rare habitats, including those present on state parks and state natural area preserves, have also been sampled frequently.



On October 21, 2024, DCR-Natural Heritage Northern Regional Supervisor, Michael Lott, taught a class on Ecological Concepts to the current class of the Central Rappahannock Master Naturalist Chapter. The lecture used examples and photographs from Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve to illustrate many of the ecological concepts covered in the class. The lecture was held at the University of Mary Washington and was attended by 22 students. Members of the Chapter have been regular volunteers at the Preserve since 2012 and currently lead the vernal pool monitoring project. On October 22nd, Northern Region staff led a kayaking trip at Crow Nest for staff of the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA), an organization that supports community investments in the following areas (among others): water, wastewater, parks & recreation, flood prevention & dam safety, land conservation & preservation, and oyster restoration. The VRA loaned Stafford County approximately six million dollars toward the purchase of the original 1,770 acres at Crow's Nest dedicated in April 2008. In addition to the seven VRA staff members, the group was joined by Delegate Paul Milde and the Stafford Commissioner of the Revenue Scott Mayausky. In addition, on October 24th, Northern Regional Supervisor, Michael Lott, gave presentations to four ecology classes at Mountain View High School in Stafford County. After a brief introduction to the Natural Heritage Program the presentation utilized examples from Crow's Nest to highlight ecological concepts the students have learned in the class (e.g., ecosystem services, invasive species). Approximately 100 students and faculty attended the presentations.

Photos of participants on Accokeek Creek (left) and a Tidal Hardwood Swamp (right) taken at Crow's Nest.

On October 24, 2024, Natural Heritage's Lead Field Zoologist, Ellison Orcutt, led a training for new members of the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists (ESVMN), focused on the field zoology work of the program and, specifically, efforts to survey for rare insects across the commonwealth. The classroom portion, hosted by the University of Virginia, Virginia Coast Long Term Ecological Reserve (LTER), Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center in Oyster, Va, introduced ESVMN trainees to the insect groups that Heritage has spent the last 30 years studying, including moths, butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and damselflies. They also learned about the survey methods used to target these insect groups. Following the classroom training, ESVMN joined Ellison and Stewardship staff from DCR's Natural Heritage Program to test sampling methods at Brinkley Preserve, a Northampton County owned property, managed for wildlife observation. During the field training the group documented a new occurrence and county record for the state rare moth, the Seaside Goldenrod Borer (*Papaipema duovata* ; G2G3/S2S3). This moth is tied to extreme coastal habitats like sand dunes and marsh edges where it feeds on Seaside Goldenrod.



Left: Lead Field Zoologist, Ellison Orcutt, discusses the importance of insect sampling for conservation planning with the ESVMN at the discovery site of the rare Seaside Goldenrod Borer. Right: *Papaipema duovata*, the Seaside Goldenrod Borer, a rare moth that occurs in dunes, marshes and other coastal edge habitats, where its larvae feed inside the stems of Seaside Goldenrod.

On January 22, 2025, DCR's Zoology Lab Manager, A.J. Bordell welcomed a 4-H group from Prince William County for an engaging and educational experience. The group began their day attending General Assembly sessions before spending the afternoon with DCR's Virginia Natural Heritage Program. During their visit, they explored government career paths and learned about invertebrate biodiversity. The discussion explored key topics, including how to distinguish insects from other invertebrates, their ecological roles, and conservation challenges facing Virginia's insect populations. To wrap up the day, A.J. introduced the group to live insects, offering a hands-on experience that helped dispel common fears and misconceptions. Many participants eagerly

handled Madagascar hissing cockroaches and tobacco hornworms, developing a newfound appreciation for these remarkable creatures. Their curiosity didn't end there—the visit sparked a lively Q&A session that reportedly continued well into their ride home.

Left: Zoology Lab Manager, A.J. Bordell discussing insect biodiversity with the 4H group. Right: Tobacco hornworm used for the hands-on insect discussion. They are blue because they are fed an artificial diet.

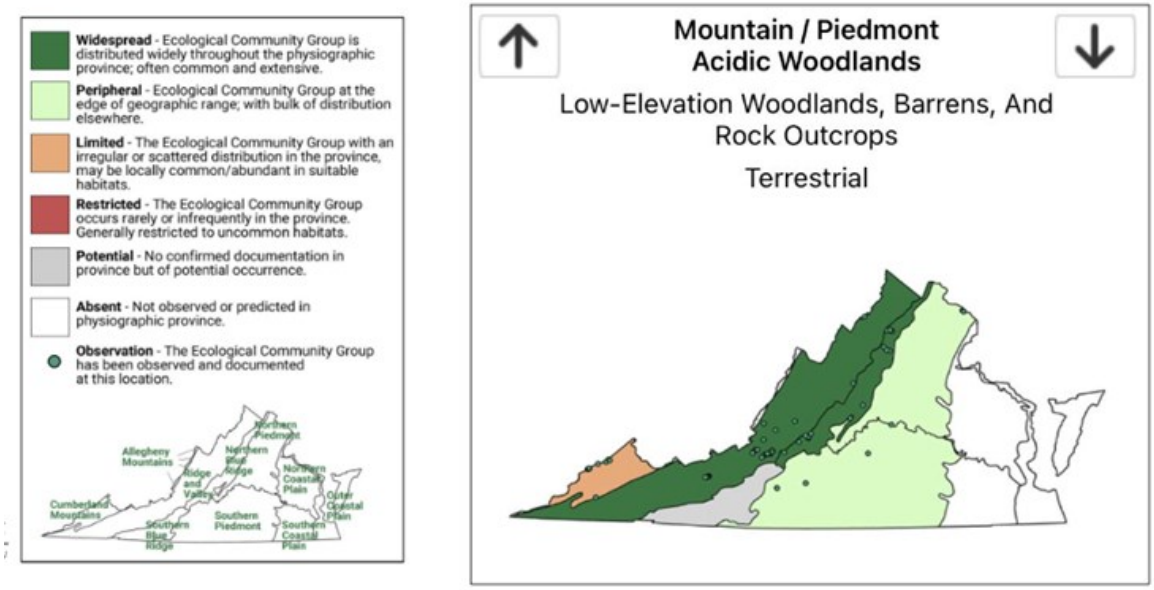
On Monday, January 27, 2025, two boats departed Oyster Harbor and visited Wreck Island Natural Area Preserve as part of the Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival. The Coastal Region Steward and Stewardship Technician hosted one boat of guests and Department of Wildlife Resources staff hosted a second boat of guests to explore coastal lagoons, wetlands, and barrier islands. Visitors observed over 20 species of birds and learned about shells, molts, and coral found along the shoreline. The first of the two Festival trips, scheduled for Saturday January 25, 2025, was canceled due to low temperatures. Wreck Island Natural Area Preserve is closed from April 15 through August to protect breeding birds, so winter is a great time to visit. This was the third year that VDCR was involved in this trip, and we hope for many fair-weather days in the years to come.

From top left, clockwise: Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival visitors observing waterfowl in Cobb Bay; visitors anchored along Wreck Island NAP; visitors viewing Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, and Greater Scaup on Sand Shoal inlet from Wreck Island; Coastal Region Stewardship Technician serving as captain.

On February 18, 2025, DCR Northern Regional Supervisor, Michael Lott, gave a presentation summarizing the breeding bird monitoring program at Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve to the Central Rappahannock Master Naturalist chapter. The presentation focused on the objectives of the program, survey protocol, and a summary of 11 years of data. There was a particular focus on how different bird species utilize the varied plant communities at Crow's Nest and how the data collected could inform management decisions in the future. In addition, Northern Region staff led a winter waterfowl walk with a Stafford County Parks and Recreation staff member on February 26th. Participants enjoyed views of Tundra Swans, Common Mergansers, Canvasback, and Red-necked Grebe, among many other species. Finally, Northern Region staff have been working on an extension of the Boykin's Landing Trail. To date, approximately 0.5 miles of the 1.25-mile extension have been completed. The extension meanders along the shoreline of Potomac Creek before ascending a ridge line where it continues to a junction with the Crow's Nest Point Trail. Staff plan to open the trail extension to the public by Fall 2025.


Tundra Swans (left), and a section of the Boykin's Land ing Trail extension (right) at Crow's Nest.

On February 26, 2025, the Flora of Virginia (FOVA) Project presented a webinar to Virginia Master Naturalists on how to use the FOVA App. Vegetation Ecologist Joey Thompson presented DCR Ecological Group information which was added to the FOVA App in 2023. Over 100 Master Naturalists attended the webinar.



From the FOVA App: Ecological Group distribution patterns for Mountain / Piedmont Acidic Woodlands.

On March 2, 2025, Vegetation Ecologist Joey Thompson and Invasive Species Coordinator Kevin Heffernan led walks for the James River Park System Invasive Species Awareness Week at Pony Pasture. Joey's walk focused on natural communities and the specific native plants of which they are composed while Kevin's Walk focused on invasive plants. Both events help to progress DCR's mission of educating the public about resources tracked by Natural Heritage.

Land Conservation
On October 8, 2024, Rob Evans and Dan Hannon, DCR-DNH's Natural Areas Protection staff, attended a meeting of state and non-profit conservation partners near Charlottesville, and organized by the Virginia United Land Trusts (VaULT). Numerous topics were discussed of relevance to DCR. Many partners shared their work and challenges in setting priorities and establishing partnerships, both of which are topics central to our ongoing work on the Natural Heritage Plan revision.

Natural Heritage Data Management Totals for FY2024:

Activity 10-1-24 – 3-31-25

New Mapped Locations (EOs) – 11
Updated Mapped Locations (EOs) - 82
New Conservation Sites – 2
Updated Conservation Sites – 84

Total Number in Database 3-31-25:

Animal Mapped Locations (EOs) – 719
Plant Mapped Locations (EOs) – 1368
Community Mapped Locations – 640
Conservation Sites – 746

Other Mapped Locations* (EOs) – 43
Geologic Mapped Locations (EOs) – 2

* Other = Bird Nesting Colony, Colonial Wading Bird Colony, Land Migratory Roost Site, and Monarch Butterfly Migratory Roost Site

Managed Areas: (Acres added 10-1-24 – 3-31-25) –6,176.10 Acres
Mapped Tracts: (total number in coastal zone) –5,162 Tracts
Mapped Managed Areas: (total number in coastal zone) –3,659 Managed Areas

Healthy Waters
For the grant reporting period, the Senior Program Director/Senior Policy Analyst with the Virginia Commonwealth University, Rice Rivers continued to serve as the Program Manager of the Virginia Healthy Waters Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH).

The Healthy Waters Program (HWP) is supported through funding from several grant sources including the VA CZM Section 306, US EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG). These sources fund various aspects of the Program including

the administration and oversight, Program growth and expansion, improvement in capacity, acquisition and analysis of new data, tool and model development and data integration at the DCR-DNH.

Effort during the reporting period was focused the coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to address the budgetary shortfall from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the refocusing of the effort to hire a field activities coordinator. The HW Program Manager continued to work closely and coordinate with the DEQ Director of Division of Water Planning to address a series of communication issues with respect to DEQ, DCR and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). While the loss of funding has severely impacted the ability of VCU to fully commit to the hiring of a grant funded position the Program has committed to improving the transparency of the modelling and data development effort which defines the characterization of ecological health as a contracted deliverable. Effort was initiated in earnest to immediately address the redevelopment of the modernization of the characterization model. Directing Rice Rivers Center (RCC) and VCU staff/faculty was deemed the most viable option, further concluding adding external contractual model development specialists would facilitate the final product development. Additionally, the field aspect for the program has explored the option of utilizing the existing partner network for a temporary implementation of the program, on the ground; possible partners may include the VA Sea Grant network.

The HWP Field Coordinator is intended to leverage the application of agricultural or forestry best management practices to meet local Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Implementation Plan measures in impaired but ecologically healthy waters. The HWP Field Coordinator is intended to leverage the work of the eight (8) Coastal Planning District Commissions (PDCs) to assist coastal communities, Conservation Districts, Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF), Land Trusts, other agencies on HWP community-based natural resource identification and protection.

The HWP continued to serve as the VA representative on the HW Goal team. To meet the Beyond 2025 effort, as directed by the Acting SNHR, the HWP Manager worked with the DEQ, DCR, and DOF to refine the GIT Goal and Outcome to best advance the identification and conservation of ecologically healthy aquatic resources. Significant time was dedicated to working individually and through a group process to result in recommendations for the Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. HWP Manager attended the Chesapeake Bay Goal Team meetings on Oct 21, Jan 13, Feb 3 (Draft HWGIT Outcome), Feb 10 (Chesapeake Bay Outcomes), and Feb 27 (Management Board) meeting.

c) DCR – Planning and Recreational Resources

During the October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 reporting period, two Recreational Trails Program funded projects were completed within the Virginia CZM program zone.

Hampton Roads Sanitation District completed the Flax Mill Creek Trail in the City of Newport News. The project involved construction of approximately ½ mile of new asphalt and boardwalk pedestrian paths along Flax Mill Creek and the James River.

The City of Richmond completed the Pump House Park ADA Trail Access and Amenities project. The project included construction of an accessible pathway connecting Pump House Drive with the Byrd Pump House, Pump House Park, and the James River Park trail system.

5) Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)

I. Wetlands

Mitigation Banking

DWR continues to serve on the Interagency Review Team, which oversees wetland and stream mitigation banking and in lieu fee funds and provides input on banks and sites all over Virginia, including the coastal zone. The IRT oversees Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund projects. Numerous banks/ sites as well as additional phases to existing banks/sites were proposed within the coastal region of Virginia during this reporting cycle in tidal and nontidal areas. Several Mitigation Banking Instruments and Site Development Plans were signed, and newly approved banks and sites began construction. DEQ and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are coordinating annual monitoring reports with DWR and DWR is attending site visits with fish and wildlife resources.

Wetland Restoration

DWR continues to operate a voluntary wetland restoration program and is actively restoring and enhancing wetland habitats in Virginia. The program assists private, state, local, and federal government landowners to restore wetlands on their property. Partnerships with organizations such as Ducks Unlimited (DU), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm bill programs, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and many others have resulted in additional wetland acres restored. DWR is currently involved in several wetland restoration and enhancement projects within the coastal zone.

Statewide Wetlands Technical Team

On December 16, 2024, the inaugural meeting of the Statewide Wetlands Technical Team took place with representatives of more than a dozen state, federal, and non-governmental agencies and organizations present. This team, made up of technical experts and experienced service providers, was called together by Governor Glenn Youngkin to enhance communication, collaboration, and data-sharing across the sector, particularly as the Commonwealth looks towards the next phase of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts.

The Statewide Wetlands Technical Team was established as part of Governor Youngkin's Executive Directive Ten, Positioning the Commonwealth of Virginia for Continued Success in Chesapeake Bay Restoration. As the Department of Wildlife Resources authored the Virginia Wetlands Action Plan, it was designated to coordinate the team. Work will focus on improving coordination and communication around wetlands restoration and creation, as well as supporting wetland tracking, strategic planning, capacity building, and sustainable funding, including partnerships that leverage private sector investment.
During this inaugural meeting, representatives discussed their entities' different areas of expertise and how coordination could help with overall capacity building. In addition, several initial priorities were identified, including tracking restored and enhanced wetlands acreage, data collection, and communication coordination across member organizations. The Statewide Wetlands Technical Team will meet again during the first quarter of 2025 and develop a regular meeting schedule.

II. Nongame Species Monitoring and Research

Using a Novel Approach to Enhance Piping Plover Breeding Habitat in Virginia

The Atlantic coast piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*; PIPL) is a state and federally threatened shorebird. Virginia supports the largest proportion of breeding pairs within the Southern Recovery Unit (SRU) which extends from Delaware to North Carolina. Since 2016, PIPL productivity rates in Virginia have decreased

precipitously and remain well below the value necessary to maintain a stable population and a clear cause has not been identified. This has resulted in a 59% decline in the state's breeding population. Piping plover biologists and habitat managers in the SRU came together for a series of meetings and workshops in 2022 and 2023 to review data, discuss potential causes of the decline, and identify management actions. Since 1997, PIPL breeding activity has been confined to the barrier islands located on the seaward fringe of Virginia's Eastern Shore. While potential causes and management responses vary by island, access to foraging habitat for broods has been identified as a contributing factor to low productivity on some islands. The north end of Cedar Island in Accomack County, locally referred to as Cedar Sandbar, is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and has supported between 9 – 18 breeding piping plover pairs since 2016. It has a series of backside mudflats where PIPL broods were previously known to forage. The area between the nesting beach and backside flats has become extremely vegetated in recent years and flightless PIPL broods can no longer make their way to these productive foraging flats. This has forced adults to bring young broods to the ocean intertidal where they are extremely vulnerable to avian predators.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and DWR secured funds to create three 5 – 10-meter-wide corridors between the nesting beach and backside flats by mechanically clearing vegetation to reestablish access to these foraging areas (Figures 1 and 2). This work was completed in February 2025 with considerable logistical and administrative support from The Nature Conservancy who owns and manages most of the barrier islands, including middle and southern sections of Cedar Island. The DWR is responsible for monitoring PIPL breeding activity on Cedar Island and will carefully document brood locations and PIPL use of these corridors with assistance from game cameras placed along all three corridors and on the mudflats. These efforts will help determine if increasing access to backside foraging areas increases fledging success and provide detailed information on PIPL brood behavior and movement patterns on Cedar Sandbar. The DWR will also collect information on prey abundance on the mudflats over the course of the breeding season to measure changes in prey availability as summer temperatures increase and mudflats dry up during drought conditions which has been the pattern in recent years. This will help inform whether the continued maintenance of these corridors is warranted. Preliminary outcomes will be provided in the Fall report.

Figure 1. Excavator used to create the three corridors on Cedar Sandbar.

Figure 2. Image of the South Corridor created on February 25, 2025.

The Diamondback Dash Project

In 2024, DWR again facilitated a participatory science project, The Diamondback Dash, which utilized volunteers to conduct observational data on diamond-backed terrapin occurrence and crabbing pressure within the Bay and several of its surrounding tributaries. Participating volunteers signed up to survey loops three times a year via kayak and conducted standardized head count surveys at designated points along the loop. In addition to these standardized counts, volunteers also reported any terrapins which were observed outside of designated headcount as well as any active and/or inactive crab pots they encountered in the field. Results from the 2024 efforts can be found at: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/baf555b372e44f0aa318e956b34fe917

The objective for this project is to generate more public awareness for diamond-backed terrapin conservation as well as support an occupancy model which will predict high-priority shoreline areas relative to the species conservation and management. Ultimately, data collection for this project will occur on an annual basis until 2027.

Atlantic Slope Freshwater Mussel Propagation

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources continues its cooperative Atlantic Slope freshwater mussel propagation facility with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery in Charles City, marking the 18th year of production and 19th year of operation at the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife Center (VFAWC). Propagation for the 2025 season began with collection of freshwater mussel broodstock in March 2025. Thus far, we and our partners have collected 20 individuals of three species from two water bodies (Table 1).

Our target propagation goal for the calendar year of 2025 is 275,000 juvenile mussels across seven species for future grow out and release of approximately 26,500 mussels. Most of the species targeted for propagation in 2025 are not listed as threatened or endangered but are listed either as a species of greatest conservation need in Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan, species of concern by the USFWS, or are being produced as part of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration settlements. Work with federal and state endangered

James Spinymussel continues for the 11th year and we are again focusing efforts on the state-endangered Brook Floater and the state-threatened and federally-proposed Green Floater.

Staff members from VFAWC, USFWS, VADWR, and partnering organizations began work for this propagation season in March of 2025 with work to collect broodstock: Brook Floater in the Cacapon River, Green Floater in Back Creek, Eastern Lampmussel in the Anacostia River, and Eastern Pondmussel in the Anacostia River.

We are now holding considerable numbers of mussels among twelve species that were propagated in previous years, including: more than 24,000 Alewife Floater, more than 4,000 Brook Floater, more than 29,000 Eastern Elliptio, more than 4,000 Eastern Lampmussel, more than 10,000 Eastern Pondmussel, more than 200 Green Floater, approximately 1,300 James Spinymussel, more than 14,000 Plain Pocketbook, more than 1,800 Tidewater Mucket,

In October and November of 2024, we released 14,051 mussels of seven species, including 1,147 Brook Floater (Table 2). We also delivered 8,623 mussels to partnering organizations within this reporting period: 4,233 Tidewater Mucket and 4,390 Eastern Pondmussel.

Table 1. Planned and completed broodstock collections for the 2025 propagation season.

Species	Waterbody	Number Collected	Date Collected	Propagation Goal
Brook Floater	Cacapon River	15	3/13/25	15,000
Eastern Elliptio[1]	Broad Run, Bull Run, Cacapon R., Potomac R., Licking Run	-	-	70,000
Yellow Lampmussel	Susquehanna River	-	-	50,000
James Spinymussel	Mill Creek, Johns Creek	-	-	10,000
Green Floater	Tye River, Back Creek	-	-	10,000
Eastern Lampmussel	Potomac R., Anacostia R.	2	3/17/25*	60,000
Eastern Pondmussel	Potomac R., Anacostia R.	3	3/17/25*	60,000

[1]Propagation either partially or completely using in vitro methods
*Broodstock received from partners on date shown

Table 2. VFAWC freshwater mussel releases October 2024 through March 2025.

Species	Date	Number Released	Broodstock Waterbody	Release Waterbody	Mean Length (mm)	Year Class
Triangle Floater	10/22/24	102	Cacapon River	South Fork Shenandoah R.	44.0	2021
	10/25/24	27	Cacapon River	South River	49.9	2021
Brook Floater	10/22/24	215	Cacapon River	South Fork Shenandoah R.	45.8	2021
	10/25/24	150	Cacapon River	Broad Run	35.2	2022
	10/25/24	150	Cacapon River	Broad Run	35.9	2022
	10/25/24	203	Cacapon River	South River	45.5	2021
	11/12/24	429	Cacapon River	James River	37.1	2022
Eastern Elliptio	10/22/24	1,531	Licking Run	South Fork Shenandoah R.	50.3	2022
	10/25/24	706	Potomac River	South River	54.1	2022
	10/31/24	587	Rappahannock R.	Potomac River	65.0	2021
Yellow Lampmussel	11/8/24	25	Dan River	James River	45.4	2020
Eastern Lampmussel	10/31/24	203	Nottoway River	James River	60.4	2020
	11/8/24	500	Nottoway River	Appomattox	60.4	2020
	11/8/24	500	Nottoway River	James River	60.4	2020
	11/12/24	980	Nottoway River	James River	60.4	2020
Creeper	10/25/24	31	Potomac River	South River	47.6	2021
Alewife Floater	10/9/24	935	Rappahannock R.	James River	56.6	2022
	10/16/24	978	Rappahannock R.	Appomattox	56.8	2022
	10/31/24	3,825	Rappahannock R.	Potomac River	69.3	2021
	11/8/24	688	Rappahannock R.	Appomattox	59.9	2022
	11/15/24	1,286	Rappahannock R.	Potomac River	58.7	2022

III. Fisheries

Fish Passage Program

1.Stream Monitoring, Adult Anadromous Fishes

a. Chesapeake Tributaries: Weekly boat electrofishing for adult anadromous fish began in February (2025) at the fall line on several Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Locations include the tidal Chickahominy River below Walkers Dam, the James River in the upper tidal reach at Richmond, on the upper tidal Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg and downstream and upstream of the former Ashland Mill Dam on the South Anna River. The James below Boshers Dam (upper end of the fall zone) was also sampled in March. Hickory Shad were the most abundant alosine in the upper tidal James and upper tidal Rappahannock through March. Alewife numbers were weak on the James and only slightly better on the Rappahannock through March. Anadromous species were absent from the South Anna in February and the first few samples in March. DWR and Randolph Macon College (RMC) are working together to evaluate fish passage and upstream distribution using both boat

electrofishing and eDNA. On March 21 we collected the first target species above the former Ashland Mill Dam, a female American Shad. This fish is the first documentation of anadromous fish above the removed dam. Downstream, on the same day, we collected a few more American Shad and some Hickory Shad and Alewife. Generally, it seems that the several cold spells experienced during mid-February, and then again in March, slowed down the alosine runs in most of our sampling reaches.

Adult sampling will continue through early June. Adult monitoring is conducted to determine the extent of migration into restored habitat and to analyze inter-annual trends of abundance of the herring and shad populations. The Striped Bass population is also sampled to gain information on abundance and size class distribution.

b. Boshers Dam Fishway (James River): The vertical slot fishway remained in operation over the winter to ensure passage for any American Eel that might continue to move upstream during the cooler months. Video monitoring began for the 2025 season in late February (Shadcam video recording and download). By the end of March resident species such as Quillback and Shorthead Redhorse (both in the sucker family) were observed passing through the fishway. American Shad, although usually few in number, normally start to pass in April but have been seen in March of some years. The Shadcam Live project is a team effort with the City of Richmond (dam owner) in its fourth year. The live feed returned to the DWR website in the middle of March 2025. Previously Shadcam was provided as still images that refreshed every five seconds. At least 30 species of fish use the fishway annually. These include American Shad, Gizzard Shad, and the Sea Lamprey that are native to the James. American Eel elvers also take advantage of the fishway when migrating inland to their grow out habitat. Digital video from 2025 will be reviewed post-season to generate run count estimates by species.

To generate species' passage estimates, 15-minute counts from every hour of useable video is multiplied by a factor of four. American Eel elvers (4" – 6" range) were collected with small nets and plastic scoops on a few occasions throughout the spring and summer of 2024 from the fishway channel with the head gate almost closed to nearly stop flow. The 2024 video review is mostly complete with just a few more days to finish. Here are the provisional result highlights of the 2024 season:

- 1,296 daytime and 768 nighttime hours of video were subsampled (randomly chosen ¼ hour reviewed)
- Total passage estimate for all species was 61,388 (46,936 in 2023; 251,544 in 2022; 48,528 in 2021)
- 1999-2024 total passage estimate average=104,473
- The provisional American Shad passage estimate was 12 for 2024 (4 in 2023), which is well below the long-term average of 128 that unfortunately continues a declining trend.
- 36,688 Gizzard Shad; 5,060 Sea Lamprey (native anadromous species) that is about 2,000 more than in 2023 and the highest on record; 2,300 Quillback; 13,976 catfish (three species); 2,192 Shorthead Redhorse; American Eel elvers observed and/or collected from channel; several other species (Smallmouth Bass, etc.)
- 30 fish species documented using the fishway to date.

c. Walkers Dam Fishway (Chickahominy River): This double Denil fishway remains open to passage throughout the year. We installed the electronic counting equipment on February 14, 2025, to begin data collection for the 2025 anadromous spawning run. With the absence of commercial and recreational harvest numbers, this type of run count is critical to evaluating the overall health of herring populations. Fishway use by Alewife was slow to get started until the end of March 2025 when we started detecting good pulses of both Alewife and Blueback Herring. An update on the 2024 and past year results is as follows:

- 2024: Blueback Herring=104,001; Gizzard Shad=58,581; Alewife=4,885; Other species including Yellow Perch, Black Crappie, Bluegill and Largemouth Bass=7,316.

- 2023: Blueback Herring=191,381; Gizzard Shad=139,469; Alewife=25,105; Other species, including Threadfin Shad, White Perch and Yellow Perch, etc.=17,133.
- 2022: Gizzard Shad=127,430; Blueback Herring=131,715; Alewife=19,717; Other species, including a few American Shad, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, etc.=1,646.
- 2021: Gizzard Shad=79,842; Blueback Herring=65,103; Alewife=13,740; Other species, including a few American Shad, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, etc.=7,739.
- Total annual passage estimates to date:
    - 2018=487,470 (182,628 river herring)
    - 2019=250,393 (85,960 river herring)
    - 2020=255,460 (100,509 river herring)
    - 2021=166,424 (78,843 river herring)
    - 2022=280,508 (151,432 river herring)
    - 2023=373,088 (216,486 river herring)
    - 2024=174,783 (108,886 river herring)
    - Gizzard Shad average about 50% of the total count annually

2.Stream Monitoring, Juvenile Alosines

In 2024, juvenile alosine sampling that was started in June continued through November on the James and Rappahannock rivers, and through October on the Chickahominy River. The Chickahominy was sampled in the tidal reach immediately downstream of Walkers Dam (three nights) and in the impoundment just upstream of the dam (six nights). The James sample area was the tidal reach from Richmond down to the Osborne Landing area (seven nights). The upper tidal Rappahannock was sampled in the Fredericksburg area (seven nights). Fish were collected using a bow mounted push net with a 3.2 mm mesh net (round; 0.76 m diameter). Four to six pushes per reach per night ranging from 2.5 to 10 minutes in duration are conducted. A flow meter is used to determine the amount of water sampled during a push net sample. The catch per unit of effort is recorded as the number of each target species collected per 100m^3 of water sampled. Length and weight were taken from a subsample (usually 50 fish/species) and pooled weight of the remaining specimens along with the minimum and maximum length in the sample.

Alewife were found in the James on one night in July with a combined push density of 2.0/100 m^3. Blueback Herring were present from July through October with a peak density of 30.6/100 m^3 on September 23rd. No American Shad juveniles were collected in the James over the sampling period.

Alewife were found in the Chickahominy above and below Walkers Dam on one night in August with a combined density of 1.4/100 m^3. Blueback Herring were found above and below the dam from July through October with a peak density of 27.4/100 m^3 on October 23rd. No American Shad or Hickory Shad juveniles were found in any of the Chickahominy push net samples during the entire sampling season (one Hickory Shad juvenile was found in 2023). Despite relatively healthy numbers of adult Hickory Shad being found in Virginia Chesapeake tributaries in the spring, juveniles are rarely seen as they tend to leave the system early on and/or are proficient at avoiding sampling gear.

American Shad and Blueback Herring juveniles were found consistently in the tidal Rappahannock from June through October and neither species was collected in the mid-November sample suggesting that the majority of juvenile alosines had begun out migrating. Alewife juveniles were absent in collections in 2024 in the Rappahannock despite seeing a relatively decent run of spawning Alewife in the spring. Peak density of Blueback Herring juveniles was 86.1/100 m^3 on June 18th and peak density of American Shad juveniles was 14.6/100 m^3 on September 4th.

The Boshers Dam fishway pool was not sampled in 2024 because very few American Shad were found below Boshers Dam during the spring (boat electrofishing) and thus passage and subsequent spawning upstream of the dam was anticipated to be minimal.

3. Fish Passage Projects

a. Road Stream Crossing Fish Passage: The DWR is working with partners (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Virginia Commonwealth University, and James River Association) to prioritize fish passage projects at road stream crossings in tidal James River tributaries as part of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion mitigation effort. Like our partners we use the NAACC (North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative) protocol. The focus is currently on Cornelius Creek at Mill Road in Henrico County. This three-cell box culvert is structurally sound, and replacement with a free span bridge is not planned by Henrico for the foreseeable future. Therefore, potential passage options currently include pool and weir, Alaskan Steeppass, and some type of nature-like passage.

b. Rapidan Mill Dam Removal: The DWR is continuing to work with American Climate Partners (formerly Center for Natural Capital) to plan for the removal of Rapidan Mill Dam on the Rapidan River. Now that Embrey Dam is gone from the Rappahannock, Rapidan Mill Dam is the next upstream barrier to migratory fishes. This is a very high priority fish passage and barrier removal project to benefit diadromous and resident fishes in Virginia. American Climate Partners received a NOAA grant for feasibility and design studies (BIL funds). At this point, this phase is still moving forward. Various survey data needed for design alternatives and permitting is currently being collected.

c. Ashland Mill Dam Removal: Ashland Mill Dam was the first impediment on the South Anna River. Removal of this dam was completed in October of 2024. Post removal monitoring by DWR and RMC is underway (boat electrofishing for target species and eDNA). On March 21, 2025, the first evidence of passage success was found by DWR and RMC when a healthy female American Shad was found approximately 1/3 of a mile upstream of the former dam site. Davey, Wetland Studies and Solutions, and RMC (student environmental class) are continuing to monitor the physical stream changes. The exposed banks are beginning to sprout vegetation, the substrate upstream of the dam is beginning to convert from soft sand to more coarse material, and original bedrock areas are becoming exposed once again. There is still a lot of soft sand downstream of the removal and that continues to get sorted downstream toward equilibrium with each high flow event.

d. Baber's Mill Dam: Post removal sampling will begin in the spring of 2025. When Sea Lamprey are seen using the Boshers Dam fishway DWR will conduct backpack electrofishing sampling in the stream above the former dam site to begin documentation of anadromous fish use of the recently reconnected habitat. Full community sampling is being planned for the fall of 2025.

4. Tidal Rivers Program

- DWR conducted fall community sampling in the Chickahominy, Mattaponi, and Pamunkey rivers via boat electroshocking on three days from October 7, 2024, to October 11, 2024. All fish were identified to species level, weighed, and measured.
    - These data were used to assess population trends and fish health of sportfish and native species.
    - Community sampling was limited due to dangerous river conditions following hurricanes Helene and Milton. Spring sampling is scheduled for May and June 2025 to address data gaps.
- DWR conducted invasive species monitoring via boat electrofishing in the Pamunkey and Chickahominy rivers during community sampling efforts on October 7 and October 9, 2024, respectively.

    - In the Chickahominy River, Biologists conducted monitoring for Alabama Bass. None were collected or observed. More thorough sampling will be conducted in May and June 2025.
    - In the Pamunkey River, Biologists conducted monitoring for Northern Snakehead. No Northern Snakehead were collected or observed.
- DWR conducted active tracking of Blue Catfish throughout the James and Chickahominy rivers during receiver maintenance activities. Unique tag identification numbers were recorded for all detections and datetime, signal strength (dB), coordinates, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity were recorded.
    - DWR conducted active tracking of Blue Catfish in the James and Chickahominy rivers and their tributaries on five days in October 2024. Tracking was conducted to assess survival of trophy-size Blue Catfish tagged in September 2024. No trophy fish were detected; however, several other tagged Blue Catfish and unknown tags suspected to be Atlantic Sturgeon were detected. These unknown tag detections will be shared with ACT for use in ongoing sturgeon research.
    - One additional receiver was placed in Gordon Creek, tributary to the Chickahominy River. This site was identified as a spawning site during Blue Catfish monitoring surveys in August 2024. The new receiver will provide information on the timing and extent of spawning and contribute to identifying environmental cues.
    - DWR conducted active tracking on two days in the Appomattox and Chickahominy rivers in March 2025. River flow, height, and debris from heavy precipitation events prevented extensive tracking and access to several receivers; efforts will continue in April 2025. No tagged Blue Catfish were detected; previous years' data suggest Blue Catfish are more likely to move downstream following rain events. Several unknown tags were detected and will be submitted to ACT for use in ongoing research.
    - DWR continues to engage with VCU on sharing receiver data from the mainstem James River array.
- DWR performed maintenance on all deployed acoustic receivers in James River tributaries and the Chickahominy River mainstem in October 2025 and March 2025. This includes data downloads, battery changes, software updates, cleaning, and securing receiver attachments.
    - Data from DWR's acoustic telemetry array has been critical in understanding seasonal distribution and movement patterns and will contribute to a future population assessment incorporating spatiotemporal data. These data have also provided critical context for existing research on Blue Catfish diet and predation impacts to native and commercially important species.
    - DWR has a long-term goal of expanding the telemetry array into the James River mainstem and Chickahominy River tributaries as well as other tidal systems, in an effort to develop sustainable, collaborative monitoring programs for Atlantic Sturgeon and other species of concern.
- Full community electrofishing survey were conducted on the Rappahannock River and various tributaries during early October 2024.
    - Twenty-six sites were covered during the fall surveys as the salinity wedge was not as strong as previous years. The remnants of tropical systems flushed out the middle reach of the river system.
    - The survey yielded a decline in Largemouth Bass abundance with the most noteworthy decline in juvenile bass presence. Addition declines in Bowfin and Northern Snakehead abundance were detected.
    - Hydrilla density remained strong along the upper zones east of Port Royal.
- A full community electrofishing of the Piankatank River in October 2024 allowed for the assessment of the current fishery.

    - Survey runs were successful in collecting an abundance of Bowfin in the standardized sites that were sampled. No Northern Snakehead were observed. Largemouth Bass CPUE showed a favorable increase from the 2023 survey.
    - The upper reaches of the Piankatank River were sampled on March 25, 2025, to collect additional data on predator species. The survey revealed a spike in Largemouth Bass density along with a decline in Bowfin presence.
- The Rappahannock River tributaries of Mt. landing Creek and Hoskins Creek were sampled on March 26. 2025, in an effort to collect additional data on predator species.
    - The survey runs found a limited presence of Largemouth Bass in these tributaries that have historically had low CPUEs in the past.
    - Bowfin and Northern Snakehead made a limited presence during the survey runs.

Albemarle-Pamlico Drainage:

- During the reporting period, biologists spent twelve days surveying fish communities in Back Bay, four days of submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring, water quality monitoring, and vegetation restoration in Back Bay in coordination with other DWR staff.
- Biologists also spent two days surveying fish communities in the North Landing River.
- Biologists spent two days collecting Largemouth Bass for genetic sampling on the Northwest River.

6) Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

There is no report for this reporting period.

SECTION B.3 FEDERAL CONSISTENCY

During the period of October 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, the Office of Environmental Impact Review/Federal Consistency (OEIR) reviewed 88 projects for consistency with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP). This represents 62% of the total amount of projects reviewed (142) during this period. The 88 federal actions included 36 federal agency activities, 31 federal licenses and approvals, 0 outer continental shelf projects and 21 federal funding projects to state or local governments. The 36 federal agency activities included 19 projects submitted under the residual category pursuant to the federal consistency regulation (15 CFR 930.31(c)), which consisted of federal funding to private citizens such as U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mortgage insurance projects. All federal consistency determinations and federal consistency certifications were completed within the established legal deadlines. All federal consistency determinations and federal consistency certifications were completed within the established legal deadlines.

The OEIR continues to provide informal training on federal consistency requirements to consultants who prepare consistency documents for federal agencies and applicants for federal permits and maintains a website for Federal Consistency Reviews which can be accessed through DEQ's main webpage or found at https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits-regulations/environmental-impact-review/federal-consistency The OEIR webpage is updated weekly.

Table 1 depicts federal projects in reviewed under federal consistency from 10/1/23 to 3/31/24.

TYPE OF FEDERAL PROJECTS REVIEWED*	NUMBER OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	REVIEW PERIOD
*Direct Federal Actions	36	30-60 Days
** Federal Activities (approvals & permits)	31	90 Days
***Federally Funded Projects	21	30 Days
Outer Continental Shelf	0	45-60 Days
TOTAL	**88**	**30-90 DAYS**

*Includes 19 FCDs reviewed under the residual category of Subpart C of the Regulations. (eg. HUD Mortgage Insurance and USDA Rural Development funding).

**These are projects reviewed under Subpart D of the Regulations. These projects include individual permits issued pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

*** These include federal assistance to state and local government reviewed under Subpart F.

FEDERAL PROJECTS REVIEWED FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE CZMP from 10/1/24 to 3/31/25

I. Federal Agency Projects

The following projects are examples of federal agency projects subject to Subpart C of 15 CFR 930.33(a).

Little Machipongo River Federal Navigation Channel Dredging Project: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Little Machipongo River Federal Navigation Project to restore navigation. The channel provides access for both commercial and recreational vessels to deepwater in Great Machipongo River and aquaculture grounds within Hog Island Bay. The Little Machipongo River is a tidal estuary serving the Town of Willis Wharf located along the seaside of Virginia's eastern shore in Northampton County. The maintained channel is approximately 1.6 miles and 80 feet wide including a turning basin 225 feet by 455 feet long with a maximum dredging depth of -12 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). These dredging depths account for up to 4 feet of paid and non-paid allowable overdepth consistent with the Corps project authorization for advance maintenance, Corps policy for paid allowable overdepth, and federal technical guidance for non-pay allowable overdepth. The current maintenance dredging cycle is scheduled to commence in the Summer 2026. The dredging will be conducted by a hydraulic cutterhead dredged with dredged material deposited into a government furnished upland confined placement site. The total estimated volume for this maintenance dredging event is approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material. The designated upland confined placement site is approximately 14 acres in size and located northwest of the channel in Northampton County. The placement site will require maintenance and rehabilitation work to include clearing and grubbing of existing trees and vegetation, earthwork upgrades using on site dredged material to maintain perimeter containment dikes to increase volumetric storage capacity and ensure dike stability in accordance with the Corps safety standards, and maintenance/replacement of existing spillbox in-kind prior to the commencement of dredging operations.

Hampton Roads Beneficial Use of Dredged Material for Seabird Habitat: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with DWR, proposes the beneficial use of dredged material for the creation of a seabird colony habitat in the Hampton Roads Harbor. Dredged material from federal channels will be placed in the Hampton Roads Harbor to restore and enhance primary habitat for the existing seabird colony, which has been temporarily displaced as a result of construction on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. The proposed project would involve the creation of an island habitat that would require a maximum volume of 518,100 cubic yards of sand material and maximum weight of 21,630 tons of armor stone. The maximum potential surface area of the proposed island would be 7.3 acres, with five of those acres dedicated to and designed as suitable seabird nesting habitat. The location for the proposed island, Hampton Bar, is an existing shoaling area that would be enhanced with dredged material from federal channels.

Amendment 25 and Framework Adjustment 69 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing changes to how the northeast multispecies fishery is managed. NOAA NMFS is proposing Amendment 25 and Framework Adjustment 69 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). NOAA submitted a federal consistency determination (FCD) for the amendments. The Northeast Multispecies FMP currently manages a suite of 13 species comprising 20 stocks of fish in federal waters off the coast of Maine through North Carolina. Amendment 25 would revise the current Atlantic cod stock management units to ensure that the Northeast Multispecies According to the FCD, the FMP reflects the best scientific information available for stocks in need of conservation and management. Since its creation in 1985, the Northeast Multispecies FMP has included two Atlantic cod stock units: Gulf of Maine cod and Georges Bank cod. Amendment 25 would revise the FMP to include four cod stock units: 1. New stock unit of Eastern Gulf of Maine cod; 2. New stock unit of Western Gulf of Maine cod; 3. Revised stock unit of Georges Bank cod; and 4. New stock unit of Southern New England cod. The overall geographic area managed would remain unchanged and continue to include the entire range of Atlantic cod in U.S. waters. Management measures for the four Atlantic cod stocks that Amendment 25 would add to the FMP are included in a companion regulatory action, Framework 69. Framework 69 also includes specifications (i.e., quotas) for groundfish stocks, including the four new cod stocks, and management measures to implement the specifications. The New England Fishery Management Council adopted Framework 69 for submission to NOAA NMFS for review on December 4, 2024. NOAA previously submitted a general consistency determination for the Northeast Multispecies FMP. DEQ concurred that the general determination was consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program in 2009 (DEQ# 09-207F). As a periodic review, NOAA is requesting that the Commonwealth of Virginia also concur with a general consistency determination that the Northeast Multispecies FMP and actions carried out pursuant to this FMP are consistent with the enforceable policies. As with the prior general concurrence, NOAA will reconsider this consistency determination and consult with DEQ for any future amendments to the FMP.

Floodplains and Wetlands PFONPA: The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Walker, Virginia (FWVA) has prepared a Programmatic Finding of No Practicable Alternative (PFONPA) to assess the effects of routine and ongoing activities that occur within the 100-year floodplains and wetlands on its installation in Caroline County, Virginia. 100 year floodplains comprise approximately 2,848 acres of land area within FWVA, and wetlands comprise approximately 6,291. The avoidance of floodplains and wetlands while implementing routine mission requirements is not often practicable. To support military mission requirements, FWVA proposes to enact a PFONPA to conduct routine and ongoing actions occurring within floodplains and wetlands. This action would reduce the time and resources associated with preparing individual project-level FONPAs for each action as it is proposed. The Floodplain/ Wetland Points of Contact will review all project submittals and determine if an action meets the criteria to be covered under this PFONPA.

II. Residual Category

The following are examples of consistency determinations submitted as a residual category of Subpart C pursuant to the federal consistency regulation 15 CFR 930.31(c).

Sheetz Retail Gasoline Station, Site # 214392 (Fortuna Center): The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes to provide Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program grant funding to Sheetz, Inc. (applicant) in support of the construction of the proposed Sheetz Retail Gasoline Station located at 4422 Fortuna Center Plaza, Montclair, Virginia in Prince William County, Virginia. The project involves the construction of a Sheetz convenience store with a higher blend fuel offering. The scope of work includes construction of a 6,139 square foot building, parking lot, dispenser canopy, an underground storage tank system (UST), lot access points from Fortuna Center Plaza, installation of utilities, and construction of storm water controls in accordance with requirements from governing agencies. Necessary equipment for the UST System includes, but is not limited to underground storage tanks, product lines, containment sumps, submersible turbine pump motors, dispensers and dispenser equipment, and tank and sump monitoring equipment. The 1.78-acre property was recently cleared. Mosaic Fortuna Owner, LLC owns the property and intends to lease the property to Sheetz, Inc. for the construction of the convenience store and gasoline station.

Northumberland Boys and Girl Club Renovation and Expansion: The Northumberland Boys and Girls Club (the applicant) is proposing a renovation and expansion of the existing facility at 8200 Northumberland Highway in Northumberland County. The existing facility has a gravel parking area and building with adjacent forested and cleared areas. The club is proposing to construct a new 12,000-square-foot pre-engineered metal building addition. Planned renovations to the existing building include space reconfigurations and improvements, new finishes in select areas, new plumbing fixtures in the existing restrooms, and upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems as needed. No impacts to wetlands are proposed. The FCD states that the project is funded with a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that was sponsored by the Office of Congressman Rob Wittman. This is federal financial assistance that was authorized by Congress as part of its annual appropriations bill. The USDA Rural Housing Service Community Facilities Program has been directed to administer the grant on behalf of the Congressman's office. The USDA directed the applicant to submit an FCD. Therefore, the proposed activity is subject to review for consistency with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

One Million Reasons to Build: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposes to provide Chesterfield Community Development Block Grant funding to Emerge Construction Group, LLC for the construction of a community center at 100 Buford Road in Chesterfield County, Virginia. The 0.5-acre project site is located in a commercial area and is currently developed with a one-story building and an associated parking lot. It is bound on the north and west by undeveloped, wooded land, on the east by Buford Road and on the south by Walgreens. The proposed project will include the demolition of the current structure and new construction of a three-story, 15,000-square-foot community center.

III. Federal Activities (Permits, Licenses and Approval)

These projects are examples of federal consistency certifications reviewed pursuant to Subpart D of the Consistency Regulations (15 CFR §930.53):

Potomac Shores - Federal Consistency Certification Conditional Concurrence: Harbor Station Communities, LLC (the applicant) is proposing to complete the development of a mixed-use development, called Potomac Shores, in Prince William County. Approximately 20 years ago, construction started on the development, which includes 2,500 residential housing units, a town center, two elementary schools, a fire/rescue station, an 18-hole golf course, amenities, and associated roadways, utilities, and other infrastructure on 1,776 acres. Portions of

the development have been previously permitted and constructed. Now the applicant proposes to construct the project on the remaining 364 acres. The existing conditions within the area remaining to be developed consist of forested areas, cleared areas with on-going construction activities, existing residential homes, roadways and a railroad. The applicant proposes to impact approximately 4.58 acres of wetlands to complete the development. The applicant has applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for extension of a previously issued individual permit. Therefore, the proposed activity is subject to review for consistency with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CONDITIONAL CONCURRENCE - Based on our review (which commenced September 11, 2024) of the FCC and the comments submitted by agencies administering the enforceable policies, DEQ conditionally concurs that the proposal is consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program provided it complies with all the applicable permits, approvals, and conditions of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

Condition that must be satisfied for the project to be consistent with the Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Enforceable Policy, which is administered by the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR):

• To best protect anadromous fish from activities associated with this project, the project must adhere to a time-of-year restriction (TOYR) on any instream work in any perennial tributaries to the Potomac River, Powells Creek, or Quantico Creek (with impacts occurring within one river mile upstream of any of these waters) from February 15 through June 30 of any year. If work in intermittent or ephemeral tributaries to these waters can be completed entirely in the dry, when there is no water in the channel, a TOYR on work in those streams will not be necessary. However, if any such work cannot be completed entirely in the dry, a TOYR on such work must occur from February 15 through June 30 of any year. Given the previous correspondence with DWR, instream work at Impacts Q and R is allowed within the TOYR, if necessary, assuming strict adherence to instream work best management practices and erosion and sediment controls.

Reason that the condition is necessary to ensure consistency with the Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Enforceable Policy: If the applicant does not adhere to the above-referenced condition, then the project would be inconsistent with the wildlife and inland fisheries enforceable policy for the following reason:

• The proposed activities, if occurring during the TOYR with the exception of Impacts Q and R as described above, may adversely impact anadromous fish, which are a protected resource in Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, the proposed work may adversely impact the Commonwealth's efforts in protecting anadromous fish as well as other fisheries resources under DWR's jurisdiction.

Colonna Shipyard- Federal Channel Dredging: Colonna Shipyard (Colonna or the applicant) is proposing the Colonna Shipyard- Federal Channel Dredging project in Norfolk, Virginia. Colonna Shipyard is a local ship repair facility on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River located at 400 E. Indian River Road in Norfolk, Virginia. In order to improve access to their facility, Colonna is proposing to deepen the federal channel. This project involves the deepening of 5,450 ft of the authorized Eastern Branch Federal Channel from its junction with the Norfolk Harbor -Town Point reach (~Station 5+50) to the Norfolk & Southern Railway Draw Bridge (~Station 60+00). The existing maintained width is 500 ft and the depth is 25 ft MLLW. The proposed project is for new work dredging to a depth of -37.0 ft MLW (including overdepth) for the 500 ft channel width between the Berkley Bridge and the Norfolk & Southern Railway Bridge and for a width of 250 ft between the Norfolk Harbor Channel and the Berkley Bridge. Dredged material will be transported to the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area (CIDMMA) for disposal in the Rehandling Basin or hydraulically pumped from the barge to the upper cells of the CIDMMA. If the CIDMMA is not available for disposal, the material will be barged to either Shirley Plantation or Dominion Landfill. The applicant is applying to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for an Individual Permit for the work.

Fairfax County Parkway Widening Southern Segment: Dewberry, on behalf of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Shirley Contracting Company, LLC (the applicants), submitted a federal consistency certification (FCC) for the widening of the southern segment of the Fairfax County Parkway in Fairfax, Virginia. The improvements will add an additional lane to Fairfax County Parkway in each direction, taking 1.79 miles of the road from four lanes to six. Roadway widening will occur via the median but will also be balanced via the maintenance of appropriate shoulders, drainage, and guardrail barrier. Four existing bridges will be repaired, retrofitted and widened, and three will have Bridge Pier Protection Systems installed. New retaining walls are proposed for a section of the construction, as well as an intersection reconstruction at Burke Centre Parkway and the addition of a stormwater management facility.

VM-107 Direct Examination DMG Prevention Project: Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC. proposes the examination of its VM-107 pipeline in Prince George County, Virginia. The document submitted was an after-the-fact review. The applicant exposed line VM-107 to access observed and potential third-party damage to line VM-107 after a contractor excavated within two feet of the pipeline without a Miss-Utility (811) ticket or TC personnel onsite during excavation. Coating damage was observed and repaired by local operations. Temporary land disturbance for this project consisted of two 20-foot by 10 foot construction workspaces entirely within the applicant's existing easement.

Tyler's Beach Marina Project- PASDO Permit: Isle of Wight County (the applicant) is proposing the Tyler's Beach Marina Project which consists of rehabilitation and improvement of existing facilities at the marina. The existing facilities are aging and in need of replacement. The existing boat ramp and bulkhead will be replaced in-kind with a new concrete ramp and pile bulkhead. The existing aging fixed docks will be replaced with new docks, and new proposed finger piers to improve functionality/safety along the docks as well as increase capacity. The western dock will be extended to increase capacity. A new walkway/pier connecting from the bulkhead to the eastern dock will be constructed to improve connection between the facilities. Landside improvements may include a new jib crane, utility improvements, and potential improvements to the parking area. The applicant is applying to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP) – Pier, Aquaculture, Shoreline, Dredging, and Other (PASDO). Therefore, the proposed activity is subject to review for consistency with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

IV. Outer Continental Shelf Activities

No projects were reviewed during the time period of this report for this category.

V. Federal Funds

The following are examples of consistency determinations submitted as Subpart F pursuant to the federal consistency regulation 15 CFR 930.90. Virginia CZM does not have any Subpart F funding listed in our program, therefore, these are courtesy reviews:

Blackstone Raw Water Line Replacement: The Town of Blackstone will be receiving financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) for the Blackstone Raw Water and Conveyance System. The proposed project in the Town of Blackstone will consist of abandoning the existing 18-inch cast-iron raw water supply line and installing a new 18 inch PVC raw water supply line parallel to the existing one, within the existing utility easement.

1111 36th St. Roof, Windows & Door: The City of Newport News expects to receive Community Development Block Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for repairs at 1111 36th Street in the City of Newport News. The project involves replacement of the roof, windows, and the front door.

City Point House-Shiloh Lodge: The City of Hopewell has received an African American Civil Rights Grant from the National Park Service for the restoration and preservation of the City Point House-Shiloh Lodge, located at 601 Prince Henry Avenue in the City Point Historic District. The work to be completed includes demolition and reconstruction of the building foundation, installation of ADA-compliant features, carpentry work, roofing repair, new windows and doors, repairs to plaster and drywall, wood floor repair and restoration, new plumbing and HVAC, and fire alarm system installation.

SECTION B.4 PROGRAM CHANGES

There were no changes from October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025. Looking forward, Virginia CZM is exploring potential program changes as it relates to the 309 assessment and strategies process and the Virginia Ocean Plan recommendations.