



Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Semi-Annual Success Story ("Section C")
October 2016-March 2017

Submitted to the Office of Coastal Management/NOAA

Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan

THE PROBLEM: The changing global economy, increasing competition, land and water conflicts, decline in water quality and fisheries habitat, an aging workforce, and vulnerability to increasing natural threats (rise in sea level, frequency and magnitude of storm events, land subsidence, shoaling of navigable channels, etc.) pose significant threats to the future of approximately 600 working waterfronts operating in coastal Virginia. These threats make it imperative that concerted action at all levels of government and the private sector be taken now and in the years ahead to ensure that these important resources are available to continue supporting Virginia's economy. Working Waterfronts in Virginia are one of the largest producers of marine products in the US with close to 5M pounds of product at a dockside value of \$192M and hard clams and oyster harvests valued at \$37M¹. Recreational boating annually brings between \$1.2 and \$2.9B.² The Port of VA impact is approximately \$60B annually comprising 6.8 percent of GSP and producing about 374,000 jobs, equaling about 9.4 percent of VA employment and \$17B in wages.³

THE FIX: Through a Virginia CZM Section 309 strategy to protect and restore working waterfront infrastructure in the coastal zone, the *Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan* was written. Developed by a diverse group of stakeholders, the plan outlines a series of actions across all levels of government and the private sector. As the plan is implemented, it will lead to preservation and redevelopment of working waterfronts throughout the Commonwealth. Recommendations in the plan address shallow-water dredging needs, promotion of working waterfronts in connection with water trails and other points of attraction, review of local zoning policies and establishment of incentives and loan programs for working waterfront businesses.

THE IMPACT: Introduction of the *Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan* through the Virginia CZM working waterfronts strategy to local decision makers has resulted in new state legislation supporting creation of tools that localities can use to protect working waterfronts. One new law authorizes localities, by ordinance, to establish working waterfront development areas and offer incentives and flexibility for the development of working waterfronts in these locations. Gloucester County plans to incorporate working waterfront development areas as a tool for economic growth as part of the county's next comprehensive plan update.

MORE INFORMATION:

For a copy of the Plan go to: [Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan](#)

For access to the Legislation go to: [Working Waterfront Development Areas](#) , [Separate classification for fishing vessels](#) , [Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority](#).

PARTNERS:

¹ Virginia Marine Products Board, 2012

² \$1.2B (Virginia Marine Resources Commission) \$2.9B (National Marine Manufacturers Association)

³ Pearson and Swan, 2013

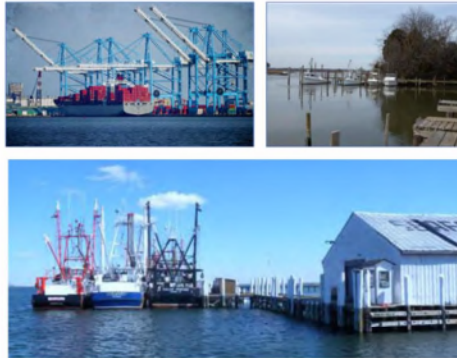
Virginia CZM Program, Accomack Northampton Planning District Commission, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Community Futures, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Virginia Sea Grant, Virginia Marine Trades Association, Virginia Seafood Growers Association.

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VIRGINIA WORKING WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN

Guiding communities in protecting, restoring and enhancing
their water-dependent commercial and recreational activities



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