

Virginia's Coastal Zone



Boundary Description

Virginia's coastal zone encompasses 29 counties, 15 cities, and 42 incorporated towns in the "Tidewater" region of the state.

Virginia's coastal zone includes 5,000 miles of shoreline, four total rivers reaching as far as 100 miles inland - the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James Rivers and all of the waters therein, and out to, the three nautical mile Territorial Sea boundary, including all of Virginia's Atlantic coast watersheds as well as parts of the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle - Pamlico Sound watersheds.

Federal Consistency

Federal consistency is the CZMA requirement where Federal agency activities, Federal license or permit activities, and Federal financial assistance activities located inside or outside the state's coastal zone that have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal uses or resources must be consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's coastal zone management program.