



# NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office NCBO in Virginia

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) provides a focus for NOAA's wide-ranging capabilities and activities in the Chesapeake Bay. NCBO works with other agencies and organizations in Bay restoration efforts, manages peer-reviewed NCBO-funded research, and strengthens NOAA's interactions with Chesapeake Bay partners. NCBO focuses on four major areas—fisheries, habitat, education, and coastal observations.

Offices in Norfolk and Gloucester Point, Virginia, facilitate NCBO collaboration with constituents and partners in the lower Bay. The Gloucester Point office is on the campus of the College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Here, NCBO staff members coordinate with researchers and managers on a wide spectrum of activities, including federal investments for oyster restoration, habitat restoration projects, educational programs, fisheries management, the role of aquaculture in the lower Bay, and data analysis.

The NCBO office in Norfolk is located within Nauticus and is part of the NOAA@Nauticus partnership to promote environmental literacy and inform the public of NOAA's programs and activities. Nauticus is a maritime museum that attracts 350,000 visitors a year with interactive programs and exhibits focused on exploring the "Power of the Sea."

NCBO headquarters are in Annapolis, Maryland, on campus with offices of the Chesapeake Bay Program, which brings together state, federal, academic, and local watershed organizations to support Bay restoration. NCBO also maintains an office at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

## NCBO Virginia Programs and Projects

### *Exhibits at Nauticus*

The Living Shoreline exhibit was completed in 2006 and features a 1,000-gallon aquarium habitat showcasing important native species and the role they play in the Bay ecosystem. The exhibit also displays real-time meteorological data from monitoring stations in the lower Bay and an interactive computer game about water pollution. NCBO works with Nauticus to develop future exhibits about NOAA's role in restoring the Bay.

### *Oyster Initiatives*

From 2004 through 2007, NCBO allocated \$2 million annually for oyster restoration in Virginia. NCBO is a member of the Virginia Interagency Oyster Team, which coordinates the many partners involved in oyster restoration activities in Virginia. In addition, NCBO is actively

### Our core capabilities:

- *Ecosystem science*
- *Coastal and living resource management*
- *Environmental literacy*



working with the state to develop oyster management plans. NCBO funds are also devoted to examining the future of an oyster aquaculture industry in Virginia, which could support both oyster restoration and fishery repletion.

### *Educational Programs*

NCBO offers educational program support for students, teachers, and the general public. The Education Resource Center at Nauticus is open to the public and provides access to science curricula, NOAA education materials, and information about the Chesapeake Bay. Summer programs, both at Nauticus and VIMS, offer students weeklong, experiential day camps focusing on the Chesapeake Bay and other NOAA-related science topics. NCBO offers special programs throughout the year, including school visits, grant-writing workshops, and technical assistance with Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) field experiences and professional development training. Both Virginia offices also offer internship opportunities for interested students.

### *Habitat Restoration*

NCBO in Virginia houses the Virginia Office of the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center, Northeast Region, which coordinates NOAA Fisheries habitat restoration including wetland, oyster reef, and underwater grass restoration; anadromous fish passage; and dam removal projects in Virginia. It is a local resource for habitat restoration funding partners and prospective grantees, and it provides habitat restoration expertise to the Super Fund remediation program and in the event of an oil spill or toxic release.

### *Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS)*

NCBO plays an important role in the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail through CBIBS, an interactive buoy system that marks the water trail for boaters, provides historic information about points on the trail, and collects real-time scientific data about the environment near the buoys. CBIBS helps researchers and educators who are attempting to contrast the environment in John Smith's time with that of today. Educational curricula and online investigations will allow this informative new resource to be used in classrooms. By September 2008, CBIBS buoys will be located in Virginia in the James, Elizabeth, and Rappahannock Rivers, as well as at the mouth of the Potomac River. Observations and other information from the buoys are available at [www.buoybay.org](http://www.buoybay.org) or 877-BUOY-BAY.

For additional information on NCBO activities in Virginia, contact:

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## *NCBO Mission*

*Focusing NOAA's capabilities in science, service, and stewardship to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.*

