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Newsletter (Spring 2022)

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News of the Coast: Spring 2022



VCPC Receives Award from Hampton City Council

VCPC Director Elizabeth Andrews was honored by the Hampton City Council this month for VCPC's efforts to help build a more resilient Hampton, addressing the many hazards of a changing climate that have special impacts on coastal communities.

Recent Highlights

The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) kicked off in the Middle Peninsula with a successful, well-attended workshop to develop Resilience Action Checklists.

This semester, VCPC has nine students in our Practicum I course, and six students in Practicum II. We are excited that the VCPC Practicum is a cross-listed course at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

VCPC held a virtual webinar on *Virginia's Climate Change Strategies: Addressing Climate Change in a Fractured Legal and Policy Environment*. This virtual webinar was a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course approved for two hours of both CLE credits for attorneys and APA planning credits, hosted by VCPC and the Virginia State Bar Environmental

Law Section.

The webinar featured expert speakers including Karri Atwood from the Virginia Department of Health, Justin Williams from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Joe Romero of Vandeventer Black, VCPC Director Elizabeth Andrews, and Ben McFarlane from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. The 343 attendees during the live session included attorneys, planners, law students, local government staff, and others with interests in Virginia's climate change planning efforts.

Click on the VCPC website [here](#) to view the webinar video.

ANNOUNCEMENT



New VCPC Fiscal and Program Coordinator

VCPC is excited to welcome our new Fiscal & Program Coordinator, Libby Cook.

She joined our team in January from the VA Dept. of Education. She has a finance background and is a lifelong resident of the Peninsula region.

Welcome, Libby!

VCPC Practicum I

Student Feature: Maddie Blackburn

Maddie is a former Coast Guard servicemember from Michigan who is working on the Bivalve Incentives project in our Practicum I class. She is excited to pursue a career in environmental, public

service, maritime, or IP law. Her biggest cheerleader is her Brittany Spaniel, Beau.



Our **Practicum I** students are working on a variety of interesting projects:

- ***Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)***: A student team is scoring two localities in Virginia's Crater Planning District using the RAFT Scorecard that VCPC developed with partners at the University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, and Old Dominion University's Institute for Coastal Adaptation & Resilience. The RAFT university team, in partnership with the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, also kicked off a year of working with localities in the Middle Peninsula of Virginia to help them implement resilience opportunities identified at a January community workshop. See the RAFT website for more information: [The RAFT](#).
- ***Incentivizing Bivalve Aquaculture***: A Practicum I team is partnering with a Practicum II student to research legal and policy issues associated with bivalve cultivation and restoration in Virginia. This work will support a project team led by VIMS along with VCPC and industry partners investigating nutrient crediting and other potential strategies to boost bivalve populations and improve water quality.

New VCPC Policy Resources

- VCPC Practicum I students provided background research and support for a 2022 report to the General Assembly from the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, entitled [Natural Carbon Sequestration in the Commonwealth](#). The report

reflected discussions and input of a Carbon Sequestration Task Force called by the Secretaries.

- The [PREP Tool](#) (Planning for Resilience: Evaluation & Prioritization) builds on efforts over the past decade to study and document flooding and its projected changes in Virginia. It supports local governments in establishing a set of resilience priorities informed by level of risk, resilience efforts to date, and best practices in resilience planning. The tool provides a starting point for local governments who have not yet evaluated their vulnerabilities, assessed impacts, identified resilience-building actions, or developed resilience plans to guide future resilience efforts. It is designed to align with the principles for coastal adaptation outlined in the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework. The tool was created while planning for the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan and Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) was ongoing. The VCPC [Quick Guide to Resilience](#) is designed to assist with use of the PREP Tool by providing background information and definitions essential to the PREP Tool's seven categories.
- [Flooding their Mailbox: Recommendations for Notifying Residents of Changes to FEMA Flood Maps](#)

Coming Soon:

- *Abandoned and Derelict Vessels*

Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

VCPC research assistants have been studying legal and policy issues associated with abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV). Using comparative case studies, we are developing policy recommendations to address these issues in Virginia,



such as an inventory of existing ADVs, turn-in programs, and funding.



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