

# The Crest

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**Sea Grant** Waterfront News  
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Chesapeake Bay  
National Estuarine  
Research Reserve  
in Virginia

a fair Bay Spring  
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## VIMS Shoreline Permit Application Reports Now Available Online

Tom Barnard & Karen Duhring

The Wetlands Advisory program of the Center for Coastal Resources Management at VIMS has introduced an updated, online format for its Shoreline Permit Application Reports. Over the past thirty years, the VIMS report has been the primary source of environmental input to the tidal wetlands decision-making process implemented by local Wetlands Boards, VMRC, DEQ, and other permitting agencies. The types of projects reviewed by VIMS wetland scientists in this program include riprap revetments, bulkheads, breakwaters, marinas, boat ramps, compensatory mitigation and dredging. Reports prepared for each permit application are now posted to the Center's web page for online viewing and downloading.

Innovations that are now standard in the new VIMS Shoreline Permit Application Report include a color photograph, location maps, each project's advisory comments and recommendations. Hand-held GPS units are used to collect site-specific coordinates, a necessary link missing in traditional shoreline assessments. Each project's GPS location can be related to resource and shoreline inventories contained in a geographic information systems (GIS) database maintained by the Center's Comprehensive Coastal Inventory program. Useful coverages contained in the GIS database include inventories of watersheds, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, erosion control structures and previously permitted projects.

The process of generating the reports was streamlined using a computer program that automatically inserts the various report components into a standard template. The Tidal Wetlands Database has been updated to process the growing number of records used to track cumulative impacts to tidal wetlands in Virginia. Projects involving beaches and dunes were added to this database. Even electronic signatures are used to signify the report is official.





Tidal wetland information is also presented on a watershed level. Location maps included in each report illustrate how watersheds extend across city and county boundaries. This format should encourage consideration of the watershed perspective in the tidal wetlands permitting process.

The reports are posted to the Center for Coastal Resources Management web site as soon as they are available. Staff at each locality and the VMRC representative are notified by e-mail when reports for their jurisdiction are available online. Electronic distribution to local, state and federal permitting agencies will reduce paperwork, administration costs and time delays. Each applicant and authorized agent will continue to receive a copy of the report in the mail to ensure they receive a copy. Anyone else interested in the VIMS assessment of proposed shoreline projects may download and view the reports.

The Center's web page also contains other useful information about wetlands, including the *Wetlands Management Handbook*, numerous technical reports, self-guided education units, newsletters, and other features

on subjects dealing with all aspects of shoreline and wetlands management. Log onto the Center for Coastal Resources Management web site at: [www.vims.edu/ccrm](http://www.vims.edu/ccrm). A link to the online Shoreline Permit Application Reports is located just below the Wetlands Program icon. Several search choices are available including application number, locality, name of applicant and watershed.

The technical innovations included in this format change represent the latest step in the Wetland Program's long term efforts to provide decision-makers with the best scientific advice available. The integration of our GIS and permit activity databases with Internet technology enhances this effort via improved access, time savings and the utilization of expanded data sets.

VIMS Shoreline Permit Application Report # 01-9876		
APPLICANT:	SMITH, VINCENT I. M.	
Immediate Waterway:	Ware River	
Locality:	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	
Purpose:	Erosion Control	
Application Type:	Wetlands	
Site Inspection:	4/23/01	
Report Date:	5/1/01	
		
Type of Activity	Proposed Extent	Project Location
Bulkhead (B)	100	
Fill Saltmarsh Cordgrass Community (Type I) (B2)	400	
Total Impacts (B2)	0	
Total Impacts (Wetlands)	0	
Total Impacts (Subaqueous)	0	
Total Impacts (Beach/Dune)	0	
Total Fill (B2)	400	
		
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Example of the first page of a VIMS Shoreline Permit Application.