

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

Issues

- Maryland contains over 7,500 miles of shoreline, including extensive areas of wetlands, oyster reefs, and seagrass beds that serve as habitat for valuable commercial and recreational fisheries. These natural resources provide recreational and economic benefits to millions of people.
- Virginia's thousands of miles of coastline, and the Chesapeake Bay and tributary rivers and streams support diverse trust species and habitats and important commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Coastal hazardous waste and Superfund sites, including several Department of Defense facilities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, threaten natural and recreational resources.
- The relatively shallow, enclosed Chesapeake Bay is particularly vulnerable to impacts from oil spills and ongoing contaminant releases. The Elizabeth and Anacostia rivers and Baltimore Harbor, identified as Chesapeake Bay Regions of Concern, are areas with chemical contaminant-related problems.

What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



Chalk Point Oil Spill - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

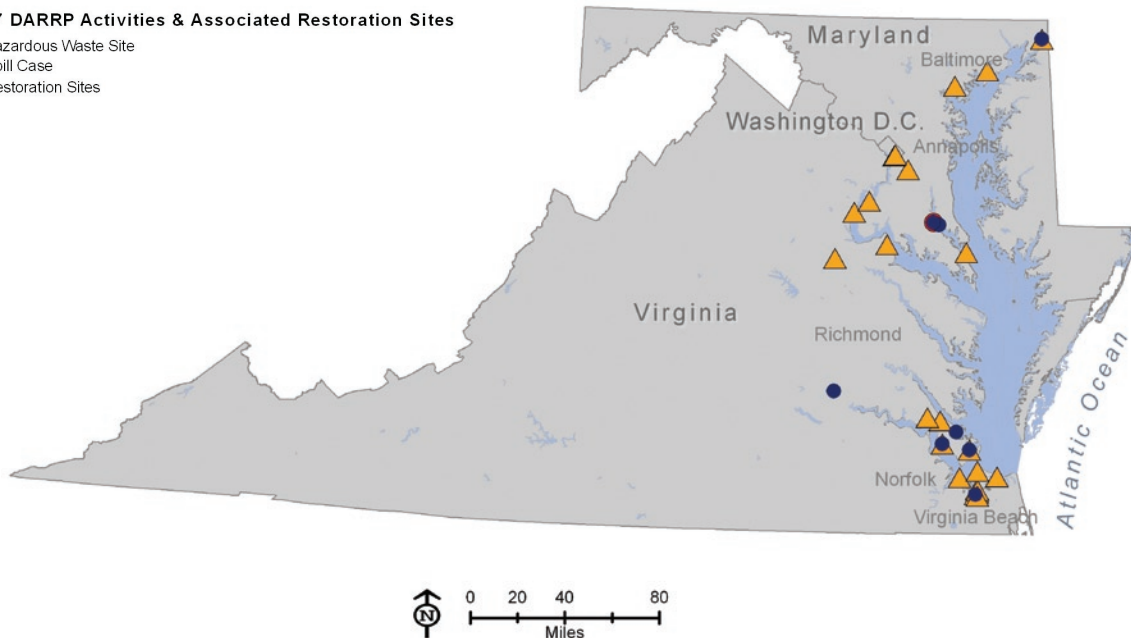
- Restoration and/or protection of 46 acres of marine habitats and 2 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 11 protection and restoration projects in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 28 hazardous waste sites.



Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Scott Center, VA - see case highlights.

2007 DARRP Activities & Associated Restoration Sites

- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Spill Case
- Restoration Sites



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Chalk Point Oil Spill, MD – Assessed impacts from this 140,000 gallon oil spill into the Patuxent River in 2000; created 7 acres of tidal marsh (*top photo on page 1*); created 2 acres of beach habitat, increasing nesting habitat for diamondback terrapins; created 5 acres of oyster reef sanctuary; protected and restored 1,800 acres of ruddy duck nesting habitat in the northern midwest; and constructed or improved seven recreational/public access areas along the Patuxent River.
- Andrews Air Force Base, MD – Worked with other agencies to develop a protective remedy to perform cleanup and restoration at a sensitive site at the headwaters of the Potomac and Patuxent rivers.
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard, New Gosport Housing Complex, VA – Assessed ecological risk and developed a protective remedy that included removal of 55,000 tons of heavy metal-contaminated abrasive blast material and restoration of 1.9 acres of tidal marsh and 1,500 feet of riparian buffer.
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard-Atlantic Wood Joint Remediation, VA – Assessed ecological risk and developed a protective remedy that included removal of 45,000 tons of calcium hydroxide and creosote debris and restoration of 1.3 acres of tidal wetlands.
- Little Creek Amphibious Base, Site 8, VA – Assessed ecological risk and developed a protective remedy that included removal of 25,000 tons of construction debris and restoration of 1.3 acres of tidal wetlands.
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Scott Center, VA – Assessed ecological risk and developed a protective remedy that included removal of 28,000 tons of landfill debris and restoration of 1.6 acres of tidal wetlands and 0.4 acres of riparian buffer (*bottom photo on page 1*).
- Money Point Sediment Remediation, VA – Partnering with the Elizabeth River Project, Living River Restoration Trust, EPA, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, local industry and others to remove and/or cap 35 acres of the Elizabeth River bottom sediments severely contaminated with creosote, construct tidal wetlands on the sediment cap, and construct an adjacent oyster reef.
- One-NOAA Anacostia Project, Washington D.C. and MD – NOAA's effort to focus a variety of NOAA resources with an ecosystem approach at a local urban estuary. This partnership effort is focused on remediating contaminated sediments, restoration of habitats, trash cleanup, and stewardship.

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

