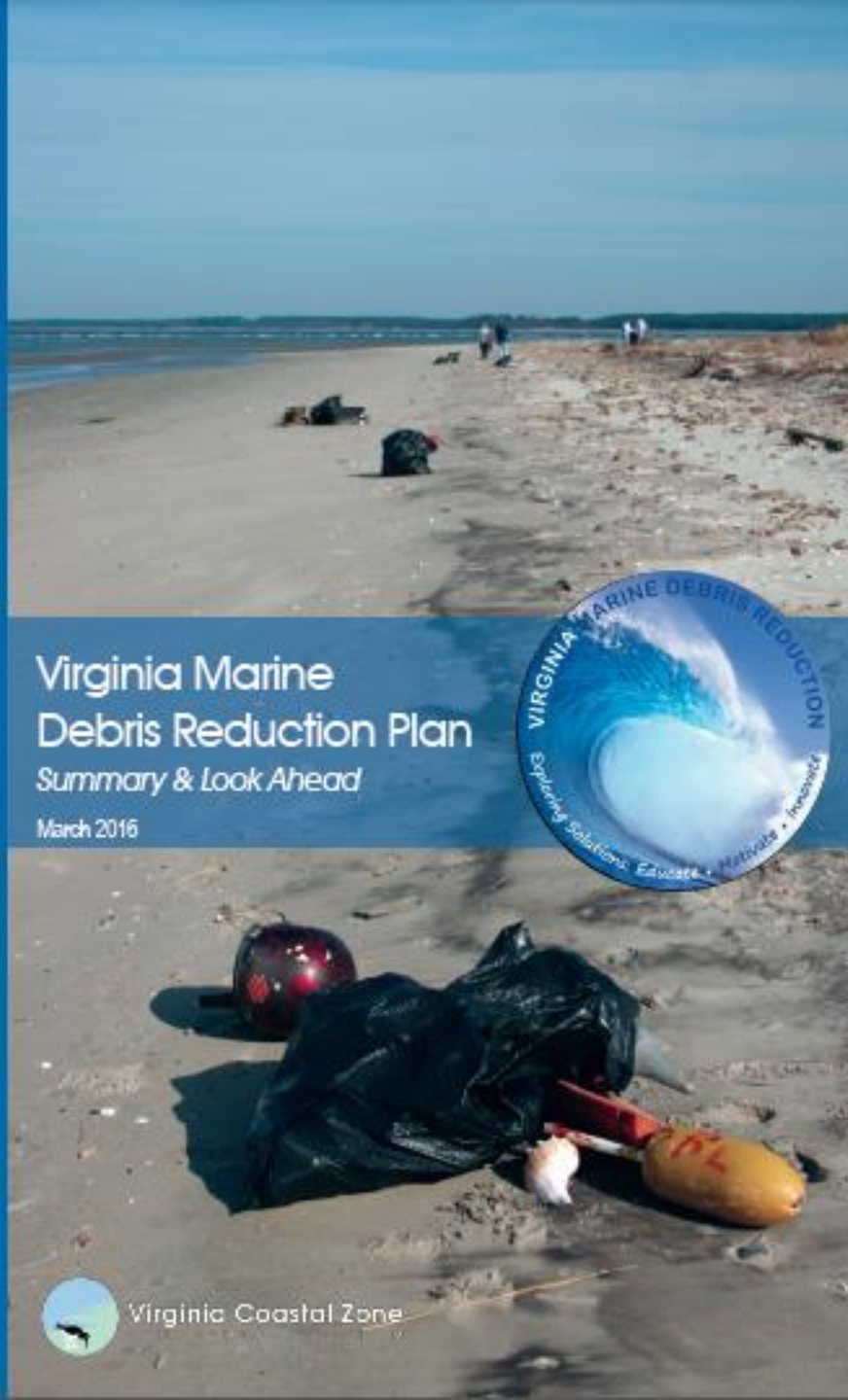


# Virginia Delegation Retreat Chesapeake Bay Commission July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Presented by:  
Adrienne Kotula, CBC VA Director



*Plan developed by the Virginia Coastal Zone  
Management Program and Clean Virginia  
Waterways*

# WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?



Marine debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.

- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

# Land-based Sources

60% to 80%





# Water-based Sources



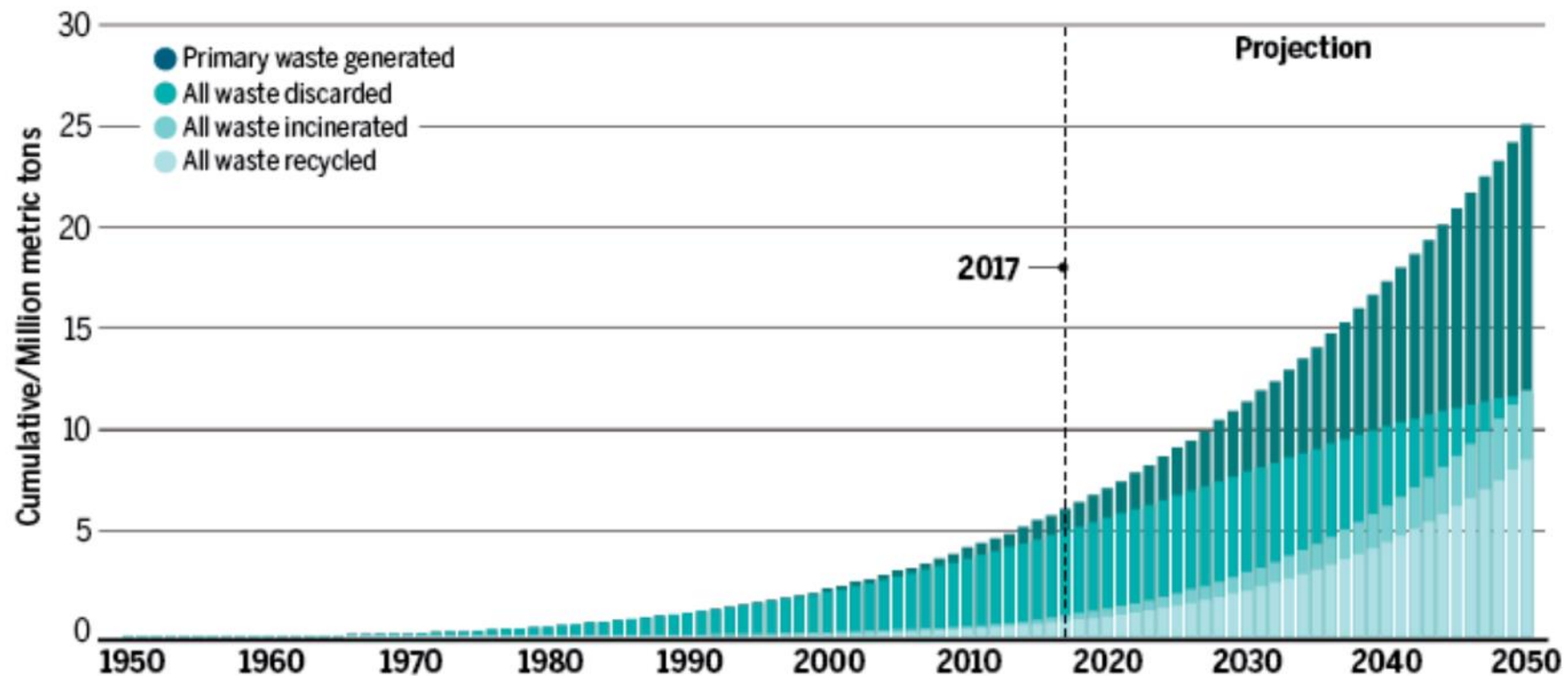
*Photo: Dot Field, VA DCR*



*Photo Credit: Kirk Havens/VIMS*



*Photo Credit: Virginian Pilot*



CREDITS: (GRAPHIC) G. GRULLÓN/SCIENCE; (DATA) GEYER ET AL., SCIENCE ADVANCES

This chart shows plastic waste. Production of plastic is approximately 20% higher. Mostly single-use disposables.

# Virginia's Progress

- Research
- Public Education
- Innovation
- Policy Change





# Virginia Waterways Cleanup (part of the International Coastal Cleanup)

- 118,000+ volunteers
- 4.8 million pounds of litter and debris over the years
- Data collected



**TRASH COLLECTED**

**EXAMPLE:** Plastic Bags: 447 III TOTAL # 8

**Citizen scientist:** Pick up all trash and record all items you find below. No matter how small the items, the data you collect are important for Trash Free Seas®

Please DO NOT use words or check marks. Only **numbers** are useful data.

**MOST LIKELY TO FIND ITEMS:**

Cigarette Butts:		
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.):		
Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic):		
Take Out/Away Containers (Foam):		
Bottle Caps (Plastic)		
Bottle Caps (Metal)		
Lids (Plastic):		
Straws/Stirrers:		
Forks, Knives, Spoons:		
<b>FISHING GEAR:</b>		
Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps:		
Fishing Net & Pieces:		
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece):		
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece):		
<b>OTHER TRASH:</b>		
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.):		
Balloons:		
Cigar Tips:		
Cigarette Lighters:		
Construction Materials:		
Fireworks:		
Tires:		
<b>TINY TRASH LESS THAN 2.5CM:</b>		
Foam Pieces		
Glass Pieces		
Plastic Pieces		
<b>DEAD/INJURED ANIMAL</b>		
<b>ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN:</b>		
<b>CLEANUP SUMMARY (circle units)</b>		
Number of Trash Bags Filled:		
Weight of Trash Collected:		
Distance Cleaned:		

**PACKAGING MATERIALS:**

Beverage Bottles (Plastic):	
Beverage Bottles (Glass):	
Grocery Bags (Plastic):	
Other Plastic Bags:	
Paper Bags:	
Cups & Plates (Paper):	
Cups & Plates (Plastic):	
Cups & Plates (Foam):	
6-Pack Holders	
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging:	
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.):	
Strapping Bands:	
Tobacco Packaging/Wrap:	

**PERSONAL HYGIENE:**

Condoms:	
Diapers:	
Syringes:	
Tampons/Tampon Applicators:	
Gloves & masks (PPE):	
e-cigarette waste:	

**TYPE OF ENTANGLEMENT ITEM**

1. **STATUS**

Dead or Injured	ENTANGLED
Yes or No	

2. **TYPE OF ENTANGLEMENT ITEM**

3. **TYPE OF ENTANGLEMENT ITEM**

2.5cm (actual size)

Photo: Clean VA Waterways

# Top 20 Items recorded by volunteers Virginia Waterways Cleanup

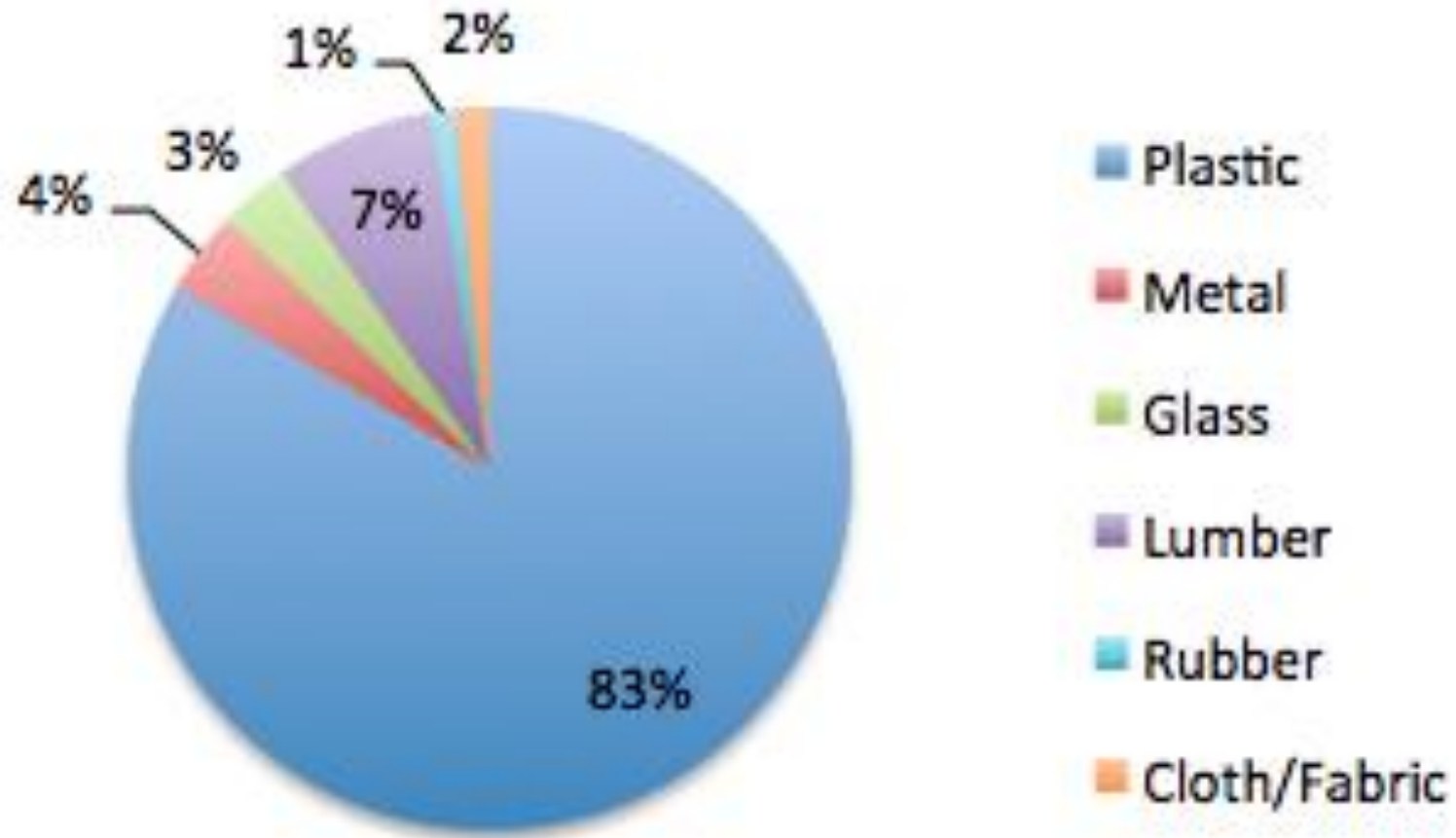
Yellow = Plastic

Orange = Mostly plastic

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cigarette Filters                      | 11. Balloons                    |
| 2. Beverage Bottles (Plastic)             | 12. Rope                        |
| 3. Bags                                   | 13. Clothing, Shoes             |
| 4. Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives,<br>Spoons | 14. Fishing Line                |
| 5. Food Wrappers/Containers               | 15. Oil/Lube Bottles            |
| 6. Beverage Cans                          | 16. Tires                       |
| 7. Caps & Lids                            | 17. Toys                        |
| 8. Beverage Bottles (Glass)               | 18. Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps |
| 9. Straws, Stirrers                       | 19. Cigarette Lighters          |
| 10. Building Materials                    | 20. Six-Pack Holders            |



# Sources of Debris by Material



Monthly monitoring for four years at four Virginia beaches

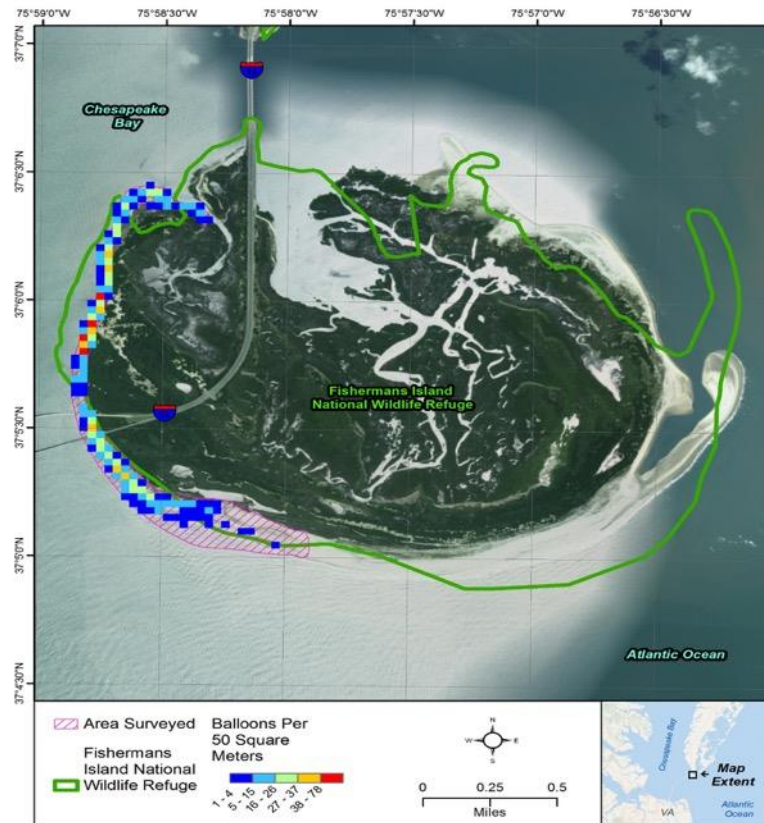
VA Aquarium, CVW, CZM, NOAA

# Research

Impact of Derelict Fishing Gear on diamondback terrapin



Incidence of Balloon Litter on Fisherman Island NWR



Recycling options for clam nets



# Public Education/Social Marketing Campaigns



**PREVENT**balloonlitter.org



# Innovative Projects

## Floating Litter Trap Installed in Little Hunting Creek

May 12, 2020

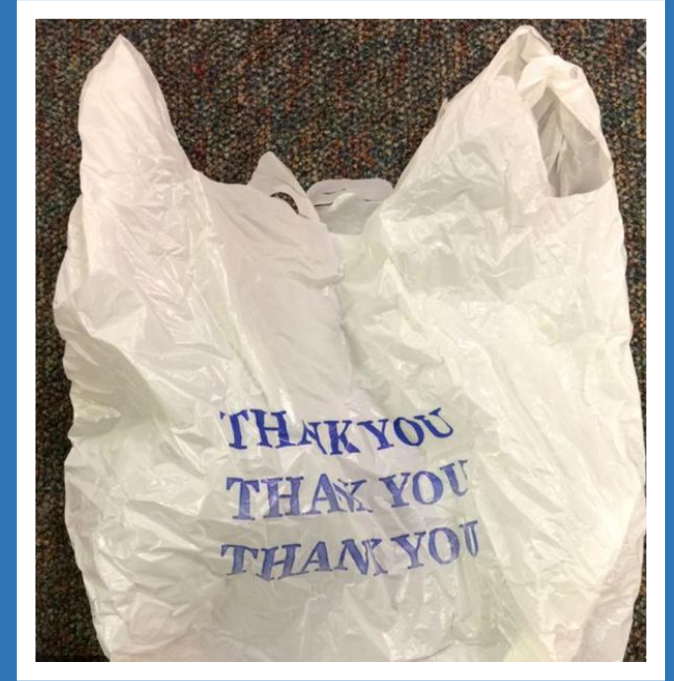
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# State Policies Enacted

- **Litter Tax** –raised after 44 years from \$10 to \$20
- **Intentional balloon releases** -- illegal in VA as of July 1, 2021
- **Polystyrene food containers** – phase out
- **Plastic bags** – Local governments enabled to add 5-cent fee on plastic bags
- **Plastic Waste Prevention Advisory Council**



# Executive Order #77

## Governor Northam (March 23, 2021)

### Immediate Cessation:

- Disposable plastic bags
- Single-use plastic and polystyrene food service containers
- Plastic straws and cutlery
- Single-use plastic water bottles

### Planned Phase-Out

- All non-medical single-use plastics
- 25% by 12/31; 100% by 2025



*Commonwealth of Virginia*  
*Office of the Governor*

## *Executive Order*

**NUMBER SEVENTY-SEVEN (2021)**

**VIRGINIA LEADING BY EXAMPLE TO  
REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION AND SOLID WASTE**



2021-2025

## Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan



Goals/Strategies/Objectives/Actions  
June 2021

*Vision:*

*To keep Virginia's coasts,  
communities, habitats,  
wildlife, and our ocean  
free from marine debris.*

# Four Major Goals

Understand, Prevent, and Mitigate the impacts of :

- Consumer Debris (Single-Use Plastics)
- Derelict Fishing Gear
- Microplastics and Microfibers
- Abandoned and Derelict Vessels



*Photo Credit: Katie Register*

# Consumer Debris





# Consumer Debris

## Opportunities for State Policy Action

- Statewide bottle bill
- Extended producer responsibility laws
- Implement recommendations of the Plastic Waste Prevention Advisory Council

## Opportunities for Local Policy Action

- Support local policymakers to implement single-use plastic bag fees
- Track plastic bag fee implementation and determine success
- Local ordinances regarding dumpster management and hauling
- Local ordinances on bulk trash disposal options

# Derelict Fishing Gear

## Opportunities for State Policy Action

- Statewide policy for the collection and recycling of monofilament and fluorocarbon fishing lines

## Research Need

- Database of existing laws and regulations for derelict fishing gear
- Bycatch reduction
- Alternative materials for clam netting

# Microplastics & Microfibers

- Increased public education and outreach
- Data sharing and best practices
- Focus on continued research
- Prepare for policy action





# Abandoned & Derelict Vessels

- Growing problem
- Workgroup established
- Educational campaign developing
- Inventory beginning



# Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

## Opportunities for State Policy Action

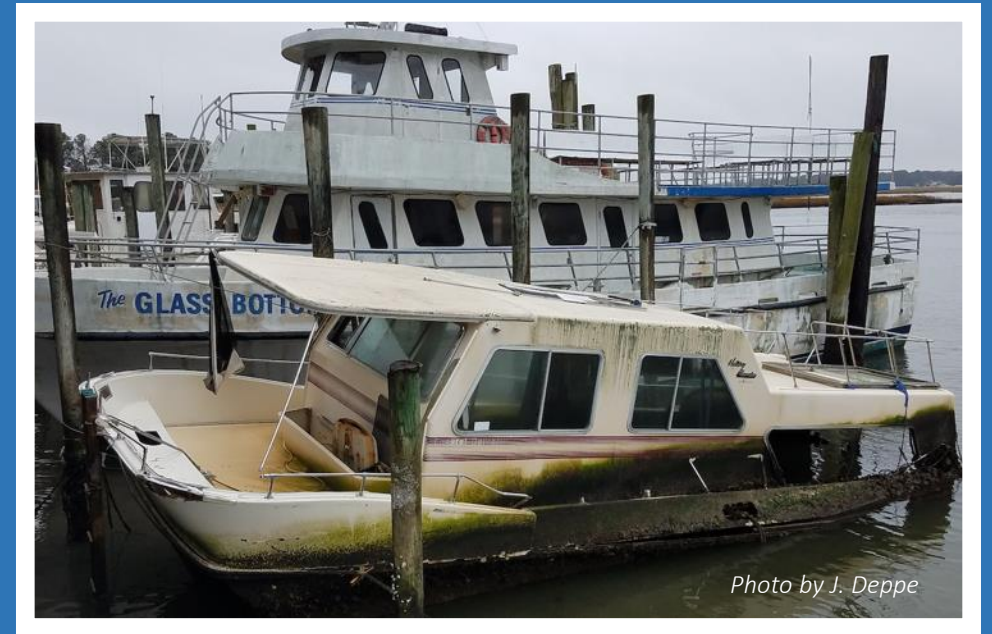
- Process Improvements
  - Designate a Lead Agency
  - Strengthen Title & Registration Recordkeeping
  - Liability Shield



# Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

## Opportunities for State Policy Action

- Preventative Measures
  - At-Risk Vessel Program
  - Turn-In Program
- Funding Options
  - Fee on Recreational Vessels
  - Creation of a new ADV Fund
  - Excise Tax on Vessel Sales





# Discussion of Opportunities for State Policy Action

Consumer Debris	Derelict Fishing Gear	Abandoned and Derelict Vessels
Statewide bottle bill	Statewide policy for the collection and recycling of monofilament and fluorocarbon fishing lines	Process Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate a Lead Agency</li> <li>• Strengthen Title &amp; Registration Recordkeeping</li> <li>• Liability Shield</li> </ul>
Extended producer responsibility laws		Preventative Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At-Risk Vessel Program</li> <li>• Turn-In Program</li> </ul>
Implement recommendations of the Plastic Waste Prevention Advisory Council		Funding Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee on Recreational Vessels</li> <li>• Creation of a new ADV Fund</li> <li>• Excise Tax on Vessel Sales</li> </ul>

Many thanks to...

