

# 2022 Virginia Marine Debris Summit

Implementing Virginia's Marine Debris Reduction Plan: Tackling Plastic Ocean Pollution from Consumer Debris

**September 27-28, 2022**

Location: Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach

**Sponsors:**

- Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
- Clean Virginia Waterways of Longwood University
- Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

**Funding support from:**

- Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program through a grant from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Freeman Family Foundation



## **AGENDA** *as of 9/22/22*

*Subject to change*

## **Monday September 26, 2022**

**5:30 to 6:30 PM Tackling Plastic Pollution: An evening with plastic pollution experts**

This presentation is FREE and open to the public!

Location: Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, 717 General Booth Blvd.,  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

Parking: Free for members of the VA Aquarium. [Otherwise, Parking is \\$5](#)

Speakers: Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, Clean Virginia Waterways, Lynnhaven River NOW.

[FREE, but please pre-register here](https://forms.gle/jtE1mHHzo9u81Z1G7): <https://forms.gle/jtE1mHHzo9u81Z1G7>

# Tuesday September 27, 2022

**8:30 am** Coffee & light breakfast; registration in lobby of theater

**9:15 am** **Welcome**

*Laura McKay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program*

*Cynthia Whitbred-Spanoulis, Virginia Aquarium President and CEO*

## **Federal & State Perspectives on Consumer Debris**

*Nancy Wallace, NOAA Marine Debris Program*

*Travis Voyles, Acting Virginia Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources*

## **2021-25 Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan: Accomplishments to Date**

*Laura McKay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and*

*Katie Register, Clean Virginia Waterways of Longwood University*

## **Consumer Debris Strategies: Prevention, Behavior Change, Education, Outreach**

*Moderator: Zach Huntington, Clean Virginia Waterways*

- Behavior Change: Plastic Pollution Campaigns that Work.  
*Kristina Gerken, Chief of Staff, Perpetual*
- Using Community-Based Social Marketing to Prevent Balloon Litter  
*Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program*  
*Karen Burns, Virginia Aquarium*
- Case Study: Trash Free DC: Curbside Disposal Education Campaign Pilot  
*Layne Marshall, EPA Trash Free Waters*
- Plastic Beverage Bottles & Beach Visitors: Encouraging Refills  
*Avalon Bristow, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean*
- Plastics in Society & the Environment: An interdisciplinary undergraduate course  
*Rob Hale, PhD, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (co-author: Donna Bilkovic, PhD., Virginia Institute of Marine Science)*
- The Field Guide to Unnatural Creatures (Kingdom Synthetica) in the James River  
*Karen Aneiro, artist, photographer and graduate student of Falmouth University in the United Kingdom*

**12:00** **Lunch**

12:45 PM First group for Field Methods Tour to load on shuttle

**1:00 to 2:45 pm**

**Field activities** – outside the Aquarium.

**Option 1: Tour of the new Aquarium South Building** with its ocean plastics exhibits  
Attendees are to walk about 10 minutes to the South Building

**Option 2: Tour of the Stranding Center**  
Attendees are to carpool to the Center

**Option 3: Field Methods for Monitoring Marine Debris**  
Attendees will use a shuttle to go to the oceanfront beach

- 2:45 pm**      **All Attendees Return to Aquarium**
- 3:00 pm**      **Research: Broadening Our Understanding of Marine Debris from Consumer Items**  
Moderator: *Donna Bilkovic, Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
- Microplastics: Synergistic Interactions with Disease in Finfish
    - *Rob Hale, PhD, Professor, Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
  - Microplastics from Consumer Debris in our Waste Water
    - *Ashley King, VIMS graduate student*
  - Solutions Mitigating Microplastic Pollution at William & Mary
    - *Kaleea Korunka, W&M Undergraduate*
  - Left Behind: Shade Tents, Umbrellas, Chairs & Toys on the Beach
    - *Katie Register, Clean Virginia Waterways*
- 4:20 pm**      **Funding Sources for Marine Debris & Litter Prevention**
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
    - *Layne Marshall, EPA Trash Free Waters Program*
  - **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
*Katie Morgan, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, NOAA Marine Debris Program*
  - **Keep Virginia Beautiful**  
*Cristi Lawton, Executive Director, Keep Virginia Beautiful*
- 5:00 pm**      **BREAK**
- 5:30 pm**      **RECEPTION** -- This networking reception (with light snacks) will be on the Aquarium's dolphin watch boat (weather permitting). The boat will return around 7 PM.
- 7:00 pm**      **Dinner on your own**

## Wednesday September 28, 2022

**8:30 am**      **Coffee, light breakfast and networking**

**9:15 am**      **Welcome**

### Plastic Pollution & Public Policy

Moderator: Jeff Flood, Virginia CZM Program

**What do Virginians Want? Survey of Virginia Voters: Findings from the 2022 CZM & CVW statewide survey.**

- *Steve Raabe, OpinionWorks*

### Policy, Management and Legislation

#### Update on Current laws

Moderator: *Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River Now and Virginia Conservation Network*

- Expanded Polystyrene Phase Out, Balloon Release Law
- Single-use Plastic Bags – overview of the legislation and Case Studies

- Fairfax County: What a Difference a Fee Makes
  - Fairfax County Streams: Before and After Bag Fee Implementation
    - *Emily Foppe, Clean Fairfax*
  - Income from the Bag Fee: Putting it to Work
    - *Kate Daley, Fairfax County*
- Fees on Single-use Shopping Bag: Is Your Community Next? Open discussion

**Potential Legislation to Address Litter & Marine Debris**

- *Elly Boehmer, State Director for Environment Virginia*
  - “Bring the Bottle Back” (bottle bills)
  - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Litter Tax in Virginia: Right Sizing It
  - *Zach Huntington, Clean Virginia Waterways*

**Pulling it all Together: Breakout Groups to Discuss Legislative & Policy Solutions**

**12:15 pm Lunch**

Members of the Virginia Plastic Pollution Prevention Network are asked to sit together for face-to-face networking!

**1:15 PM Proper Disposal, Interception, and Infrastructure**

*Moderator: Mark Swingle, VA Aquarium Foundation*

**Unique Partnerships for Litter Removal**

*Emily Burton, Fairfax County’s Operation Stream Shield*

**The Big Picture: Local Waste Management Challenges**

*Debbie Spiliotopoulos, Solid Waste Program Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission*

**Overcoming Recycling Challenges: What is Happening to Curbside Recycling?**

*Jay Thompson, TFC Recycling*

**2:20 PM Open Mic! Share Your Ideas on Priorities, Hot Topics, Next Steps, Challenges and Opportunities**

**Hope for the Future– capstone remarks by *Kaleea Korunka, W&M Undergraduate***

**3:00 Adjourn.** After the Summit, please tour the Virginia Aquarium for free-- just show your name badge



With support from the

**Freeman Family Fund**