# VIRGINIA SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING DEVELOPMENT FUND SUMMARY PROJECT APPLICATION

Please complete all fields. This page should be used as a coversheet for a detailed application.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: PROJECT LEADER (name, phone, email):

Virginia Aquarium & Marine science Center Foundation Susan G. Barco 717 General Booth Blvd. 757-385-6476

Virginia Beach, VA 23451 sgbarco@virginiaaquarium.com

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF EVENT: PROJECT LOCATION:

Virginia Fishing Pier Partner Program: Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, &

A Pilot Project Chesapeake Bay

BRIEF PROJECT SUMMARY: (include a detailed description of activity as an attachment)

We propose to develop a Fishing Pier Partner Program to address the problem of sea turtle interactions with recreational hook and line gear at fishing piers. This proposal is for a pilot project to engage pier fishermen/women, pier owners and operators at six fishing piers along the lower Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Beach oceanfront. We will reach out to interested groups to provide information on local sea turtle species and what to do when a turtle is hooked from a pier. This project is designed to launch a program that will grow as we begin to engage the recreational fishing public.

# **EXPECTED BENEFITS: (Describe how your project directly benefits the average Virginia recreational angler)**

While this project may not directly benefit the average recreational angler, it will result in a more educated recreational pier fishing community and a greater awareness of practical conservation strategies to protect sea turtles while engaging in recreational fishing. The expected benefits of the project include: enhanced knowledge and reporting by recreational fishermen and pier operators of sea turtle hook and line interactions; a greater number of successful responses and treatment of hooked sea turtles by the Stranding Response Team; laying the groundwork for a broader public outreach campaign focusing on recreational fishermen/women in Virginia with regard to sea turtle hook interactions.

SUMMARY COSTS: (Please attach a detailed budget including all sources of recipient funding)

## **SUMMARY COSTS**

Requested VMRC Funding: Recipient Funding: Total Costs:

\$38,095	
\$10,560	
\$48,655	

## Virginia's Fishing Pier Partner Program: A Pilot Project

## I. Background and Needs

conservation.

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Stranding Response Program (VAQS) documents interactions between recreational hook and line gear and sea turtles. This includes live sea turtles actively hooked by fishermen and dead sea turtles that ingested hooks and/or fishing line. In recent years, and especially during the late summer of 2013, a record number of recreational fishery interactions were recorded in Virginia. The interactions were reported mostly from fishing piers, with twenty cases of sea turtle hook interactions reported in the summer fishing season (May to September 2013) (Swingle et al. 2014). From May 15 to June 15, 2014, we documented eight sea turtle/recreational fishing interactions, all involving live turtles being hooked, and seven from fishing piers. During this time, we admitted six hooked turtles into care at the Aquarium's Marine Animal Care Center, all of which were critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles. The ongoing issue of hooked sea turtles is a concern for sea turtle management and conservation and presents an opportunity to enlist the help of Virginia's fishermen, pier owners and operators in protecting sea turtles and could serve as a springboard for other green pier initiatives. Because of the protected status of sea turtles under the Endangered Species Act, VAQS must acquire permits from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia, to respond to hooked sea turtles. We consider sea turtles that have been hooked and/or entangled by hook and line gear a priority, and we strive to recover these animals to prevent potentially fatal medical complications. Several hooked sea turtles have had additional hooks in their throat, stomach and intestines, suggesting that some of these animals may be habituated to feeding from baited hooks and fishing piers. We need a better understanding of the number of individual turtles involved and the rate of sea turtle hook interactions in order to mitigate the problem.

In Virginia and elsewhere, the cooperation of informed recreational fisherman has been an integral component of successfully recovering hooked sea turtles. The Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, Florida recently instituted a Responsible Pier Initiative program to help fishermen and fishing pier operators respond effectively to hooked sea turtles, with overwhelmingly positive response from the fishing public (http://www.marinelife.org/pages/marinelife/responsible-pier-initiative). A similar program in Virginia would educate fishermen about sea turtle interactions, minimizing impacts to sea turtles while engaging those interested in responsible fishing practices and in promoting marine

During recent one-on-one interviews with fishermen on Virginia piers, many of the "regular" fishermen expressed interest in supporting a program that would provide them with information about sea turtle interactions. Fishing pier owners and operators have also expressed interest in partnering with VAQS to educate fishermen on how to respond to sea turtle interactions (See letters of collaboration in Appendix).

VAQS is proposing a pilot program that would focus on six coastal ocean and lower Chesapeake Bay piers in Virginia: Virginia Beach Fishing Pier, Little Island Fishing Pier, Lynnhaven Fishing Pier in Virginia Beach; the Sea Gull Fishing Pier on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, the Ocean View Fishing Pier in Norfolk and the Buckroe Fishing Pier in Hampton. In preparation for our pilot study, these six pier locations have signed letters of collaboration for a Virginia Fishing Pier Partner Program.

## II. Objectives

The VAQS proposes to launch a program, the first in Virginia, to establish a partnership with local pier owners and operators to help recreational fishermen respond to incidental hooking of sea turtles. This new partnership will provide Virginia's recreational fishermen and pier operators with the necessary information and equipment to respond effectively when threatened and endangered sea turtles are encountered at Virginia's fishing piers. Often, fishermen fear prosecution or other negative feedback for unintentionally hooking a sea turtle. This proposed program aims to dispel misgivings about these instances and open lines of communication between the VAQS staff and the recreational fishing public. As part of this program, VAQS will respond when sea turtles are hooked and provide medical attention and rehabilitation, as needed. Recovered turtles will be released with tags that will allow for future identification of individuals habituated to feeding from baited hooks or fishing piers.

## **III. Expected Results or Benefits**

The Virginia Fishing Pier Partner Program is expected to increase awareness among recreational fishermen, fishing pier owners and operators about sea turtle hook interactions, and ensure safe retrieval, proper hook removal and appropriate medical treatment when sea turtles are incidentally hooked in Virginia. Following the pilot program proposed here, we hope to build upon successes and expand this program to additional fishing piers, boat ramps, marinas and other points of contact for the recreational fishing community in Virginia. Specific expected results include:

- A more educated recreational fishing public in Virginia regarding sea turtle hook interactions
- Enhanced reporting by recreational fishermen and pier operators concerning sea turtle hook and line interactions
- A greater number of successful responses and treatment for hooked sea turtles by the VAQS Stranding Response Team
- Laying the groundwork for a broader public outreach campaign for recreational fishermen in Virginia with regard to sea turtle hook interactions

## IV. Approach

The VAQS proposes to launch a pilot public outreach project for the 2015 fishing season at six fishing piers in coastal Virginia. The proposed resources to be provided by this program include a workshop for interested recreational fishermen, pier owners and operators, outreach materials, hooked turtle response kits for six piers, and support for response to hooked sea turtles. Our target audience will be local residents who regularly fish on piers, pier owners and

their operational staff. We hope, through signage and outreach to the local pier fishing community, that information will also spread to visitors who use local piers.

## Pier Partners Workshop

The first component is a workshop for recreational fishermen as well as pier owners and operators. Topics will include information on the sea turtle species in Virginia, actions that can be taken to avoid interactions with sea turtles (e.g. not putting fishing lines in the water next to observed sea turtles), and most importantly, what to do when a sea turtle is hooked. During one-on-one interviews with pier fishermen in preparation for this proposal, the most commonly encountered question was: What actions should be taken if a sea turtle is incidentally hooked? The workshop will emphasize that VAQS should be contacted immediately upon confirming that a sea turtle is hooked and will include actions to take while the Stranding Response Team is en route. Key components of the individual fisherman's role include: safely bringing the turtle to the pier deck by using a lift net; moving the animal to a sea turtle holding tub and providing shade; and leaving the hook in place with an ample amount of line to enable safe removal of the hook. We will advertise the workshop and the Pier Partner Program by distributing announcements to tackle shops, fishing groups (such as angler's clubs), websites, blogs, Facebook and newspaper articles.

### Outreach Materials

The second component of this project will include educational outreach materials, provided to the six local piers. Posters of various sizes will be provided for pier offices and fee booths with contact information and instructions to call VAQS with reports of hooked sea turtles, and guidance for safely handling the animal while VAQS staff is en route to the location. Tackle box stickers will be available at pier offices and will be distributed at workshops and during pier visits by VAQS staff. Some preliminary materials have been distributed to the six prospective pier locations and feedback from initial interviews will be used to refine the pilot program for the 2015 season.

## Pier Response Kits

The third component of this project is to provide response kits and equipment for use by responders to each of the six fishing piers. We will first assess the needs of each pier and discuss kit options with pier owners and operators. The kits may include specialized lift nets for safely bringing a turtle to the pier, large tubs and towels that will contain and shade a sea turtle before VAQS arrives on scene, and a locked medical toolbox containing supplies for VAQS staff as they arrive on scene. While medical and de-hooking materials are available at the Aquarium's Marine Animal Care Center, many turtles are hooked during evening hours and on busy weekends when we have limited staff on duty. By having kits at each pier, VAQS responders can go directly to a pier without needing to stop for supplies and equipment. In addition, as pier operators and fishermen become aware of and interested in the program, we may be able to recruit and train 'pier response teams' to assist the VAQS with hooked turtle response. Supplies within the toolbox may include basic medical supplies, including: gloves, pliers and speculums for examining and potentially removing shallow hooks; blood sampling

supplies for rapid diagnostics; and additional contact information and tackle box stickers for the public involved in the rescue.

## Hooked sea turtle response, triage and rehabilitation

The final component of this project, responding to and caring for hooked sea turtles, will strengthen the lines of communication between fishermen and VAQS, while also providing appropriate medical care for hooked sea turtles. All outreach materials will include contact information for the VAQS Hotline, which is active 24 hours per day, every day of the year. As for any event involving a live sea turtle or marine mammal, VAQS staff are available to respond immediately to calls regarding hooked sea turtles. Timely reporting and communications between recreational fishermen and the Stranding Response Team will increase the number of successful responses to hooked sea turtles, thereby reducing the severity of hook and line interactions which may reduce rehabilitation times and costs. VAQS also tags (when possible) and tracks sea turtles upon release, and this information will be available for fishermen and pier operators who are interested in the post-release activities of the turtles they aided in rescue. Finally, assessment of the overall health of hooked sea turtles will help VAQS better understand the nature of sea turtle hook interactions by allowing for comparison of the health (e.g. body condition, blood gas, chemistry profile and complete blood count values, physical assessment) of hooked sea turtles with other wild turtles.

The extent of treatment and rehabilitation needed for a hooked sea turtle depends on the location and size of the hook, the overall condition of the turtle and the method required to dehook the turtle. We follow established veterinary protocols when responding to hooked sea turtles. Some turtles are lightly hooked in the mouth, and the hook can be removed by VAQS staff without further injury. If a turtle is otherwise healthy and lightly hooked in the mouth, our veterinarians may clear it for release within ten days of initial recovery. If innocently mishandled, however, a lightly hooked turtle can become deeply hooked requiring additional care. If a hook has been imbedded in a turtle's mouth, tongue or esophagus for any length of time, there may be existing infection requiring antibiotics. Veterinary assistance, and sometimes endoscopy or surgery, are required for swallowed hooks. Deeply hooked animals, especially those that undergo surgery, are routinely placed on antibiotics, steroids and pain medication. As a result, sea turtle rehabilitation can be a lengthy and expensive process. The average length of time in rehab for pier-hooked turtles in 2013 was 72 days. We hope that this cooperative pilot program will reduce the amount of time turtles spend in rehab following a hook interaction, though we anticipate that it will also result in an increase in the number of interactions that are reported. As a result, we have included support for response, triage and rehabilitation of hooked sea turtles in this project proposal.

## V. Location

This pilot project will be carried out in the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Hampton and on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel at the following six fishing piers (see Appendix for letters of collaboration):

- Little Island Fishing Pier (Virginia Beach)
- Virginia Beach Fishing Pier (Virginia Beach)
- Lynnhaven Fishing Pier (Virginia Beach)
- Ocean View Fishing Pier (Norfolk)
- Buckroe Fishing Pier (Hampton)
- Sea Gull Fishing Pier (Chesapeake Bay)

### VI. Estimated Cost

We estimate that the total project will cost \$48,655. We are asking the RFDF for \$38,095 and we will match \$10,560.

## Supplies = \$3,775 (Match = \$400)

For this project, we intend to outfit six regional fishing piers with kits to enhance response to hooked sea turtles by pier patrons. These kits will include the following:

- Sea turtle lift net, line and clip (\$75 each)
- Turtle holding tub (\$150 each)
- Treatment toolbox with lock for responders (gloves, antiseptics, medications, gauze, syringes, needles, blood vials, de-hooking tools, bite blocks, tags, etc.) (\$150)
- Labels for kit items and signage for pier (\$250)
- Sheet & towels to shade tub

We estimate that six pier kits will cost \$2,850.

We also require supplies to create 20 sets of waterproof instructions for response to hooked turtles that will be provided to interested workshop attendees. Supplies include: paper, laminating sheets, binder, laminator, printer ink, *etc*. We estimate that we will need \$275 in supplies for the workshop.

Finally, we expect the number of responses to hooked turtles to increase with outreach to piers. A stranding response organization in Mississippi saw a greater than 500% increase in responses following outreach efforts at five local fishing piers (Coleman & Pitchford 2014, Cook *et al.* 2014). We minimally expect a 100% increase in calls during the first year of this project. We are asking here for partial support of VAQS response to sea turtles hooked by recreational fishermen/women.

While some turtles are lightly hooked and do not require veterinary assistance for de-hooking, other cases require veterinary assistance and antibiotics, while still others require surgery with anesthesia and pain medication. Supply costs vary with each response, but we have categorized hook interactions into lightly hooked, deeply hooked and surgical hook removal. Numbers of sea turtle/hook interactions on fishing piers has been increasing annually. Our estimates for this project include response to 17 turtles, ten lightly hooked, five deeply hooked and two requiring surgery. Because sea turtles are endangered species, response to live animals is carefully monitored by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. We follow protocols approved by our veterinarians for responses to sea turtle/hook interactions.

Below are the levels of response and likely treatments required for each category of hooked sea turtle:

## Lightly hooked turtles

- Veterinary consultation (required)
- Radiographs (required)
- Admitting blood analysis (required)
- Physical exam
- Topical wound treatment
- Rehabilitation (average =10 days)
- Tagging (flipper & PIT tags; required)

Deeply hooked turtles (same as lightly hooked turtles plus the items below)

- Veterinary hook removal (possibly endoscopy)
- Post-antibiotic veterinary consultation (required)
- Medications (injectable antibiotics-minimum 2 weeks, steroids, possibly pain medications & vitamin supplements as prescribed by veterinarians)
- Post-antibiotic blood analysis (required)
- Rehabilitation (30-50 days; average 40 days)

Surgical hook removal (same as deeply hooked turtles plus the items below)

- Veterinary surgery (doctor, anesthesia, fluids, stitches, etc.)
- Post-surgery veterinary consultation (required)
- Pre-release blood analysis (required)
- Rehabilitation (70-90 days; average 80 days)

Supplies associated with examination, treatment and rehabilitation for hooked turtles includes: medications, gloves, gauze, topical antiseptic, topical antibiotics, injectable antibiotics, injectable and oral vitamin supplements, blood machine cartridges, blood analysis supplies (syringes, needles, blood tubes, micro hematocrit tubes and clay, glucose meter strips, slides), and food (we feed sea turtles quality, raw seafood). For this project, we will match food costs for the time a turtle is being rehabilitated (estimated \$1.00-2.50/day=\$400). We estimate that we will require \$650 in additional supplies for hooked turtles during this project.

## Contractual Services = \$6,800 (Match = \$500)

Contractual services will be used to pay for veterinary services and for an outreach specialist, Kathy O'Hara (see resume in Appendix), who will be the primary contact between pier owners, operators, fishermen/women and the VAQS, develop outreach presentations, pier signage, project messages and recruit pier fishermen for a hooked turtle response team. O'Hara has worked in marine conservation and has experience with another partner program at the Virginia Aquarium, the Sensible Seafood Program, which recruits restaurant partners. The outreach specialist will provide her services at a cost of \$5,000 for this one-year project. She

has already provided more than \$500 (20 hours at \$25/hr) of potential matching funds while recruiting piers and discussing needs for this pilot project.

We estimate that veterinary services (veterinarian, radiographs, and other procedures as prescribed) for pier hooked turtles associated with this project will be \$1,800.

## Personnel = \$19,901 (Match = \$10,160)

VAQS staff will be used in several ways for this project. They will assist the outreach specialist with the workshop to be held at the Virginia Aquarium in the spring of 2015. Volunteers will assist on pier visits and will assist VAQS staff with pier responses to hooked turtles as well as with turtle husbandry during rehabilitation (100hrs). The primary responsibility of VAQS staff will be to respond, treat and rehabilitate hooked sea turtles. We have included four months of time for stranding response technicians (\$3,302/ month salary + fringe). We estimate they will spend approximately 12 hours for an initial response (2 responders, 6hrs each) and one hour per day per turtle during the rehab process providing treatment for hooked turtles, keeping records and supervising volunteer husbandry duties. We have also included one month of time for our live animal care technician (\$4,337/month salary + fringe) who is responsible for on-site medical care, including ordering and recording drug use, coordinating veterinary care, developing treatment plans and overseeing staff and volunteers. Finally, we have included two months of time for our research coordinator (\$5,658/month salary + fringe) who will manage the project, track spending and match, complete reports and work with the Aquarium's grant accountant. VAQS match will include one of the four months of stranding technician time and one month of the Research Coordinator's time, as well as volunteer hours valued at \$12/hr (100 hrs=\$1,200) on other grants with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## *Indirect 25% (\$7,619)*

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation has a calculated indirect rate of 29.59% with the federal National Science Foundation. Here, we will ask for a reduced rate of 25% indirect for this project. The indirect rate includes costs associated with maintaining an on-call response team and sea turtle rehabilitation facility.

## Itemized costs for the project

Budget Category	Item cost	#	RFDF	Match	
Supplies					
lift net, line & clip	75	6	450		
turtle tubs & labels	150	6	900		
response kits	150	6	900		
Signage	100	6	600		
Medicines	250	1	250		
turtle food				400	
food supplements	100	1	100		
blood analysis cartridges	300	1	300		
workshop supplies	100	1	100		
laminator & sheets	175	1	175		
Supplies sub-total			\$3,775	\$400	
Contractual					
veterinary services	1,800	1	1,800		
outreach specialist	5,000	1	5,000		
Contractual sub-total			\$6,800		
Personnel (includes salary and fringe)					
Stranding response technicians	3,302	3	9,906	3,302	
Live animal care technician	4,337	1	4,337		
volunteer time	\$12/hr			1,200	
Research Coordinator	5,658	1	5,658	5,658	
Personnel sub-total			\$19,901	\$10,160	
Indirect	25%		\$7,619		
Project Totals \$38,09				\$10,560	

## VII. Literature Cited

- Coleman, A.T. & J.L. Pitchford. (2014) Analysis of fishing hooks removed from immature sea turtles incidentally captured by recreational fishermen in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Presented to the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual international Sea Turtle Symposium. April 10-17, 2014, New Orleans, LA
- Cook, M., Coleman, A. Shannon, D. Dunch, V. Carmon, B. Klaus, J. & V. Howard. (2014). Hooked on Kemp's-Preliminary results of Mississippi's angler survey. Presented to the 34<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium. April 10-17, 2014, New Orleans, LA.
- Swingle, W.M., Lynott, M.C., Bates, E.B., D'Eri, L.R., Lockhart, G.G., Phillips, K.M., and Thomas, M.D., 2014. Virginia Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Stranding Network 2013 Grant Report. Final Report to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, NOAA CZM Grant #NA12NOS4190122, Task 49. VAQF Scientific Report 2014-02. Virginia Beach, VA. 49 pp.

## VIII. Appendix

- Letters of Collaboration
- Example poster
- Pictures of sea turtles that interacted with recreational hook and line gear
- Resume for Outreach Specialist Kathy O'Hara

## Letters of Collaboration



#### Pier Partner Program

The Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Response Program is launching a program, the first in Virginia, to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of sea turtles from fishing piers. The purpose of this partnership is to provide Virginia's recreational fishermen, pier owners and operators with the necessary information and equipment to respond effectively when threatened and endangered sea turtles are hooked on Virginia's fishing piers.

YES! Our fishing pier would be willing to join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Pier Partner Program to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of threatened and endangered sea turtles from Virginia's fishing piers.

Fishing Pier Name: Buckroe Fishing Pier Address: 330 South Resort Blud, Hampton, Va 23664 Contact Person: Lynn Waldrop Phone Number and email: Iwadrop @ hampton . gov

# 757 592 6736 Pier# 757 727-1486

Signature: // // // // Signature:

Date: 6/10/14



#### Pier Partner Program

The Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Response Program is launching a program, the first in Virginia, to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of sea turtles from fishing piers. The purpose of this partnership is to provide Virginia's recreational fishermen, pier owners and operators with the necessary information and equipment to respond effectively when threatened and endangered sea turtles are hooked on Virginia's fishing piers.

YES! Our fishing pier would be willing to join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Pier Partner Program to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of threatened and endangered sea turtles from Virginia's fishing piers.

Fishing Pier Name: LITTLE ISLAND FISHING PIER

Address: 3820 SANDPIPER RD VA BEACH 23456

Contact Person: DAVID B. WARNEN

Phone Number and email: (757) 426-0013 DWARNEN @ UBGOV. COM

ture: 26 M Date: 6/10/14



#### Pier Partner Program

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YES! Our fishing pier would be willing to join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Pier Partner Program to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of threatened and endangered sea turtles from Virginia's fishing piers.

Fishing Pier Name: LYNNHAVEN THEET FISHING PLEC

Address: 2350 STARFISH RD. VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23451

Contact Person: SNNIFER DUFF

Phone Number and email: 14NN haven fishing plev@gmail.com

Bus: 157-481-7071 Tu-SAT 4P-12A /CELL 757-652-4103

Signature:

Date: JUNE 3, 6



#### Pier Partner Program

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YES! Our fishing pier would be willing to join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Pier Partner Program to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of threatened and endangered sea turtles from Virginia's fishing piers.

Fishing Pier Name: OCEAN VIEW FISHING DIER

Address: 400 West Ocean VIEW AUR

Contact Person: GENE PARKOK

Phone Number and email: \$3.4000

Signature: Jul Tayl

Date: 06/10/2



#### Pier Partner Program

The Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Response Program is launching a program, the first in Virginia, to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of sea turtles from fishing piers. The purpose of this partnership is to provide Virginia's recreational fishermen, pier owners and operators with the necessary information and equipment to respond effectively when threatened and endangered sea turtles are hooked on Virginia's fishing piers.

YES! Our fishing pier would be willing to join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Pier Partner Program to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of threatened and endangered sea turtles from Virginia's fishing piers.

Fishing Pier Name: VA. BEACH FISHING PIER INC.

Address: 1413 ATLANTIC AVE 234

Contact Person: ROBERT LACHWAN

Phone Number and email: 477-2560 CELLACHMAN@ COX. N 428-2333 Pier

Signaturo: Kalent Hosa Ouren

Date: 6/10/14



#### Pier Partner Program

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YES! Our fishing pier would be willing to join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Pier Partner Program to help fishermen respond to accidental hookings of threatened and endangered sea turtles from Virginia's fishing piers.

Fishing Pier Name: Chesapeake Buy Bridge-Turnel Seagull Fishing Pier Address: One Island on the Bay: - 32386 Lankford thug, Cape Charles VA 23310 Contact Person: Paige Addison, Marketing Specialist; Ten Inderson, Dir. of Finance

Phone Number and email: 757-331-2960 paddison@ Cobt. Com

Date: 6/13/14

The CBBT will post the educational flyer on its website, obticon, as well as identify a location (s) for the flyer adjacent to the fishing pier.

# Example of outreach poster to be displayed at piers



To avoid catching a sea turtle, do not cast your line if you see a turtle in the area.

If you catch a sea turtle while fishing in Virginia, immediately call the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program at:



757-385-7575

Recommendations for reducing injuries to turtles caught by hook-and-line gear REMEMBER - SAFETY FIRST!

While you wait for the response team:

- Keep hands away from the turtle's mouth and flippers.
- Use a net or lift the turtle by the shell to bring it on the pier or land. Do NOT lift by the hook or by
  pulling on the line. If the turtle is too large to net/lift, try to walk it to shore. When you have control
  of the sea turtle, use blunt scissors/knife to cut the line, leaving at least two feet of line to aid the
  responders in dehooking.
- · Leave the hook in place as removing it could cause more harm.
- Keep the turtle out of direct sunlight, and cover the shell with a damp towel.

If you cannot reach the response team and are unable to bring the turtle to shore, cut the line as short as possible to release the turtle.

For more information, visit NOAA Fisheries Service at www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/seaturtles/



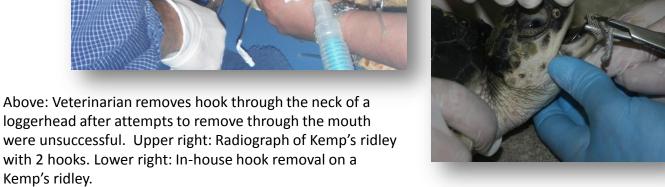
Below: Kemp's ridley with hook and line recovered from the Virginia Beach Fishing pier on June 3, 2014. Right: Dead Kemp's ridley with hook in mouth recovered in Virginia Beach.











## KATHRYN J. O'HARA

3901 Regal Court Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452 Residence: (757) 408-3608

#### **EDUCATION**

Master of Science, Marine Biology, May 1985, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina Bachelor of Science, Zoology, May 1982, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

### HONORS FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE

2012 C. Will Boyce Youth Development Award, City of Virginia Beach
2010 Leader of the Year, Girl Scouts of America, Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast
2007 Volunteer of the Year, Girl Scouts of America, Kings Grant Service Unit
2005 Award of Excellence, Hampton Roads Alliance for Environmental Education
2005 Environmental Catalyst Award, City of Virginia Beach, Clean Community Commission
2005 Volunteer of the Year, Kings Grant Community League
2005 PTA Lifetime Membership Award, Virginia PTA
2004 Volunteer of the Year, Tidewater District PTA
2004 Citywide Volunteer of the Year, City of Virginia Beach PTA
2004 Volunteer of the Year, Kingston Elementary School PTA
2000 Girl Scout Leader of the Year, Kings Grant Service Unit

## **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**1997 Award of Achievement, Natural Resources Council of America

1991 Success Story, United Nations Environment Program, Global Assembly of
Women in the Environment,
1991 Port Folio Environmental Award, Port Folio Magazine
1990 Marine Educator of the Year, Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association
1989 Award for Outstanding Individual Service in Environmental Education, North American
Association for Environmental Education
1983 Slocum Lunz Foundation Research Grant

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Team Response Leader, Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Center** (*Sept. 1988 to present*) Coordinates the activities of Stranding Team volunteers to respond to marine mammal and sea turtle strandings. She works with staff to conduct live animal care, field research, animal necropsies as well as public outreach and education.

**Program Coordinator, Sensible Seafood Program, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center** (*Jan. 2013 to June 2013*) Contracted to coordinate the Aquarium's statewide program to promote sustainable seafood choices. Activities included recruiting seafood restaurants and business partners, creating and delivering public presentations, development of program materials for the general public, and organizing the Aquarium's largest Annual Sensible Seafood Fest to date.

(Continued)

## Chair, Chesapeake Bay Initiative Kingston Elementary School PTA (Sept. 2003 to June 2005)

Created a program to increase student awareness of the Chesapeake Bay which was named winner of the 2005 Phoebe Appearson Hearst-National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award. This program was also honored with 2005 Virginia Environmental Stewardship Award as well as winning competitive grants from the Virginia Beach Public School Education Foundation and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. The program is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year at Kingston and served as a model for other schools and programs.

Director, Marine Debris Program and Citizen Outreach and Monitoring Program, Center for Marine Conservation (*Sept. 1985 to June 1997*) Created a new program to address environmental problems caused by the disposal of manmade solid wastes in the marine environment. In 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991 this program received national recognition in the Take Pride in America Annual National Awards Ceremony conducted at the White House. In 1991, Ms. O'Hara's program was awarded the President's Environmental and Conservation Challenge Award again at the White House, and in 1994 this program was named Nongovernmental Organization of the Year by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. During this time, Ms. O'Hara was one of the nations' leading environmental experts in the field of marine debris and the threats this form of pollution poses to living marine resources and the environment. She remains a proponent for reducing this problem through education and cooperation on the part of government, industry, and citizens. Highlights of Ms. O'Hara's accomplishments while at CMC include the following:

- Founder and creator of the International Coastal Cleanup Campaign, the first national network of beach cleanup organizers in 25 U.S. states and territories to conduct the first most extensive public awareness effort to remove debris from our nation's coastlines which has become the international program that continues today.
- Established the International Marine Debris Database Program involving citizen volunteers by creating a data card to be used by citizen volunteers to record standardized information on the types and quantities of manmade marine debris found on our nations' coastline
- Secured and directed a \$1 million grant from the Intergovernmental Maritime Organization to develop and launch a public awareness campaign in 22 countries in the Wider Caribbean.
- Authored the *Citizens Guide to Plastics in the Oceans* of which more than 100,000 copies have been distributed internationally.
- Member of the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council Committee on Shipborne Wastes (1992-1994) which produced the report entitled *Clean Ships Clean Ports Clean Oceans* 1995 National Academy Press (ISBN 0-309-05137).
- Interviewed extensively on the subject of marine debris including *Time Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *New York Times*, CNN Television, and National Public Broadcasting and guest speaker on marine debris at numerous venues including the Smithsonian Institution and the National Press Club.