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## LIVING SHORELINES

There are several ways to preserve and enhance the shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Each situation is different, but where a living shoreline is possible, it is preferred and often required for permit approval. The extensive design and permitting process can take a year or longer, but a well thought-out design created by experts is well worth it. The shoreline location, water depth, fetch and erosion rate are all considered in the design. After the sand, coir logs and/or rock are installed, the vegetation is planted.

The plants will help to hold the shoreline in place, filter runoff and provide food and shelter to native species. Native trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials well suited for a shoreline are divided into three groups. The ideal buffer for a living shoreline is thirty feet. It begins with native trees and shrubs plus the grasses and perennials in the first group (above MHW). Each group is based on the tidal level.

### Plants suggested for areas above the MHW (mean high water) level:

- Grasses> Distichlis spicata-saltgrass, Spartina patens-saltmeadow cordgrass, Panicum amarum- bitter switchgrass and Panicum virgatum-switchgrass
- Flowering> Hibiscus moscheutos-swamp rose mallow, Kosteleyka virginica-seashore mallow and Solidago sempervirons-goldenrod



*Hibiscus moscheutos - Swamp Rose Mallow*

### Plants suggested for areas at MHW:

Distichlis spicata, Spartina patens and alterniflora, Juncus gerardii and roemerianus (rushes)

### One plant is suggested for levels below MHW: Spartina alterniflora



A well designed and constructed living shoreline can last for generations and enhance the environment for all species - us included !

Right: Two different versions of a Living Shoreline - One with just grasses, and the second using stone to break the flow of the water.

