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# Backgrounder

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## *Toxics 2000 Strategy* working to restore *Regions of Concern*: Baltimore Harbor & the Anacostia and Elizabeth Rivers

In addition to developing plans to address toxic contamination in the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed, the *Toxics 2000 Strategy* focuses efforts on restoring the most highly impacted areas of the Bay. These *Regions of Concern* are Baltimore Harbor, the Anacostia River and the Elizabeth River.

By focusing efforts to reduce point and nonpoint sources of chemical contaminants, restore contaminated sediments, ensure that fish are safe to eat, and determine whether resident wildlife in these areas are at risk, the *Toxics 2000 Strategy* creates a framework that will lead cleanup efforts in these areas over the next decade and beyond.

Specifically the *Toxics 2000 Strategy* will:

### REDUCE CURRENT SOURCES OF CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS TO THE *REGIONS OF CONCERN*

- **30% nonpoint source reduction:** By 2010, reduce by at least 30% nonpoint sources of chemicals of concern in the Anacostia River, the Baltimore Harbor and the Elizabeth River. Nonpoint sources, particularly from urban stormwater runoff, can contribute a substantial load of chemical contaminants such as metals, pesticides, PCBs, and PAHs to the *Regions of Concern*. Reducing these loads is critical to restoring the *Regions of Concern*.
- **Reduce chemical contaminants at the source:** By 2005, reduce chemical contaminants in the *Regions of Concern* by working with the development community to develop construction materials, techniques and landscape designs that reduce pollution at the source; and by working with land owners to prevent chemical contaminants from being deposited on their lands as a result of lawn care and vehicle maintenance.
- **50% federal facility reduction:** Cut federal facility chemicals of concern loads to the *Regions of Concern* (and other impacted areas and areas at risk) by one-half between 2001 and 2006.
- **15% industry and treatment plant reduction:** By 2005, reduce by 15% chemicals of concern in the *Regions of Concern* (and other impacted areas and areas at risk) from industry and municipal treatment plants from 1998 levels.
- **Mixing zone phase out:** An initial emphasis will be placed on phasing out mixing zones for persistent or bioaccumulative chemical contaminants in the *Regions of Concern*.

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Visit the Chesapeake Bay Program website:  
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net>

The Chesapeake Bay Program is restoring the Bay watershed through a partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representing the federal government, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and participating citizen advisory groups.

### TAKE ACTIONS TO DEAL WITH CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT

The Strategy recognizes the need to not only take actions to reduce and prevent current contaminant inputs into the *Regions of Concern*, but also take actions to deal with contaminated sediment. The Strategy calls for actions that will build on and promote ongoing efforts to address sediment contaminated with chemicals such as metals, pesticides, PCBs and PAHs.

- **Sediment remediation technologies:** By 2001, initiate a series of technology exchanges in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to identify approaches, methods, and technologies for addressing contaminated sediment that are applicable to the three *Regions of Concern*.
- **Revise and implement plans for dealing with contaminated sediment:** By 2002, based on these technology exchanges, the *Regions of Concern* will review, revise and begin implementing plans to deal with contaminated sediment.

### TAKE ACTIONS TO DEAL WITH FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Strategy calls for the following actions that will build on efforts to protect public health:

- **Fish advisory strategies:** By 2002, develop and begin implementing strategies to prevent or reduce chemical contaminants responsible for fish consumption advisories.
- **Address contaminated sediment:** Develop actions to deal with contaminated sediment that is contributing to fish advisories.
- **District/State program improvements:** Evaluate and improve (where necessary) fish tissue monitoring and outreach programs to ensure they are sufficient for developing, updating and confirming consumption bans and advisories caused by chemical contaminants.

### DETERMINE WHETHER WILDLIFE THAT DEPEND ON THE *REGIONS OF CONCERN* ARE AT RISK

The Strategy calls for, by 2007, conducting the necessary assessments to determine whether aquatic-dependent wildlife (for example, birds that eat fish from the impacted areas) is experiencing toxic impacts, particularly in the three *Regions of Concern*.

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