Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

www.chesapeakebay.net

Backgrounder

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Next Steps for Bay Water Quality Restoration

Over the past three years, researchers, scientists and policymakers from six states, the District of Columbia and the federal government, have worked together to develop new science-based goals that will allow the Bay states and the District to implement plans to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution entering the Bay through local streams and rivers.

This list contains some of the key milestones that Bay Program partners project meeting as we continue our work to protect and restore the Chesapeake for future generations.

April 2003	Bay watershed jurisdictions – Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia – will begin the development of tributary strategies to achieve pollutant load reductions.
July 2003	Jurisdictions with tidal waters – Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia – will propose new or revised water quality standards.
April 2004	Jurisdictions will complete development and begin implementation of new Tributary Strategies.
2005	Jurisdictions with tidal waters will finalize adoption of new or revised water quality standards.
2005	Pollutant load allocations for each jurisdiction within the nine major basins will be finalized.
2005	State-defined Tributary Strategies will be finalized with minor revisions to reflect new water quality standards.
2010	The *Chesapeake 2000* agreement calls for Bay Program partners to have corrected the nutrient and sediment-related problems in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries sufficiently to remove the Bay and the tidal portions of its tributaries from the list of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act.
2011	Bay Program partners will begin development of TMDLs for any areas of the Bay that may still be listed for impairments due to nutrient and sediment related problems.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 1983-2003 20 Years Bringing Back the Bay

The Chesapeake Bay Program is restoring the Bay 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.

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