MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
SAV

GOAL: Vital Habitats

OUTCOME

Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV (underwater grasses) in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward this ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of 90,000 acres by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.

CURRENT EFFORTS

- Monitoring (currently achieving 32% of 185,000 acre goal.
    - In 2011, there were an estimated 63,074 acres of SAV in the Bay
    - In 2013, there were an estimated 59,927 acres of SAV in the Bay
- Small-scale planting in areas with high potential to benefit other living resources.
- Research to improve restoration techniques.

GAPS

- Funding and capacity for bay grass planting will need to be increased dramatically to meet the restoration goal.
- Significant investments in research must be made to improve the body of knowledge surrounding restoration techniques (watershed impacts on SAV, succession, species diversity, reconciliation ecology, genetic diversity, propagule choice, propagule transport modeling, size, density and pattern and exclosures)
- Information is needed on basic ecology of SAV, factors influencing growth and reproduction and the best methods of restoration and each species may have different habitat requirements.

MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

- Restore water clarity in the Bay by meeting pollutant allocations set by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
- Protect existing SAV by characterizing threats and developing protection measures, establishing protection area criteria, minimizing the effects of invasive species, and increasing understanding of potential effects of sea-level rise.
- Restore SAV where possible, targeting sites with suitable water quality and high potential to benefit living resources.
- Enhance research, citizen involvement, and education.

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

For the draft management strategy, visit: www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies