**CAST update to MB 3/6/12**

MAST, VAST, and CAST are continually being updated to provide the partnership with better usability and a closer estimation of scenario builder and watershed model loads, and also to incorporate interim BMPs as they are developed.

Current changes:

Recent upgrades include better organization of information on estimated loads, particularly when comparing across scenarios and better usability of the software with a menu organization closer to standard software conventions.

Future enhancements:

In the next few days, CAST, MAST, and VAST will get a system upgrade which will speed up processing times significantly.

Currently all BMPs are entered as a percent of the available acres. In approximately 2 months users will have the option to enter BMPs in either acres or percent.

Background: What is CAST/MAST/VAST?

CAST (Chesapeake Analysis and Scenario Tool) is a web-based interactive tool that allows users to get a quick estimate of load changes for a particular management scenario. It was built to follow the major calculations made through scenario builder and the phase 5 watershed model, but simplified to allow for greatly reduced calculation time. CAST is meant to be a quick estimate of scenario builder and the phase 5 watershed model, but will not exactly replicate results.

MAST and VAST are the versions of CAST specific to Maryland and Virginia.