



**Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
July 9, 2020**

**Program Update**

**CBPO Calendar**

July 14	Federal Facilities Workgroup meeting
July 15	Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup meeting
July 16	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
July 16	Agriculture Workgroup meeting
July 20	Climate Resiliency Workgroup meeting
July 20	Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
July 23	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting - Clean Water SRS Cohort practice presentations
July 27	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting
July 29	Budget and Finance Workgroup quarterly meeting
Aug. 5	Communications Workgroup meeting
Aug. 5	Forestry Workgroup meeting
Aug. 5	Land Use Workgroup meeting
Aug. 6	Watershed Technical Workgroup meeting
Aug. 12	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup meeting
Aug. 16	Principals' Staff Committee Conference Call
Aug. 13	Management Board Quarterly Progress Meeting – Clean Water SRS cohort
Aug. 18	Executive Council meeting

**Updates**

**Higher-than-average River Flow May Be to Blame for SAV Decrease**

In 2019, an estimated 66,387 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, achieving 36% of the Chesapeake Bay Program's ultimate restoration goal of 185,000 acres. This is a 38% decrease from 2018 when it was estimated that the Bay may have supported up to 108,078 acres of underwater grasses. Nevertheless, it is still a 70% increase from the 38,958 acres observed during the first survey in 1984. The CBP reported the findings in a July 8 press release and noted that the largest decline in terms of total area—33,124 acres—was observed in moderately salty waters, particularly in the Tangier Sound area, which experienced a 18,444-acre decline. Experts attribute the losses largely to a decline in widgeon grass.

For more information: visit [ChesapeakeProgress](https://www.chesapeakeprogress.org/).

**CBP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Statement Nears Completion**

On June 26, the CBP Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) reviewed, edited and recommended a *Statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice* to the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) for approval during its upcoming August 18, 2020 meeting. The final document is being shared with EC members for review

and consent by July 18, 2020 (one month prior to the EC meeting). A separate *DEIJ Strategy* and draft *PSC Endorsement Statement* was discussed by the PSC at its June meeting and will be considered for endorsement by the PSC during an upcoming conference call on July 16. During that meeting, several additional, time-sensitive items will be taken up by the PSC including the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan and planning for the August 18 EC meeting.

Contact: Carin Bisland, 410-267-5732

### **2020 Blue Crab Advisory Report Released**

The annual Blue Crab Advisory Report, released by the Chesapeake Bay Program and developed by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee, finds that the overall Chesapeake Bay blue crab population is not being overfished and is not depleted. The blue crab population in the Bay—which varies naturally from year to year—decreased from 594 million in 2019 to 405 million in 2020. The report includes expert analysis of data from the annual Bay-wide winter dredge survey (released earlier this year by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science) and harvest estimates from recent years to provide an in-depth picture of the Chesapeake’s blue crab population and to make suggestions for any needed changes to regulations.

For more information: [Blue Crab Advisory Report](#)

### **Thresholds Met Again to Protect Shortnose Sturgeon**

CBPO Director Dana Aunkst signed a letter on June 24 providing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with CBPO’s 2020 annual report – a submission that includes this year’s Bay Barometer and an analysis of water quality data confirming that certain “interim proxy thresholds” were met to protect shortnose sturgeon while the Bay is in recovery. EPA has met those thresholds in each two-year period from 2012 to 2018 (the latest data available). The report satisfies reporting obligations under the Incidental Take Statement (ITS), Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs) and Terms and Conditions (TCs) of the 2012 NMFS Biological Opinion of EPA’s *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and its Tidal Tributaries*.

Contact: Evelyn MacKnight, 215-814-5717

### **Smaller ‘Dead Zone’ Predicted This Year**

Researchers from the Chesapeake Bay Program, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, University of Michigan and U.S. Geological Survey recently forecasted a slightly smaller than average Chesapeake Bay “dead zone” this year, due to reduced rainfall and less nutrient-rich runoff flowing into the Bay from the watershed this spring. Compared to the past 34 years, this year’s Chesapeake Bay hypoxic volume, or “dead zone”, is expected to be nine percent lower than average, while the volume of water with no oxygen is predicted to be four percent lower than average. The predicted volumes are smaller than the dead zone in 2019, a year with exceptionally high freshwater flows and nutrient pollutants entering the Bay. **Tom Damm, 215-814-5560**

### **UMCES Announces Virtual Seminar Series on the Science of the Chesapeake**

On June 25, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science announced a series of five virtual seminars hosted by its Horn Point Laboratory faculty. “Bay 101 – Science of the Chesapeake for Non-Scientists” is designed to provide insight into Chesapeake Bay restoration, by highlighting Horn Point Laboratory programs working to improve the health of the Bay and its aquatic life. Each 30 minute program will cover a specific topic and participants will be encouraged to ask questions and join the discussion. The series will run from Wednesday, July 8 through August 5. The series is free, but registration is required.

To register: contact Carin Starr at [cstarr@umces.edu](mailto:cstarr@umces.edu).

## **Advisory Committee Updates**

### **Local Government Advisory Committee**

*The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.*

- Executive Council: LGAC members have provided guidance on the annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. The recommendations letter is being drafted for their final review and approval.
- Climate resilience: Several LGAC members are part of the planning committee for the September 24 Local Government Forum on building local community resilience against climate. This Forum will be jointly developed and implemented by LGAC and the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup.
- LGAC still seeks New York representative.

Questions about LGAC should be directed to LGAC Coordinator Jennifer Starr at [jstarr@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jstarr@allianceforthebay.org). To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact LGAC Staff at [lgac@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lgac@allianceforthebay.org).

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee**

*The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.*

- The CAC held their quarterly meeting virtually on May 21st. Members discussed impacts on Watershed restoration amid the COVID-19 health crisis and their annual recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council.
- Leadership: CAC officers are Matt Ehrhart (PA), Chair and Julie Lawson (DC), Vice-Chair.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray [abray@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:abray@allianceforthebay.org) for program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn [jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org)

### **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

*The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.*

- **Quarterly Meetings:**  
STAC hosted its first meeting of FY2020 on June 11<sup>th</sup> over web conferencing services. This meeting focused on reviewing draft products for the STAC effort "Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: An Evaluation of System Response". STAC received a report-out from the workshop *Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership*, updates on the SRS process, and prepared the STAC letter to the CBP Executive Council. STAC will hear from EPA ORD and Workgroup Chairs to increase STAC input on science needs within the region. Various talks were given on the impact of COVID on CBP goals, such as the agricultural industry and local government. Presentations from this meeting can be found on the [June Quarterly Meeting Webpage](#).

- **STAC 2020 Remaining Quarterly Meeting Dates**

All dates are subject to change in response to COVID-19 and time needed to complete the SGA effort.

- September 15-16, 2020
- December 14-15, 2020

- **Workshops:**

FY2019 STAC Workshops have all concluded. The workshop titled *Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program* has cancelled its final fourth session. The report will be based on the findings from the previous three sessions of the workshop, with intentions to provide updates after Summer 2020 initial collection of test satellite imagery.

- **FY2020 STAC Workshops: Approved Proposals**

STAC released an RFP for FY2020 workshops in December 2019 and received 3 proposals. During the March quarterly meeting STAC members reviewed the initial scores and comments and voted to approve the 3 proposals. Planning for FY2020 workshops will begin June 1, 2020.

1. *Understanding Genetics for Successful Conservation and Restoration of Resilient Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Populations*
2. *Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Exploring Barriers and Incentives to BMP Adoption*
3. *Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing BMP Implementation Through a Social Science Lens*

- **In May of 2020, STAC received an additional proposal that will be considered for approval at the June STAC Quarterly Meeting.**

4. *Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits to Green Riprap*

- **Upcoming Reports:**

STAC is working to finalize the following six reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to January 2018 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#).

1. Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
2. Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
3. Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)
4. An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
5. Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Change Modeling 2.0 (FY2018)
6. Linking In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management to Soil and Watershed Health (FY2019)
7. Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (FY2019)
8. Satellite Image Integration for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring Program (FY2019)

For any inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Coordinator, Annabelle Harvey ([harveya@cheapeake.org](mailto:harveya@cheapeake.org))

### **Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates**

- **Indicators**

No indicators were updated since the June Management Board meeting.

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Public Access – updated with 2019 data
- SAV – updated with 2019 data
- Blue Crab Abundance – updated with 2020 data
- Blue Crab Management – updated with 2019 data

Contact: Katheryn Barnhart, [Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov](mailto:Barnhart.Katheryn@epa.gov)

### **Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

*The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.*

- Dredge Survey: Results of the blue crab 2020 Winter Dredge Survey were released by state jurisdictions, and are being compiled in the annual Advisory Report, expected to be released by CBSAC in July. The population maintains a healthy number of spawning-age female crabs.
- Catfish: The Invasive Catfish Management Strategy includes the following recommendations for the workgroup and management jurisdictions to implement: 1) conduct outreach and marketing campaigns 2) remove processing barriers, 3) conduct scientific research, and 4) use tributary-specific management approaches.

Contact: Bruce Vogt; [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov)

### **Habitat Goal Implementation Team**

*The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.*

- Leadership positions: The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (HGIT) is seeking nominations from Management Board members for three volunteer leadership positions: HGIT Co-chair, Wetland Workgroup Co-chair, and Stream Health Workgroup Co-chair. The position descriptions were shared with MB members at the June meeting and nominations are being requested by the August meeting.
- Coordinator: Chris Guy (USFWS) will begin a temporary detail as the Habitat Goal Implementation Team Coordinator on July 6, 2020. Chris's end date had not yet been set and the Goal Team continues to seek a permanent coordinator.
- GIT Funding: The Habitat Goal Team submitted four Table 1 proposals to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the FY20 round of GIT-funding. Two of the projects were proposed by the Wetland workgroup, one by the Stream Health workgroup, and one by the SAV workgroup.
- The Brook Trout Workgroup hosted a webinar titled *eDNA Method Development and Applications for Assessing Aquatic Integrity* on June 24, 2020. Amy Bergdale of EPA Region 3 spoke and the webinar was attended by approximately 20 workgroup members and external partners.

- The Fish Passage Workgroup is planning for its annual meeting to be held virtually in mid-August.

Habitat GIT Contact: Julianna Greenberg and Megan Ossmann  
(greenberg.julianna@epa.gov; ossman.megan@epa.gov)

### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team**

*The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.*

#### **The WQGIT held a meeting on June 22, 2020. A subset of topics is listed below:**

- The WQGIT did not reach consensus on approval of CAST-2019 (votes below) and is elevating it to the Management Board.
  - VA: Endorse
  - MD: Endorse
  - DC: Endorse
  - DE: Hold
  - WV: Hold
  - NY: Endorse
  - PA: Stand aside
  - EPA: Endorse
  - CBC: Agreement with reservations
  - DoD: Endorse
  - Beth McGee, CBF: Endorse
  - John Bell, PA Farm Bureau: Hold
  - Jennifer Volk, UD : Stand aside
  - Lindsay Thompson, MDAG: Stand aside
- The WQGIT will be holding a meeting to discuss SRS updates for the 2025 WIP Outcome on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The WQGIT requested further analysis on the following for the climate allocation options:
  - Additional graphics showing combined N and P
  - An additional option for WWTP line at 8 and 4 mg/l
  - An analysis of WIP load trends vs climate loads
- The WQGIT will schedule a meeting to those interested in Pay-for- Performance.

#### **The WQGIT will hold a conference call to review SRS materials on July 13, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:**

- 2025 WIP Outcome
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome
- Toxic Contaminant Policy and Prevention Outcome
- Toxic Contaminant Research Outcome
- Forest Buffers Outcome

#### **The WQGIT will hold a conference call on July 27, 2020. A subset of topics to be discussed includes:**

- Climate Allocation Options
- CBP's Response to STAC CEC Report
- Pilot Study to Develop and Use FieldDoc for BMP Planning, Tracking, and Reporting
- STAC AEIOU Report
- STAC Increasing Effectiveness and Reducing Cost of Nonpoint Source BMP Implementation Report
- STAC Multi-Functional Buffers Report

Contact: Lucinda Power, [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov)

### **Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.*

- The HWGIT coordinator presented at a shared session (description [here](#)) at the [Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#), as well as attending and presenting at the annual USGS Chesapeake Science forum. Both conferences provided an opportunity to share recent work from the [Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment](#) (CHWA).
- The Coordinator and staffer are working on developing a Storymap on the use and interpretation of the CHWA with the GIS team and contractor support. They are also working with partner groups, assisting with data analysis and visualization of protected lands for the next update of UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card.

Contact: Renee Thompson; [rthomps@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rthomps@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team**

*The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.*

- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
  - The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership held a virtual Steering Committee meeting on June 26th, 2020. Steering Committee Members worked to update the 2020-2021 Logic & Action Plan.
  - The workgroup continues to add Chesapeake Conservation Success Stories to its new platform [success.chesapeakeconservation.org](http://success.chesapeakeconservation.org). Management Board Members can email Olivia Wisner ([wisnero@chesapeake.org](mailto:wisnero@chesapeake.org)) if they have a Conservation Success Story that they'd like to be developed
- Citizen Stewardship Team

- Workgroup Chairs Kacey Wetzel and Suzanne Etgen have been working closely with Amy Handen (EPA) to brainstorm ways to integrate social science into the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Stewardship workgroup has continued work on the web-based tool to house and promote the use of the stewardship index data set. This project (generously supported by GIT funding) will ensure the development of a hub for social science tools and information for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Education Workgroup
  - In response to its Quarterly Progress Meeting in May, the Education workgroup is updating its 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plans for the Student, Planning, and Sustainable Schools outcomes.
  - The Education Workgroup has begun work on its GIT funded project to develop the Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN). ROLN aims to 1) increase communication across partners and local implementation networks to support environmental literacy, including more and better designed MWEEs and 2) increase the number of teacher-supported systemic environmental literacy programs occurring in priority school districts.
  - The Education Workgroup has been working closely with the Chesapeake Bay Program Web Team to update elements of baybackpack.com, an Environmental Literacy teaching resource for formal and non-formal educators in the watershed.
- Public Access Planning Team
  - In response to the current health crisis, the Public Access team will not be hosting it's regular spring workgroup meeting.

### ***Diversity Workgroup***

- The Diversity workgroup is continuing to pursue a path forward for formal endorsement of the CBP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Strategy. The Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) has reviewed the strategy and accompanying DEIJ Endorsement Statement. The PSC is completing a final review on the proposed CBP DEIJ Statement, with plans for it to be taken to the Executive Council for formal adoption at their meeting in August. The workgroup will hold their next meeting in early September.

Diversity workgroup contact: Tuana Phillips; [phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:phillips.tuana@epa.gov)

Contact: Olivia Wisner; [olivia\\_wisner@nps.gov](mailto:olivia_wisner@nps.gov)

### **Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team**

*The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.*

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System**

ChesapeakeDecisions was launched in July 2019 in support of the Strategy Review System (SRS). [ChesapeakeDecisions](#) is a tool that promotes transparency and guides the Chesapeake Bay

Program's [Goal Implementation Teams \(GITs\) and Management Board members](#) through the Strategy Review System; a structured process that applies adaptive management to our work toward the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. All SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

The Clean Water Cohort is currently going through the SRS process. Their Quarterly Progress Meeting will take place on August 13, 2020. The Climate Change and Resiliency cohort will be the next cohort to undergo the process—starting in September 2020.

Contact: Doreen Vetter, [vetter.doreen@epa.gov](mailto:vetter.doreen@epa.gov)

### **Quarterly GIT 6 Meeting – Summer 2020**

The GIT 6 Summer Quarterly Meeting took place on June 17, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics included: A discussion on the draft Organizational Analysis Data Collection and Communication Plan, Strategy Review System (SRS) process and facilitation updates, Governance Document Log of Revision updates, and workgroup updates. Contact: Dave Goshorn, [david.goshorn@maryland.gov](mailto:david.goshorn@maryland.gov)

### **FY 2020 GIT Funding**

GIT 6 kicked-off the FY20 GIT Funding cycle with the Chesapeake Bay Trust in late April and released the Call for Ideas (Request for Ideas) on April 23. GIT 6 and the Trust held a Project Idea Sharing and Q&A session on May 20 and Technical Lead Training on June 2. The Trust also hosted a Table 1 training in early June in response to feedback. Table 1 Ideas were due to the Trust's online portal on June 22. GIT 6 is currently working on solidifying a date for the annual GIT Funding Project Scoring event in early August. Contact: Greg Allen, [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov) or Chantal Madray, [madray.chantal@epa.gov](mailto:madray.chantal@epa.gov)

### **Budget and Finance Workgroup**

The Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting will take place on July 29, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include budget impacts as a result of COVID-19, Finance Forum consulting hours progress/updates, and Conowingo Finance Report updates. Contact: Jim Edward (Co-Chair), [edward.james@epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epa.gov); Dr. Elliott Campbell (Co-Chair), [elliott.campbell@maryland.gov](mailto:elliott.campbell@maryland.gov)

### **Local Leadership Workgroup**

The Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Summer Quarterly Meeting will take place on August 25, 2020 as a conference call. Agenda topics will include GIT Funding project updates, 2020 conference updates, successes, and workplan updates. The workgroup is working toward developing cross-outcome watershed educational materials for elected officials through a FY19 GIT-funded project and is excited to start sharing these, and other vetted resources, via workshops, panels and roundtable discussions in collaboration with trusted sources. Contact: Laura Cattell Noll (Coordinator), [lnoll@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:lnoll@allianceforthebay.org); Matt Pennington (Chair), [MPennington@region9wv.com](mailto:MPennington@region9wv.com)

GIT 6 Contact: Chantal Madray, [madray.chantal@epa.gov](mailto:madray.chantal@epa.gov)

### **Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team**

*The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.*

### **Climate Resiliency Workgroup**

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup coordinator and staffers participated in the kickoff meeting for the FY19 GIT-Funded project, “Building a Bay-Wide Scorecard to Track Climate Resilience for Watershed Communities” with the RAND Corporation (grant awardee) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (subcontractor), on May 1, 2020. This project focuses on developing a scorecard that will allow watershed communities (inland and coastal) to track progress toward implementing climate adaptation efforts, the success of those efforts, as well as bring awareness of management actions to implement in the future. Representatives from the CBP Local Engagement Team, Local Government Advisory Committee, and STAR are participating on the advisory team to assist the Climate Resiliency Workgroup connect the project outcomes at the local level and structure the scorecard for decision-making. Additionally, the Climate Resiliency Workgroup met on [April 20, 2020](#) where the CBP Modeling Workgroup updated the workgroup on the proposed allocation method options to address climate change risk in the Chesapeake Watershed and tidal waters and presented Phase 6 climate modeling results. The Climate Resiliency Workgroup met on [May 18, 2020](#) where invited speakers shared data sources that could support the development of potential climate indicators related to stream condition and bay water temperatures. The workgroup will also discussed climate resilience-related GIT-Funded ideas for FY20. The workgroup met most recently on [June 15, 2020](#).

### **STAR**

During the June STAR Meeting, STAR had a discussion on the updated science needs of the Next Generation Stewards Cohort, planned actions moving forward, and potential opportunities to address needs. STAR members talked about interesting topics during the Chesapeake Community Research Symposium that STAR could be addressing or discussing in the future. STAR gathered feedback and specific interests on EnviroAtlas and discussed potential ideas of incorporating EnviroAtlas data into Project. STAR had a discussion hearing from each GIT, workgroup or CBP staff team on their current activities, interests or priorities related to the nearshore environment (including shoreline). STAR will follow up with each GITs to confirm the information gathered during the STAR meeting. Next STAR meeting will focus on SRS dry run on July 23rd.

### **Modeling Workgroup**

The Modeling WG continues to develop potential approaches to allocate climate change risk nutrient loads as directed by the WQGIT. Next Modeling WG Quarterly Review will be held on July 7-8.

STAR Contact: Cuiyin Wu; [cwu@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:cwu@chesapeakebay.net)

### **Communications Workgroup**

*The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.*

### Communications Workgroup:

The Communications Workgroup held its monthly meeting on July 1. We coordinated shared messaging around responsible recreation and National Oyster Day (August 5). We discussed the Chesapeake Bay Program's new DEIJ strategy and the DEIJ statement planned for signature at the Executive Council meeting in August. We also invited representatives from the Choose Clean Water Coalition to present on their DEIJ Action Guide and their Racism and Justice Toolkit.

### Communications Office and Web Team:

This year's Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, which focused on the rivers of the Chesapeake watershed, took place June 6-14. Partners involved in the planning included the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office and Pennsylvania Sea Grant. More than 115 organizations and elected officials participated in this year's event on social media.

On June 17, the Communications Office released the Bay-wide summer hypoxia forecast for the first time, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).

On July 1, the Communications Office released the latest information from this year's blue crab winter dredge survey and the 2020 Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee report.

The Communications Office published the following blogs in June:

- [Clearing up confusion around the snowberry clearwing](#): This strange-looking insect has been perplexing people for years
- [Despite social distance, our rivers connect us](#): Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week June 6-14
- [An Eastern Shore wetland is a hotspot for birds](#): Deal Island Wildlife Management Area delivers for nature lovers
- [The beginner's guide to taking a hike](#): Live your best trail life with these top tips
- [History, heritage and culture flows from our rivers](#): The spirit of the Chesapeake watershed is captured in these eight rivers
- [We are stronger together](#): A diversity of people is critical for a restored Bay
- [Cultivating inclusion in an urban park](#): How a park in Baltimore embraces diverse communities
- [A cocktail of contaminants in Chesapeake waters](#): A new report reviews emerging and existing contaminants of concern for waterways and fisheries
- [Catfish of the Chesapeake](#): The Bay region is home to several catfish species, both native and invasive
- [Smaller-than-normal dead zone predicted for the Chesapeake in 2020](#): Below-average spring rainfall brings less nitrogen pollution into the Bay
- [Are there dolphins in the Chesapeake Bay?](#): Scientists and the public join forces to track dolphins visiting the Bay
- [Progress continues for oyster reef restoration](#): Maryland, Virginia release updates on efforts to restore oyster habitat and populations

- [Oyster farmer and educator plays a key role in sustaining a local island's economy](#): Building economic resilience and environmental stewardship through education and aquaculture
- [LGBTQ+ hiking groups blaze Chesapeake trails](#): How outdoor social groups make for a safer, more welcoming experience

Communications Contact: Rebecca Chillrud; [rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rchillrud@chesapeakebay.net)

**Recent Meetings and Events**

June 11	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee quarterly meeting
June 15	Climate Resiliency Workgroup conference call
June 16	Wetland Workgroup meeting (seeking co-chair)
June 17	Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT quarterly meeting
June 19	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting
June 22	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team meeting
June 25	Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) meeting
July 1	Communications Workgroup meeting
July 1	Land Use Workgroup meeting
July 7-8	Modeling Workgroup quarterly review
July 8	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup meeting
July 9	Management Board meeting