



# Chesapeake Bay Program

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## Chesapeake Executive Council Directive No. 93-1

### Joint Tributary Strategy Statement

Among the most serious problems facing the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is an excess of the nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, caused by human activities on the land. To alleviate this problem the historic 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement set a goal to achieve "by the year 2000 at least a 40 percent reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay? THIS REDUCTION IN NUTRIENTS WILL RESULT IN a significant improvement in dissolved oxygen in the waters of the main stem of the Bay. Improved oxygen levels will, in turn, significantly improve conditions for living resources such as crabs, oysters, striped bass, and Bay grasses.

- In 1992, the Chesapeake Executive Council committed their jurisdictions to developing tributary-specific nutrient reduction strategies by August 1993. During the past year, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia have engaged in an unprecedented effort to develop these strategies.
- In the 1992 Amendments, the Executive Council also pledged that the Tributary Strategies would include a permanent cap on nutrient inputs. Thus, despite increased growth in the Chesapeake region, nutrients entering the Bay must remain at a level 40 percent less than they were in 1985, even in the face of increased population and development. This implies that our nutrient reduction techniques must be dynamic and our long-term strategies robust. Equally important, the strategies will require the cooperative effort of every level of government in the watershed, as well as the understanding and participation of all its citizens.
- Because each tributary is different in its geography, hydrography, and ecology, each of the Chesapeake's tributaries requires different solutions; and flexibility is needed as nutrient load reductions are allocated to individual tributaries. In Maryland, Pennsylvania, and northern Virginia, a 40 percent reduction in loadings will not only improve water quality in the tributaries themselves, but will improve conditions for living resources in the main stem of the Bay. In Virginia's southern rivers, however, nutrient reductions which may have little influence on the main stem will still improve local conditions. For this reason, the Chesapeake Bay Program and Virginia will conduct long-term monitoring and computer modeling of these tributaries to determine the level of reduction necessary to improve living resource conditions. Between now and 1997, when this special study is completed, Virginia will implement an interim 40 percent reduction strategy.
- The goals committed to by the Chesapeake Executive Council in the 1987 Agreement and 1992

Amendments can only be met if government, business and citizens work together. A real and lasting partnership must be built if we are to achieve our goal of a clean and bountiful Chesapeake Bay. Today, each jurisdiction will outline specific actions it will take to improve water quality and protect living resources. In addition to these individual actions, we recognize the importance of coordinating our efforts.

**THEREFORE TO FURTHER OUR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT, WE WILL:**

- Continue our public participation efforts in each jurisdiction and actively pursue the involvement of local governments, citizens, business, and industry in the final development and implementation of tributary strategies.
- Continue and enhance current nutrient reduction programs in order to meet the 40 percent goal, which is a reduction of 74.0 million pounds of nitrogen and 8.4 phosphorus baywide.
- Complete a draft of the tributary strategies, along with implementation schedules, by December 31, 1993, which can be evaluated to insure that when implemented the 40 percent Baywide goal and the restoration of water quality for living resources will be met.
- Report annually on the progress of the tributary efforts including an analysis of the extent to which plans are being implemented.
- Reexamine each strategy no later than 1997 to insure that the adopted practices will achieve the year 2000 reduction goals and maintain them; and if not, to take additional actions to ensure that our goals are achieved.
- Continue cooperative efforts in the basins we share.

By this DIRECTIVE, we reaffirm our commitments made in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay. In recognition of our commitments, we the undersigned agree to further our efforts through this directive which is hereby incorporated into the overall Chesapeake Bay Program. DATE: December 27, 1993

**SIGNERS:**

For the Commonwealth of Virginia--*Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Governor*

For the State of Maryland--*William Donald Shafer, Governor*

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania--*Robert P. Casey, Governor*

For the District of Columbia--*Sharon Pratt Kelly, Mayor*

For the United States of America--*Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission--*Jeffrey W. Coy, Chairman*

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