



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
A Watershed Partnership

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*ADOPTION STATEMENT*

**2004 Oyster Management Plan**

*W*e, the undersigned, adopt the 2004 Chesapeake Bay Oyster Management Plan as a continuing effort to fulfill the native oyster restoration commitment in the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement. The 2004 Oyster Management Plan provides both a general framework and specific guidance for rebuilding and managing the native oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, in the Chesapeake Bay.

The 2004 Oyster Management Plan proposes to guide, focus and coordinate the multiple partners in rebuilding the native oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay. Cooperation among multiple agencies and organizations is essential for implementing the plan and effectively utilizing limited resources. We agree to work together to implement management actions recommended in the plan to address: 1) disease, 2) oyster sanctuaries, 3) harvest, 4) hatchery and aquaculture considerations, and 5) monitoring and data management. We recognize the need for long-term, stable financial support and human resources for the task of managing the native oyster resource.

Upon completion of a baywide Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed introduction of a non-native oyster species, the Bay partners will determine whether any changes are needed to the 2004 Oyster Management Plan.

January 10, 2005

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



*Mark R. Warner*

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND



*Pat J. Ealey*

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



*Edward G. Rendell*

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



*[Signature]*

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



*Anthony G. Williams*

FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION



*J. Jewell Stoltz*