

Health and Restoration in Maryland (2017-2018)

Almost all of Maryland sits within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and four of the state's major rivers—including the Choptank, Patuxent, Potomac and Susquehanna—flow into the Bay. Maryland has committed to achieving 29 of the outcomes in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Its progress toward 10 of these outcomes is highlighted here.

Underwater Grasses

According to preliminary data from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, an estimated 104,843 acres of underwater grasses were observed in the Chesapeake Bay in 2017: 14,843 acres greater than the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2017 restoration target and 57 percent of the partnership's 185,000-acre goal. About 62,360 acres of underwater grasses were observed in Maryland's tidal waters, and nine regions within the state—including the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, Fishing Bay, the Northeast River and portions of the Big Annemessex, Chester, Choptank, Elk, Gunpowder and Manokin—surpassed their restoration goals.

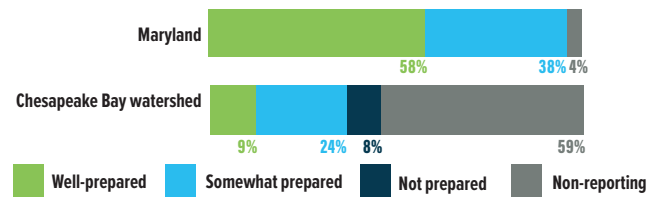
Oysters

In Maryland, 716 acres of oyster reefs are considered complete. In the Tred Avon River, 66 acres remain to be restored and in the Little Choptank, 156 acres remain to be restored. Two additional Maryland tributaries are being considered for selection: the Manokin and St. Mary's rivers.

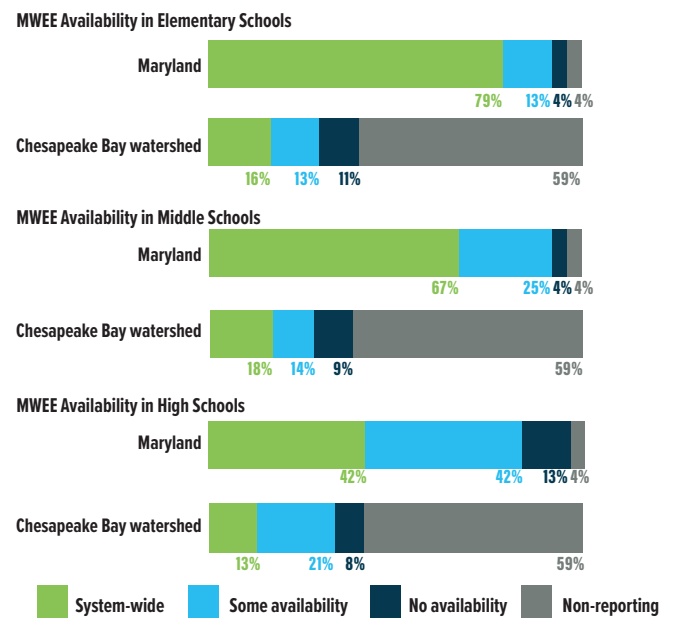
Oyster Reef Restoration Progress Dashboard (2017)				
Tributary	Tributary Restoration Plan	Reef Construction & Seeding	Monitoring & Evaluation	Completed/Target Acreage
Harris Creek (Md.)	Complete	Complete	In Progress	351/351
Tred Avon (Md.)	Complete	In Progress		81/147
Little Choptank (Md.)	Complete	In Progress		284/440

Maryland's Environmental Literacy Compared to the Watershed

Environmental Literacy Planning: School districts' self-identified preparedness to put environmental literacy programs in place



Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEs): School districts that reported providing MWEs to their students



36

Number of new places to boat, fish or enjoy the water in Maryland since 2010



Estimated Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Pollution Reduced

The Chesapeake Bay Program uses its Watershed Model to estimate reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution that is flowing into the Bay. By the end of 2017, Maryland had achieved 47 percent of its 2025 target for nitrogen and 100 of its target for phosphorus and sediment. Collectively, Bay Program partners have achieved 36 percent of their nitrogen target, 87 percent of their phosphorus target and 67 percent of their sediment target.

Forest Buffers

Between 2010 and 2017, 173 miles of forest buffers were planted along rivers and streams in Maryland: during this time more than 2,050 miles of forest buffers were planted across all watershed jurisdictions.

Protected Lands

According to preliminary data collected in 2018, more than 1.3 million acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been permanently protected from development since 2010. Of this total, more than 520,000 acres are in Maryland. This brings the total amount of protected land in the watershed portion of the state to 1.8 million acres: 19 percent of all the protected land in the watershed.

Citizen Stewardship Outcome

In 2017, residents of the Chesapeake Bay region scored a 24 out of 100 on the Citizen Stewardship Index: the first comprehensive survey of stewardship actions and attitudes in the watershed. Residents of Maryland also scored a 24. To score a 100 on the Citizen Stewardship Index, everyone in the region would need to do everything they could in their daily lives to improve water quality and environmental health.

Maryland's Stewardship Compared to the Watershed

