



Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an eight percent increase in occupied habitat by 2025.

Why is this outcome important?

Brook trout are an essential part of the headwater stream ecosystem, an important part of the upper watershed's natural heritage and a valuable recreational resource. Land trusts in West Virginia, New York and Virginia have found that the possibility of restoring brook trout to local streams can act as a motivator for private landowners to take conservation actions, whether it is installing a fence that will exclude livestock from a waterway or putting their land under a conservation easement. A century of declining brook trout populations has led to lost economic revenue and recreational fishing opportunities in the Bay's headwaters. Unless action is taken to reverse these trends, fishery managers agree that within 20 years, brook trout could exist as a relic fishery with little economic value and within 30 to 40 years, the species could be at risk of becoming regionally threatened.

Current Conditions:

In 2011, it was estimated that there were 4,719 catchments occupied by brook trout populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with 868 occupied patches.

What was the basis or baseline?

In 2011, there were an estimated 2.69 million acres of available brook trout habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Based on this estimate, an 8 percent increase would require an additional 215,200 acres of habitat to be occupied by brook trout by 2025.

**For More:**

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/fieldguide/critter/brook_trout

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/tagged_brook_trout_reveal_the_pristine_health_of_marylands_savage_river

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/from_the_field_linking_land_and_water_in_brook_trout_conservation