

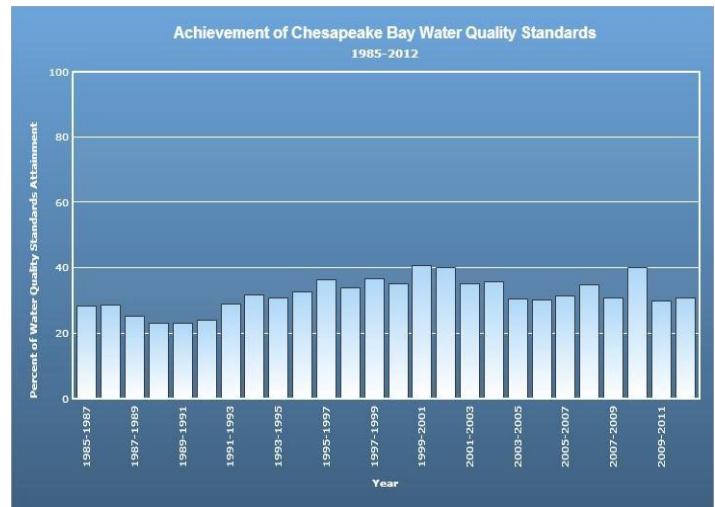
Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

Why is this outcome important?

Adding a new “attainment” outcome will provide information on water-quality conditions needed to assess the portion of the goal to “achieve water quality necessary to support aquatic living resources”. This outcome focuses on monitoring information to assess progress towards achieving standards in Bay and tidal water restoration.

Current Conditions:

- Through 2012, 31 percent of the Bay and its tidal rivers met overall conditions for healthy waters
- 70 percent of the sites through 2012 are showing long-term improvements in nitrogen and phosphorus
- From 2003-2012, nitrogen conditions improved at about one half of sites, while phosphorus concentrations show little or no change at more than one half of sites
- Improvement for sediment concentrations is less than that for nutrients, with 28 percent of sites showing long-term improvement (since 1985) and 10 percent of sites from 2003-2012



See how water quality is doing at chesapeakebay.net

How was the outcome derived? Who came up with it?

In 2012, the Bay Program endorsed having a more integrated approach to assess progress toward the Bay nutrient and sediment [TMDL](#) and attaining water-quality standards. Bay Program partners have monitoring networks and efforts in place to conduct annual reporting of standards attainment and nutrient and sediment trends in the watershed.

What was the basis or baseline?

There are 92 segments in the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters and each segment can have up to 5 designated uses. The methodology takes into consideration all designated uses for all segments to meet water quality standards in the tidal Chesapeake Bay. As of the 2012 baseline, 90 of 291 designated use segments meet water quality standards.

For More:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/achievement_of_chesapeake_bay_water_quality_standards

<http://cbrim.er.usgs.gov/>