



Backgrounder

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109 · Annapolis, MD 21403

1 (800) YOUR BAY · www.chesapeakebay.net

About the new *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) has accomplished a great deal since the signing of our first collaborative agreement in 1983, but we still have much left to do. Like the others before it, the new voluntary *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* will create the foundation for the partners' collective restoration, conservation, protection and stewardship efforts across the Chesapeake Bay region. From the moment it is signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council, it will be the Chesapeake Bay Program partners' guide for our work now and into the next generation.

In 2011, the CBP partners recognized the need to create a new, up-to-date agreement – one that would reflect improvements in our scientific knowledge, changes in the regulatory landscape and evolutions that have taken place within the partnership and the restoration effort overall. In particular, with the need to revisit outdated commitments of *Chesapeake 2000* (CBP's last voluntary agreement) and the issuance of both the federal Chesapeake Executive Order (which now drives federal agency efforts) and the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the Bay Program's partners realized a new agreement to better align the goals of federal, jurisdictional and non-governmental partners would be critical to our work together. Further, this *Watershed Agreement* recognizes the effort that must take place watershed-wide, challenging partners to improve the conditions and health of the many diverse habitats and water bodies within the entire 64,000 square mile region.

The CBP partners envision that the new *Watershed Agreement*, developed collaboratively over the last eighteen months and including two public comment periods, will:

- Lay out clear goals and measureable outcomes for sustainable fisheries, vital habitats, water quality, toxic contaminants, healthy watersheds, stewardship, land conservation, public access, environmental literacy, and resiliency of the Bay ecosystem;
- Give focus to our collective effort by bringing together federal, jurisdictional and non-governmental goals;
- Present a shared, high-level vision for our work;
- Create a set of principles from which the Chesapeake Bay Program will operate;
- Lay out timing, considerations and guidelines for creation and public review of specific management strategies under each goal that will enable us to meet the associated outcomes;
- Allow for flexibility to adapt and adjust our efforts with ever-evolving conditions and circumstances;
- Outline how the partnership will be accountable for its progress as we move ahead; and finally,
- Engage the headwater states of Delaware, New York and West Virginia as full members in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

VISION

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage, and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

<p>Sustainable Fisheries Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Blue Crab Abundance Outcome</i> • <i>Blue Crab Management Outcome</i> • <i>Oyster Outcome</i> • <i>Forage Fish Outcome</i> • <i>Fish Habitat Outcome</i> 	<p>Vital Habitats Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wetlands Outcome</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Black Duck</i> • <i>Stream Health Outcome</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Brook Trout</i> • <i>Fish Passage Outcome</i> • <i>Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Outcome</i> • <i>Forest Buffer Outcome</i> • <i>Tree Canopy Outcome</i>
<p>Water Quality Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome</i> • <i>2025 WIP Outcome</i> • <i>Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome</i> 	<p>Toxic Contaminants Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome</i> • <i>Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome</i>
<p>Healthy Watersheds Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Healthy Watersheds Outcome</i> 	<p>Stewardship Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Citizen Stewardship Outcome</i> • <i>Local Leadership Outcome</i> • <i>Diversity Outcome</i>
<p>Land Conservation Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protected Lands Outcome</i> • <i>Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome</i> • <i>Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome</i> 	<p>Public Access Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Access Site Development Outcome</i>
<p>Environmental Literacy Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Student Outcome</i> • <i>Sustainable Schools Outcome</i> • <i>Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome</i> 	<p>Climate Resiliency Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monitoring and Assessment Outcome</i> • <i>Adaptation Outcome</i>