



# Backgrounder

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## Understanding the Outcomes in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

The *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* is arranged in layers. At the top-most visionary layer, the partners established an expansive, collective Vision for an “environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay Watershed”. They then worked together, following the Principles, to agree upon on the ten major Goals for achieving that Vision. The foundation for reaching these Goals lies in the individual Outcomes for the wide variety of watershed-related factors, issues, fish and shellfish, habitats, waterways, landscapes and people in the 64,000-square-mile region.

The 29 Outcomes in the Agreement were derived in a variety of ways, depending on their overarching Goal and what partners and the CBP’s Goal Implementation Teams will be working to achieve. For example, creating an outcome that aims for a specific number of crabs in the Bay required different considerations than one intended for protecting and conserving lands. Extensive discussion among many of the more than 500 scientists, policy and program experts, and, in many cases, citizen-led groups and non-governmental organizations within the partnership led to the creation of an initial set of outcomes included in early drafts of the Agreement, released for public review. During the two public comment periods, citizens and groups from around the watershed submitted thousands of comments, all of which had a direct impact on the content of the entire Agreement. This public input resulted in additional Agreement Goals and Outcomes related to environmental stewardship, toxic contaminants and climate change.

To learn more about each of the Outcomes in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, CBP has developed public-friendly summaries, now available at [www.chesapeakebay.net/watershedagreement](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/watershedagreement).

The summaries include responses to the questions:

- Why the specific Outcome is important?
- How was the Outcome derived?
- Who came up with it?
- What was the basis or baseline for the Outcome?

We have also included some information for current conditions, where applicable, as well as links to additional information or resources.

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# 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.

## LIST OF GOALS AND OUTCOMES

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