

THE BAY BEYOND 2025

Update on Comments and Next Steps



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

TIMELINE FOR REPORT REVIEW AND DELIVERY

June 27	PSC makes any necessary edits to report & drafts EC Action
Jul 1 - Aug 30	Public Feedback Window
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September	SC reviews feedback and revises report
Sept 17	Update to PSC, guidance from PSC
Sept 20	Proposed changes will be emailed to Steering Committee
Sept 24	“Showstopper” edits due back to Drafting Team
Sept 26	SC consensus on final report
Oct 2	Optional virtual briefing for on final report
Early October	PSC makes any necessary edits to report & drafts EC Action
Oct 10	MB Meeting – decision point for submitting B25 Report to PSC
Oct 25	PSC approves EC Action & submission of report to EC
Dec 10	EC Meeting, EC approval of Action



COMMENT STATISTICS

81 total commenters (500 orgs/representative individuals)

538 unique comments

1,814 individual emails from Chesapeake Bay Foundation supporters in response to an action alert

82 individual emails from Waterkeepers Chesapeake supporters in response to an action alert

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING? COMMON THEMES...

- **Enhanced accountability and evidence-based** restoration practices.
- **Conservation as a focal area** and integration into pillars of restoration and science.
- **Address local and regional priorities** of climate resilience, environmental justice, and other “emerging” issues.
- **Importance of collaboration** and balancing needs across all partners.
- **Inclusive public engagement** to foster greater transparency and trust.
- **Technical assistance and financial support** to sustain and grow local implementation activities.

EC RECOMMENDATION #1

Areas of Support

- **Continued commitment** to the 2014 Agreement
- **Inclusive and holistic** approach
- Support for **addressing climate change** and other emerging issues
- Strengthening the processes for evidence building (**social science, monitoring needs, and measuring progress**)
- Acknowledging the Beyond 2025 effort and **challenge at hand**.

Areas of Concern

- **Timing** – strong calls for refreshed Agreement by end of 2025.
- **Vagueness** in recommendations, lack of **prioritization**.
- Lack of focus on **accountability mechanisms**.

EC RECOMMENDATION #2

Areas of Support

- **Simplification** of Structure and Processes
- Revising and Strengthening **Accountability**
- **Equity and Inclusivity**
- Robust **monitoring and data integration** to inform decision-making
- Focus on **living resources** and **healthy communities**

Areas of Concern

- Call for **more detailed specifics** of “simplification” and concern of **unintended consequences** of simplification.
- Acknowledge **tension** between addressing climate change, emerging issues and, **efforts to streamline**.