



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

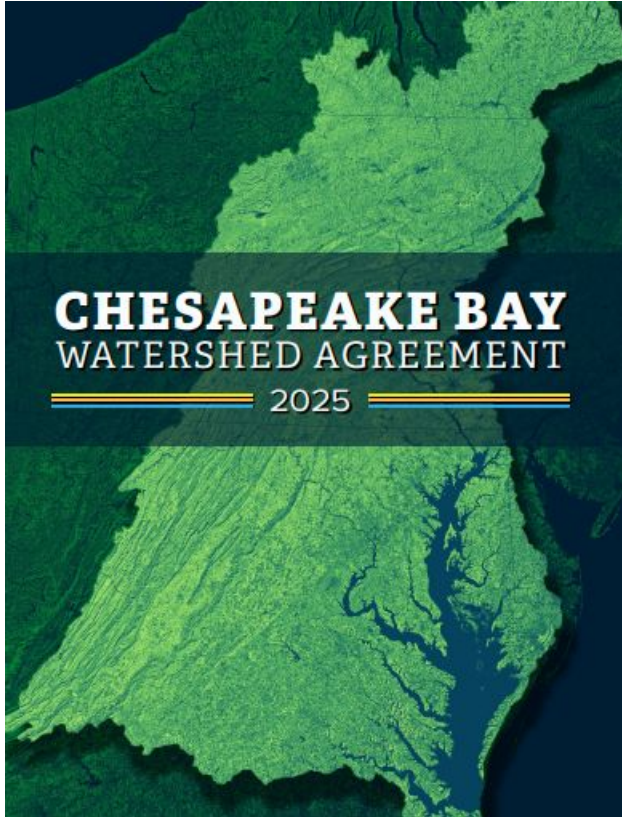
May 21, 2026

Fish Habitat & Forage Team Meeting

Agenda

- 1 2025 Watershed Agreement Structure & Membership Update**
- 2 Workgroup Chair Call for Nominations**
- 3 Management Strategy Development & Timeline**
- 4 Open Q&A**

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Transition to 2025 Watershed Agreement

10 Goals



4 Goals

The Four Interconnected Goals of Watershed Restoration



31 Outcomes



21 Outcomes

Fish Habitat

Achieve and maintain suitable shallow water fish habitat in tidal and nontidal areas for key species through focused water quality conservation and restoration improvements informed by assessments of habitat and fisheries information.

- Improve the quantity and quality of tidal shallow water fish habitat above baseline conditions as determined by a Bay-wide assessment of fish habitat conditions completed in 2026.
- Increase the consideration of forage species in fishery management decision-making for key predators by developing annual reports of prey status as good, uncertain or poor.
- Improve the quality of nontidal fish habitat by continuing to assess the overall condition and suitability in the watershed to support healthy communities and inform effective restoration, conservation and management actions.
- By 2040, improve 270 stream miles of waters impaired by acid mine drainage to continually increase available habitat supporting fish populations.
- Develop comprehensive freshwater mussel conservation plans for 10 tributaries and implement key recommendations from at least five of these plans by 2040.



Blue crabs support commercial and recreational fisheries and are managed across state lines.



The oyster aquaculture industry supports local economies and contributes to clean water.



Questions?



Changes to the Bay Program Structure and Sustainable Fisheries GIT

- SF GIT combines with Habitat GIT
- No more Management Board
- Different Goal Team leadership
- Redefined membership structure for all Goal Teams

Thriving Habitat, Fisheries, & Wildlife Coordination Team

Co-Chairs:



Kevin Schabow (NOAA)



Becky Gwynn (VADWR)

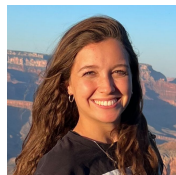
Coordinators:



Chris Guy (UFWS)

Bruce Vogt (NOAA)

Staffers:



Christina Garvey (CRC)



Nick Staten(CRC)

Goal Team “Voting” Members



Goal Team Members		
<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Maryland		
New York		
Pennsylvania		
Virginia		
West Virginia		
Chesapeake Bay Commission		
Federal Government		
At-Large		
At-Large		
At-Large		
At-Large		
At-Large		
At-Large		



“Non-voting”/ Advisory Membership

- Workgroup chairs
- Advisory Council members
- Other state/fed agency reps

All Goal Team meetings (2-4/year) are open to the public.
Interested parties are always welcome to attend



Questions?



Workgroups

- Workgroups align with Outcomes
- Responsible for targets under the outcome
- Led by a chair or co-chairs (may also have vice-chairs)
- Do not have the same structure as the Goal Team





Questions?



Workgroup Chair Nominations

Criteria of Workgroup Chairs

- Represent agencies and organizations with significant authority or expertise in that workgroup topic area
 - Nominees do not need to be federal or state employees
- Serve two-year terms which can be renewed at the recommendation of the workgroup with concurrence from the GT.
- Non-management level candidates are eligible for chair, but to the extent possible should be management level or leaders within their organization.

Role and Responsibilities of Workgroup Chairs

- Meeting facilitation
 - Facilitate workgroup meetings
 - Work with staffer to develop agendas
 - Ensure follow up of action items
- Work plan coordination
 - Help develop the MS subchapter and work plan for the workgroup
 - Serve as liaison between workgroup and the THFW Goal Team
 - Help support the implementation of the work plan and tracking progress

Workgroup Chair Nominations

- Nominations from the workgroup members/interested parties or self nomination
 - Reply to email with nomination
 - Nomination period: May 21 - June 4
- Chairs will be approved by the Goal Team

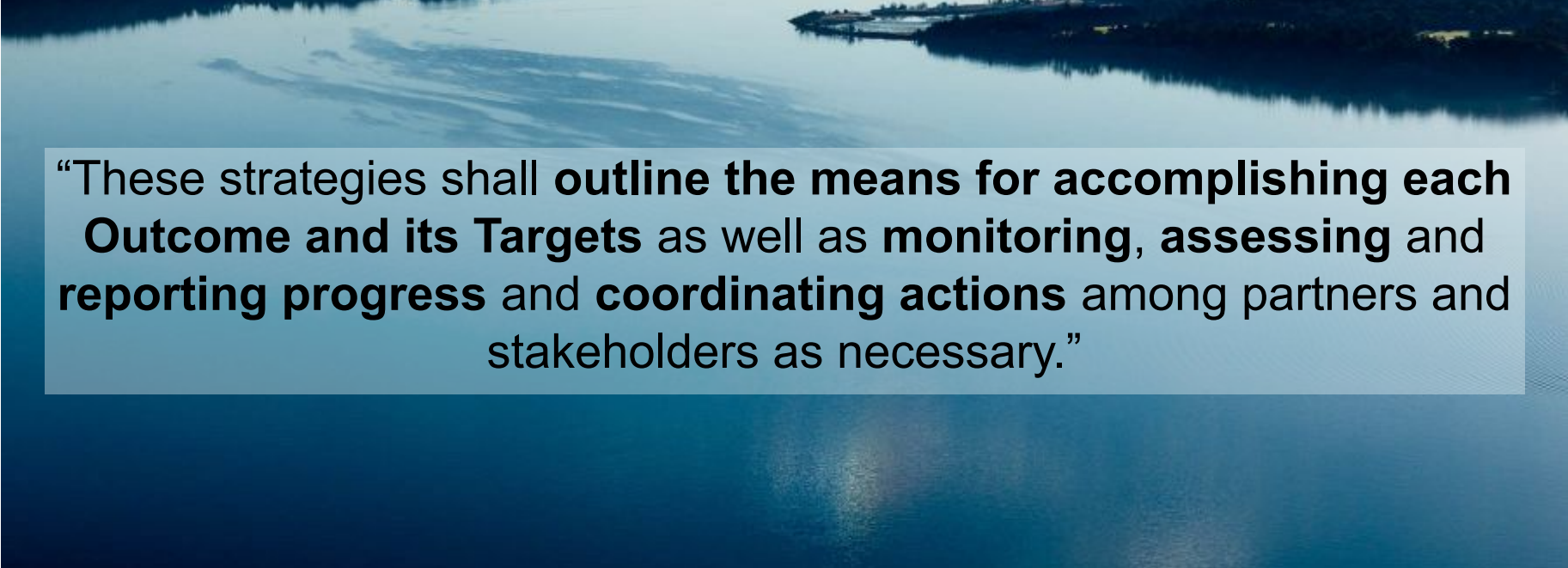


Questions?



Management Strategy Development & Timeline

Management Strategies



“These strategies shall outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets as well as monitoring, assessing and reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders as necessary.”

Management Strategy Outline

Overarching Strategic Plan

- Management Strategy Chapter for each Goal

Management Strategy Chapter Outline:

- Goal Language and Importance
- Goal Situation Analysis
 - Shared challenges for partnership to address, including those related to Changing Environmental Conditions



Management Strategies

- Sub-Chapter for each Outcome
 - Outcome language (including targets)
 - Baseline and Current Condition
 - Monitoring Progress and Indicators
 - Outcome Situation Analysis
 - Snapshot of Signatory Programs
 - Management Approaches
 - Participating Partners

- Appendix A. Signatory Statutory Authorities Driving Outcome Attainment

***A separate Workplan will be produced, including:

- A narrative summary, including a statement about the activities' impact on Outcome and Target attainment
- Descriptions of major actions to be undertaken
- The name of activity lead and a list of partners who will participate in the activity
- Human and financial resources needed and committed, as well as potential sources to fill gaps
- A timeline for completion
- Performance targets and deliverables

Management Strategy Outlook

MS Develop. (up to 18 months)		Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Agreement Revision	
		Program Evaluation & Strategy Updates													
2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	

Next Steps:

- May - July 2026 : Identify workgroup chairs & membership
 - May - August 2026: Draft management strategies (flag items for work plans)
 - August 21, 2026: Deadline for complete MS and MS subchapters
 - September 2026 - June 2027: Develop outcome work plans
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Open Q&A





Thank you!



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