



Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Marisa Baldine

5.9.23

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary.

Plans for 2023

- Theme: Chesapeake Journeys
 - Each day, we will share stories about the journeys people and wildlife take within the Chesapeake region.
- Emphasis on local watersheds within the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Chesapeake Journeys

- Saturday, June 3rd: Kicking off Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week
- Sunday, June 4th: From the headwaters to the Bay
- Monday, June 5th: Wildlife migrations
- Tuesday, June 6th: Restoring our watershed
- Wednesday, June 7th: Preserving special places
- Thursday, June 8th: Journey by land
- Friday, June 9th: Journey by water
- Saturday, June 10: Resilience of the watershed
- Sunday, June 11: Begin your stewardship journey

What do we provide?

- The Chesapeake Bay Program will publish a press release and blog post
- Sample proclamation templates
- Social media toolkit
- Flickr gallery for relevant images
- Events calendar
- Support!
 - Let us know if you have questions

Website, social media toolkit, events

Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is an annual event that celebrates the culture, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary.



Join us from June 3 to 11, 2023 for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week! Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. During the week, there are a wide variety of online and in-person events, volunteer opportunities and social media conversations for everyone to take part in to celebrate the Chesapeake Bay.

History and Purpose

In 2016, the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) worked with their legislative partners to formally designate nine days each June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. This timing was chosen to correspond with two long-running Bay events—Clean the Bay Day in Virginia and the Patuxent River Wade-In in Maryland. Each year, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia pass official proclamations in honor of Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Several local county and city governments have followed suit over the years, marking their own observance of the Bay. Organizations and business are encouraged to hold events, activities and volunteer opportunities during this time to celebrate the uniqueness of the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Program is honored to help coordinate and play a role in this annual event.

During Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, organizations host recreational, educational and volunteer events across the entire watershed. If you'd like to add an event to the calendar below, please fill out this [event submission form](#).

Participating Organizations

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is coordinated each year by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Members of the 2023 planning committee include:

[Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#)

[Chesapeake Conservancy](#)

[Chesapeake Research Consortium](#)

[Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#)

[Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Contact

If you have any questions regarding Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, please contact us at bayweek@allianceforthebay.org.

Events

Saturday, June 3, 2023

[View all >](#)

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Free Fishing Days in Virginia

Make plans to take advantage of Free Fishing Days! Invite a family member or friend to get out and wet a line without having to purchase a fishing license.

[View event details >](#)

VIRGINIA

Free Fishing Days in Maryland

Participate in Maryland's Free Fishing Days to fish without a license.

[View event details >](#)

VIRGINIA

Clean the Bay Day

Join people from around Virginia to clean up trash in along the Chesapeake Bay.

[View event details >](#)

VIRGINIA

Bay Discovery Fishing Trip

Spend the morning aboard the Marguerite in search of whatever is biting! Our experienced crew will provide all the knowledge and equipment necessary—just bring your enthusiasm!

[View event details >](#)

ANNAPOLIS, MD

Introduction to Kayak Fishing

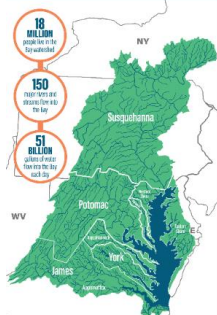
Learn from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission about basic paddling skills and kayak fishing equipment.

[View event details >](#)

HOLTWOOD, PA

Maps

HOW AM I CONNECTED TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?



Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

HOW AM I CONNECTED TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?

- The Chesapeake Bay watershed includes 206 counties covering parts of six states and D.C. Each local community plays a part in the health of local rivers and the Bay.
- Hundreds of thousands of creeks, streams and rivers thread through the Chesapeake Bay region. These tributaries send fresh water to the Bay, offer vital habitat and provide people with opportunities to fish, boat and swim.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE POTOMAC REGION

- The Potomac River flows for 383 miles, from Fairfax Stone in West Virginia to the Chesapeake Bay at Point Lookout, Maryland.
- The Potomac's major tributaries include the Anacostia, Antietam, C&O Canal, Conococheague, Monocacy, North Branch, South Branch, Occoquan, Savage, Seneca and Shenandoah.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE RAPPAHANNOCK REGION

- At 195 miles, the Rappahannock is Virginia's longest free-flowing river.
- The Rappahannock River's major tributaries are the Rapidan River and the Hazel River.
- As the Rappahannock River meanders through Virginia, the landscapes of the watershed shift from mountains to farms to developed cities.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE YORK REGION

- The York watershed begins in the Blue Ridge Mountains with two main tributaries, the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. It flows into the Bay near Gloucester Point, Virginia.
- The Lower York River is one of the ten tributaries in the Chesapeake watershed selected for oyster restoration. Oysters support a key commercial fishery and filter up to 50 gallons of water each day.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE SUSQUEHANNA REGION

- The Susquehanna River flows from Cooperstown, N.Y., through Pennsylvania to Havre de Grace, Md. and the Bay—a 444 mile journey.
- The Susquehanna River is the Chesapeake Bay's largest tributary, providing 50 percent of the fresh water that flows into the Bay.
- The Susquehanna River sends about 19 million gallons of water per minute into the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE PATUXENT REGION

- The Patuxent is the largest river that lies entirely in Maryland.
- The Patuxent River is home to more than 100 species of fish.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE EASTERN SHORE REGION

- The Eastern Shore region is home to the Chester, Elk, Sassafraz, Choptank, Miles, Wye, Nanticoke, Marshyhope and Pocomoke rivers.
- The Nanticoke River starts in Delaware and runs for 64 miles before reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE WESTERN SHORE REGION

- The Chesapeake Bay's western shore region includes the Patuxent River, Back River, Severn River, South River, Magalloway River and the Baltimore Harbor, as well as major cities like Baltimore and Annapolis.
- The Patuxent River runs for 39 miles through Baltimore and into the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE JAMES REGION

- The James River's major tributaries include the Appomattox, Chickahominy, Cowpasture, Elizabeth, Hardware, Jackson, Meary, Rivanna and Tye rivers.
- In 2019, more than 300 breeding pairs of eagles were found along the James River. This was once the recovery goal for the entire watershed!

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

Maps

The Susquehanna Region

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Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

The Potomac Region

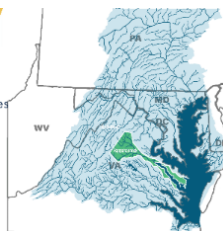
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Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

The York Region

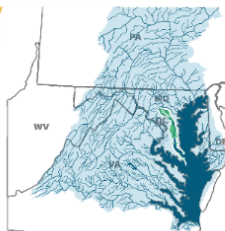
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Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

The Patuxent Region

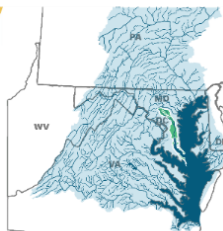
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Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

The Eastern Shore Region

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Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

The Western Shore Region

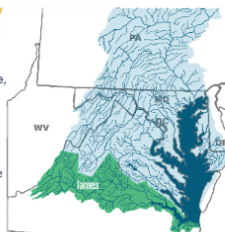
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- The Patapsco River runs for 39 miles through Baltimore and into the Chesapeake Bay.



Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

The James Region

- The James River's major tributaries include the Appomattox, Chickahominy, Cowpasture, Elizabeth, Hardware, Jackson, Maury, Rivanna and Tye Rivers.
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Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

State proclamations

- Virginia and Maryland legislation established Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week as the second week in June in 2016 and in each succeeding year.
 - Virginia: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HJ31+pdf>
 - Maryland: <https://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2020/general-provisions/title-7/subtitle-6/section-7-601/>
- In 2022, the PA House of Representatives issued a citation recognizing the week of June 5 -11 as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week in Pennsylvania.

Proclamation template update

- “WHEREAS, the more than 76,000 farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed contribute more than \$6.8 billion in value added contributions to the economy in the region and provide food to millions of Americans”
- “WHEREAS, an important source of food for the STATE and the east coast of the United States, the Chesapeake Bay produces more than 400 million pounds of seafood harvest each year”
- Access the 2023 proclamation template:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1octlBBhIXq5jSesDP7_MUS7OfBfa2H5zs-zXvIU0MHY/edit?usp=sharing

Next steps

- The social media toolkit will be published on chesapeakebay.net by May 15.
- The blog post and press release will be published on chesapeakebay.net at the beginning of June.
- We're asking partners to plan activities and share the event information with us.

Learn more:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/chesapeake_bay_awareness_week



Chesapeake Bay **AWARENESS WEEK**

JUNE 3 - 11, 2023