

## Consolidated Justification and Context Information

Documentation provided March 19, 2025

Outcome	First Round Disposition Rec.	Final GIT Disposition Rec.
Sustainable Schools	Reclassify	Reclassify
Environmental Literacy Planning	Update	Update
Student	Update	Update
Stewardship	Update	Update
Diversity	Replace	Replace
Public Access Site Development	Update	Update
Protected Lands	Update	Update
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Update	Update
Black Duck	Reclassify	Reclassify
Wetlands	Update	Update
Oysters	Update	Update
Blue Crab Abundance	Update	Update
Blue Crab Management	Remove	Remove
Forage Fish	Remove	Reclassify
Brook Trout	Update	Update
Stream Health	Update	Update
Fish Passage	Update	Update
Fish Habitat	Update	Update
Tree Canopy	Update	Update
Forest Buffers	Update	Update
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring	Update	Update
2017 Watershed Implementation Plans	Remove	Remove
2025 Watershed Implementation Plans	Update	Update
Local Leadership	Update	Update
Toxic Contaminants Research	Update	Consolidate
Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention	Update	Consolidate
Land Use Methods and Metrics Development	Reclassify	Reclassify
Land Use Options Evaluation	Update	Replace

Healthy Watersheds	Update	Reclassify
Monitoring and Assessment	Replace	Replace
Adaptation	Update	Update

## Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

Blue Crab Management = Remove

Blue Crab Abundance = Update

Forage Fish = Reclassify

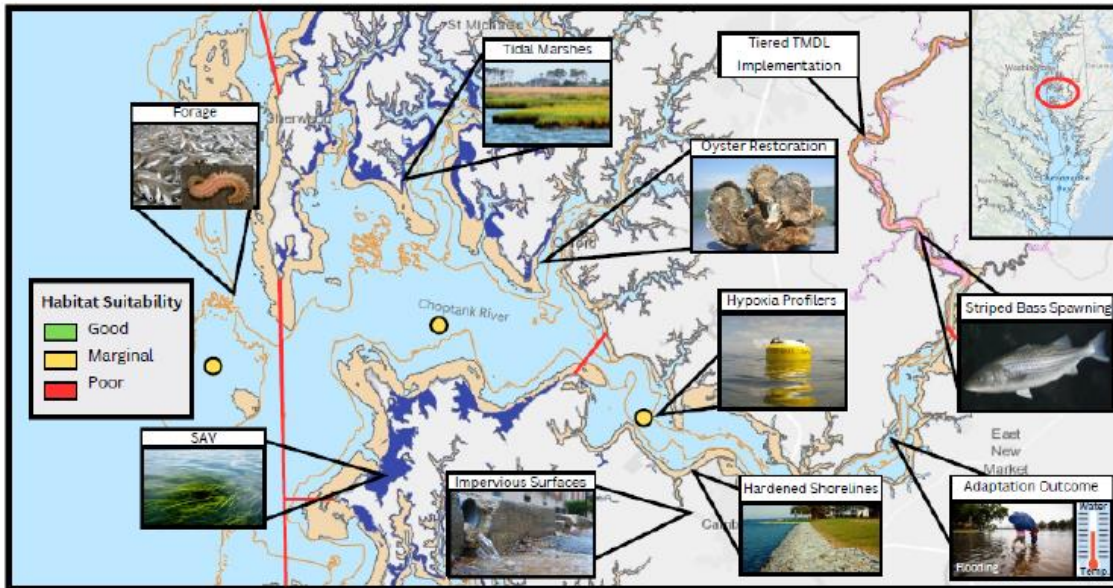
The Sustainable Fisheries GIT will be changing the outcome disposition for the Forage Fish Outcome from “remove” to “reclassify”, based on the pulse-check feedback from the Management Board. The Fisheries GIT still plans to include Forage as an output under the updated Fish Habitat Outcome.

Fish Habitat = Update (Tidally focused to address a specific need supporting tiered implementation of TMDL and cross GIT restoration coordination. Working with Habitat GIT on options for non tidal fish habitat) [see map on pg. 2].

Oyster Restoration = Update

\*Oyster Fishery Abundance = New *(justification and new outcome language slide is being provided to MB)\**

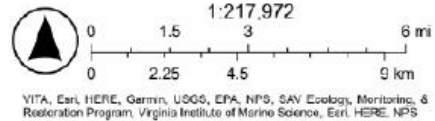
## Tidal Fish Habitat Interconnectivity



3/14/2025

### Legend

- Tidal segment boundary line
- 5m shallow water contour
- 2m shallow water contour
- SAV (2019-2023)
- Striped bass spawning habitat
- Hypoxia Buoy Profilers



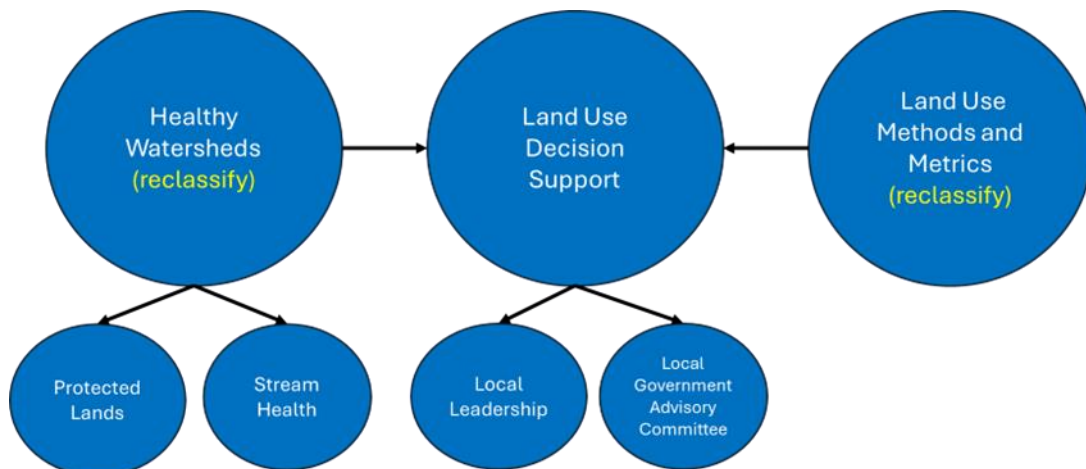
YITA, Eri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS, SAV Ecology, Monitoring, & Restoration Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Eri, HERE, NPS



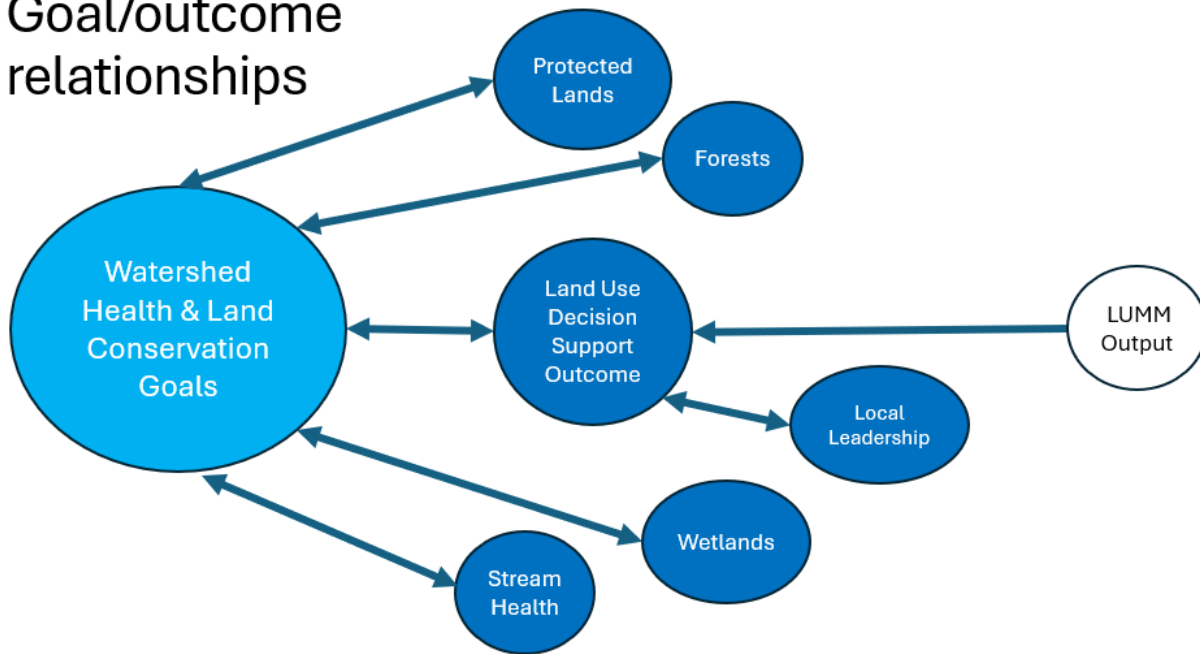
## Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

At the February 27<sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting, members expressed unanimous support for the development of land use information. In addition, USEPA and several states expressed concerns about proposed updates to the Healthy Watersheds and Land Use Options Evaluation outcomes. To address these concerns, the Healthy Watershed Goal Implementation Team proposes to:

- Replace the Land Use Options Evaluation (aka “Watershed Planning”) outcome with a **Land Use Decision Support Outcome**: Develop and disseminate locally relevant and actionable information to organizations involved in the land use planning process on past, present, and future landscape conditions and the potential environmental consequences of landscape change.
- Reclassify the Healthy Watersheds (aka “Watershed Health”) outcome as a series of outputs under the Stream Health and Protected Lands outcomes.
- Reword all references to "Healthy Watersheds" in the revised Agreement as "Watershed Health" and request the MB recommend to the PSC that the Watershed Health goal be reworded as: Protect and sustain waters and watersheds to achieve and maintain high ecological value.
- Reconstitute the Land Use Workgroup as a community of practice for land use planning in the watershed and charge them with implementing the Land Use Decision Support Outcome.
- Disseminate actionable land use information through existing state networks, the Local Leadership Workgroup, and the Local Government Advisory Committee.
- Updated 2 papers can be found here:
  - [Revised Healthy Watersheds Outcome Assessment](#)
  - [Revised Land Use Methods and Metrics Outcome Assessment](#)
  - [Revised Land Use Options and Evaluation Outcome Assessment](#)



## Goal/outcome relationships



## Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

2017 Watershed Implementation Plan = Remove (with caveats)

**Recommendation** was to remove the 2017 WIP outcome and include any interim check ins into an updated "2025 WIP Outcome".

In follow up conversations the WQGIT received the following feedback:

- In general, there is agreement to remove the 2017 outcome **IF** there are explicit deadlines with clear and plain language within the updated "2025 WIP Outcome" to ensure transparency with how and when progress will be achieved and communicated. An updated "2025 WIP Outcome" will include incremental check points or interim targets that accelerate progress with explicit deadlines included.
- In addition, the CBP partnership will aim to improve communication mechanisms related to water quality progress to ensure information is transparent and easy to locate.

## 2025 Watershed Implementation Plan = Update (with new caveats)

**Recommendation** was to update the 2025 WIP outcome with specific details including, but not limited to, how progress will be measured and communicated included as outputs. The WQGIT did not recommend including a deadline at this time because updated tools are in development, but would commit to specific outputs with a schedule to develop a deadline upon finalization of new tools (e.g. Phase 7) and updated water quality planning targets for nutrients and sediment. Outputs would also include incremental progress check points with explicit deadlines.

In follow up conversations the WQGIT received the following feedback

- As part of the 2017 discussions, several Management Board members expressed that they would **only support removal of 2017 with an updated 2025 WIP outcome with clear and plain language that had an explicit and transparent deadline as part of the updated outcome.**
  - In the current agreement, outputs are not included in the agreement and this approach lacks transparency and public accountability.
- In addition, updated outcome language should be clear and concise, and recognize the CBP partnership governance allows for adaptive management to update outcomes based on new or updated science and information. Any incremental progress outputs must have explicit deadlines included, as noted above in the 2017 discussions.
- In addition, the CBP partnership should/will aim to improve communication mechanisms related to water quality progress to ensure information is transparent and easy to locate.
- Management Board members reserve the right to update their stance/disposition on the consensus continuum based upon the language proposed for public comment for an updated “2025 WIP Outcome”.

## Toxic Contaminants Research = Consolidate

## Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention = Consolidate

**Original Recommendation** was to update both outcomes with potential ideas presented in the two-pager documents.

Based on feedback from the March 13 Management Board and March 19 Office hours discussions, the TC workgroup leadership’s new disposition recommendation is “**consolidate**”.

**Updated Disposition Recommendation:** Consolidate both current toxics outcomes into one Toxics outcome with an emphasis on networking and sharing research and information, collaborating on toxic related topics that may lead to current and future decisions related to toxic contaminants as requested by the CBP partnership. Updated language will aim to maintain focus on the toxic pollutants the TCW has prioritized such as PCBs, mercury, PFAS, and microplastics, but allow flexibility to adapt and focus on emerging contaminants, as necessary. Also, the PPAT will move under the TCW and remain as an action team or workgroup under the TCW.

## Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting

### Monitoring and Assessment = Replace

#### **Original Recommendation:** Replace

Replace allows the outcome to move away from reporting climate trends that other organizations are already doing and focus on integrating science on changing environmental conditions into all of the outcomes.

**Feedback from Management Board Meeting and Office Hours:** The pulse check showed a lot of support towards reclassify, and this was also shared during the office hours by participants. Overall, there was support in the direction of the change which is the need to science on changing environmental conditions into all of the outcomes. The conversations did not resolve the uncertainty in what is it being reclassified to and the structure to support it.

#### **Final Disposition:** Replace

Since the Management Board Meeting, there was not time to go back to the workgroup, so we are continuing with replace. We are open to reclassifying it with the recognition that it would NOT be reclassifying to an output, but as a different high priority component within the Chesapeake Bay Program. The overall direction is for integrating science on changing environmental conditions into all of the outcomes. There will need to be further discussion about this approach concerning the agreement, structure, and resources of the partnership.