

# Being Accountable/Communicating Assessment Information to the Public in 2013

## Update to the Management Board October 2013

### Purpose of This Briefing:

- Provide indicator updates including information about the new water quality standards indicator
- Request Management Board approval of revisions to shad indicator
- Request MB approval to remove 9 indicators from “Track the Progress” section of the ChesapeakeBay.net

### Background:

- **CBP Indicators** – approved by Management Board (MB) and available from the “[Track the Progress](#)” section of the ChesapeakeBay.net website (where all CBP-approved indicators are featured). Each indicator webpage includes chart(s) and/or map(s); links to data used and the analysis & methods documentation; and text summarizing the information and data portrayed.

### Update on Indicators:

#### *What **has been updated** on the website during the past year?*

- [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Population](#)
- [River Flow](#)
- [Bay Grass Abundance - Baywide](#)
- [Bay Grass Abundance by Zone](#)
- [Bay Grass Density](#)
- [Bottom Habitat \(Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity\)](#)
- [Blue Crab Abundance \(Age 1 and older\)](#)
- [Am. Shad Returning to Chesapeake Bay](#)
- [Dissolved Oxygen Standards Attainment](#)
- [Health of Freshwater Streams in Watershed](#)
- [Reducing Nitrogen Pollution](#)
- [Reducing Phosphorus Pollution](#)
- [Reducing Sediment Pollution](#)
- [Wastewater](#)
- [Bay Grasses Planted](#)
- [Wetlands Restoration Efforts](#)
- [Re-Opening Fish Passage](#)
- [Blue Crab Fishery Management](#)
- [Planting Forest Buffers](#)
- [Public Access Sites](#)

#### *What **will be updated** on the website; when?*

- [Nitrogen Loads and River Flow To the Chesapeake Bay](#); October 2013
- [Phosphorus Loads and River Flow To the Chesapeake Bay](#); October 2013
- [Sediment Loads and River Flow To the Chesapeake Bay](#); October 2013
- [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forest Cover](#); 2015
- [Tidal Wetlands Abundance](#); possibly by end of 2013
- [Chemical Contaminants](#); October 2013
- [Nitrogen in Rivers Entering the Bay: Long-Term Flow Adjusted Concentration Trends](#); Fall 2013
- [Nitrogen Short-Term FAC Trends in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#); Fall 2013
- [Nitrogen Yields in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#); Fall 2013
- [Phosphorus in Rivers Entering the Bay: Long-Term Flow Adjusted Concentration Trends](#); Fall 2013
- [Phosphorus Short-Term FAC Trends in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#); Fall 2013
- [Phosphorus Yields in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#); Fall 2013
- [Sediment in Rivers Entering the Bay: Long-Term Flow Adjusted Concentration Trends](#); Fall 2013
- [Sediment Short-Term FAC Trends in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#); Fall 2013
- [Sediment Yields in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#); Fall 2013
- [Protected Land](#); 2014

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### What is new on the website during the past year?

- [Achievement of Bay Water Quality Standards](#)
- This indicator measures progress towards the achievement of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/underwater bay grasses and chlorophyll *a* for each 3-year assessment period beginning in 1985.
  - The indicator is fully consistent with how DE, DC, MD, and VA currently list their portion of the Bay's tidal waters, and provides a means for illustrating improvements through time.
  - Additionally, this indicator is being used to measure progress toward the [Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Strategy's](#) water quality outcome
- The "related indicators" are the [dissolved oxygen](#), [underwater bay grass abundance](#), [water clarity](#) and [chlorophyll \*a\*](#) indicators.
  - Dissolved oxygen: tracks attainment of water quality standards so it remains "as is" for now.
    - It will be revised by the end of 2013 to feature the attainment status by designated use segment (as opposed to volume).
    - CBPO plans to continue to update the current indicator (volume in attainment) and it will be linked to from this revised page.
  - Underwater bay grass abundance: will remain "as is" since the indicator data are used to help determine attainment of water quality standards in the "Shallow Water/Underwater Bay Grasses" designated use.
  - Water clarity: current indicator reports mid-channel water clarity data but does not track attainment of bay water quality standards
    - It will be revised by the end of 2013 to report attainment of water quality standards in the "Shallow Water/Underwater Bay Grasses" designated use (based on underwater bay grass data and shallow water clarity data).
    - CBPO is no longer updating this indicator, however, UMCES is planning to continue updating this indicator as part of the "Bay Report Card".
    - When this indicator page is revised it will include a link to direct people to the mid-channel water clarity data available at the "Bay Report Card" site.
  - Chlorophyll *a*: the current indicator reports chlorophyll *a* data in all tidal waters but not in relation to bay water quality standards.
    - It will be revised by the end of 2013 to report attainment of chlorophyll *a* water quality standards in the few bay segments where these standards are applicable.
    - CBPO is no longer updating this indicator, however, UMCES is planning to continue updating this indicator as part of the "Bay Report Card".
    - When this indicator page is revised it will include a link to direct people to the chlorophyll *a* data available at the "Bay Report Card" site.

### What has been revised and is awaiting your approval?

- [Am. Shad Returning to Chesapeake Bay](#)
- The [current indicator](#) has been tracking shad abundance/targets in 4 rivers since 2007 (James, York, Potomac, Susquehanna). Prior to that, from 2002-2007, the CBP indicator tracked abundance in the Susquehanna based on Conowingo Dam fish lift counts/targets; in CBP's 1995 State of the Bay Report the shad indicator was based on the MD DNR upper bay assessment; in CBP's 1989 SOB the shad indicator was based on harvest.
- In August 2012 the Sustainable Fisheries GIT and STAR convened the American Shad Indicator Action Team to revise the abundance indicator.
- The [revised indicator](#) incorporates the following changes:
  - Adds Rappahannock River data
  - Adds Lower James River data
  - Revises York River data
  - Revises weight of each river to calculate baywide shad abundance index
  - Static map on indicator webpage features status/trend charts for each river that is a component of the abundance index (James, York, Rappahannock, Potomac, Susquehanna)
  - New dynamic map incorporates/features additional data
    - Abundance data from additional rivers (e.g. Maryland rivers that are currently not included in the abundance index)
    - Stocking efforts and habitat data (e.g. fish passage)

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- **Requested Decision:** The STAR Team and the Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation from [American Shad Indicator Action Team](#) (refer to [9/19/13 STAR](#) and [9/23/13 Fisheries GIT Ex. Com.](#) meeting pages) and are **requesting MB approval to revise the current shad indicator in the “Track the Progress” section of the CBP website.**

*What else has been revised on the website during the past year?*

- [Bay Grasses Planted](#); target revised in 2012 per MB agreement

*What else will be revised on the website; when?*

- [Health of Freshwater Streams in Watershed](#); perhaps in 2014 (may be replaced)

*What will be replaced; when?*

- [Education and Interpretation](#) (AKA “MWEE”); 2014 (unable to update since 2010)
- [Native Oyster Abundance \(Biomass\)](#); 2014 (unable to update since 2008)
- [Restoring Oyster Reefs](#); 2014 (unable to update since 2010)
- **Requested Decision:** The STAR Team agreed with the recommendation from the [Indicators Workgroup](#) (refer to [9/19/13 STAR](#) meeting page) and is **requesting MB approval to remove the current oyster indicators from “Track the Progress” section of the CBP website until new ones can be developed.**
  - Understanding that information about oysters will continue to be available in other locations of the ChesapeakeBay.net website (e.g. “Discover the Chesapeake” and “Learn the Issues” sections) since they are of interest to website users.
  - Communications Workgroup will continue to work with STAR to ensure those pages refer to the best science available on these topics.

*What will be developed?*

- New indicators to track new outcomes in new Agreement (e.g. brook trout, oyster, black duck and environmental literacy)

*What is recommended for deletion from “Track the Progress”?*

- [Phytoplankton \(Index of Biotic Integrity\)](#); unable to update due to lack of MD data
- [Striped Bass Abundance \(Spawning Female Biomass\)](#); species managed outside CBP by ASMFC; no Chesapeake Bay-specific management targets
- [Juvenile Menhaden Abundance in Maryland](#); species managed outside CBP by ASMFC; no Chesapeake Bay-specific management targets
- [Wetlands Enhancement and Rehabilitation](#); unable to update due to lack of cooperation from jurisdictions
- [Developing Watershed Management Plans](#); tracking discontinued; not essential to support adaptive management of GITs' strategies
- [Bay Gateways Designated](#); tracking discontinued after goal achieved
- [Water Trails in the Bay Watershed](#); tracking discontinued after goal achieved
- **Requested Decision:** The STAR Team agreed with the recommendation from the [Indicators Workgroup](#) (refer to [9/19/13 STAR](#) meeting page) and is **requesting MB approval to remove these indicators from “Track the Progress” section of the CBP website.**
  - Understanding that information about these topics (e.g. striped bass and menhaden) will continue to be will be communicated in other parts of ChesapeakeBay.net website (e.g. “Discover the Chesapeake” and “Learn the Issues” sections) per user audience interest.
  - CWG will continue to work with STAR to ensure those pages refer to the best science available on these topics.

*For additional details, please refer to [“Review of 2011-12 CBP Indicators”](#)*