



# Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

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*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*



## Goal: *Vital Habitats Goal*

### Outcome:

Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward this ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of 90,000 acres by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.



## What We Want



Funding for the SAV monitoring program has become less stable. SAV monitoring directly relates to achieving our outcome and tracking progress.

We ask the Management Board to provide:

- Statement of support for continuing the current SAV monitoring program
- Assistance in identifying additional funding partners
- Long-term financial stability for the SAV monitoring program

# 1

## Setting the Stage:

*What are our assumptions?*



## Logic Behind Our Outcome

## Following the Decision Framework:

### Factors Influencing Success

- Habitat Conditions
  - Water Quality
- Restoration Science
- Human Impacts
  - Public Communication

### Current Efforts and Gaps

- Funding and capacity for SAV restoration and monitoring
- Investments in research

### Management Approaches

- Restore water clarity in the Bay
- Protect existing SAV in the Bay
- Restore SAV in the Bay
- Enhance Research, Citizen Involvement, and Education in the Bay watershed

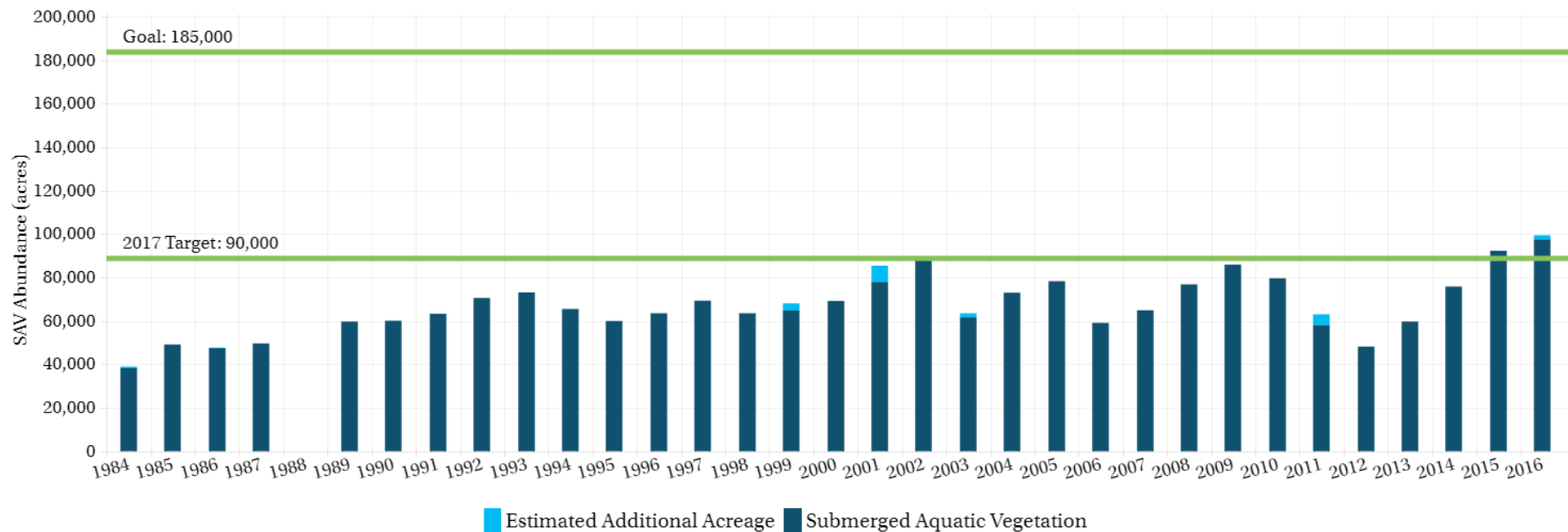
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## **Progress:**

*Are we doing what we said we would do?*



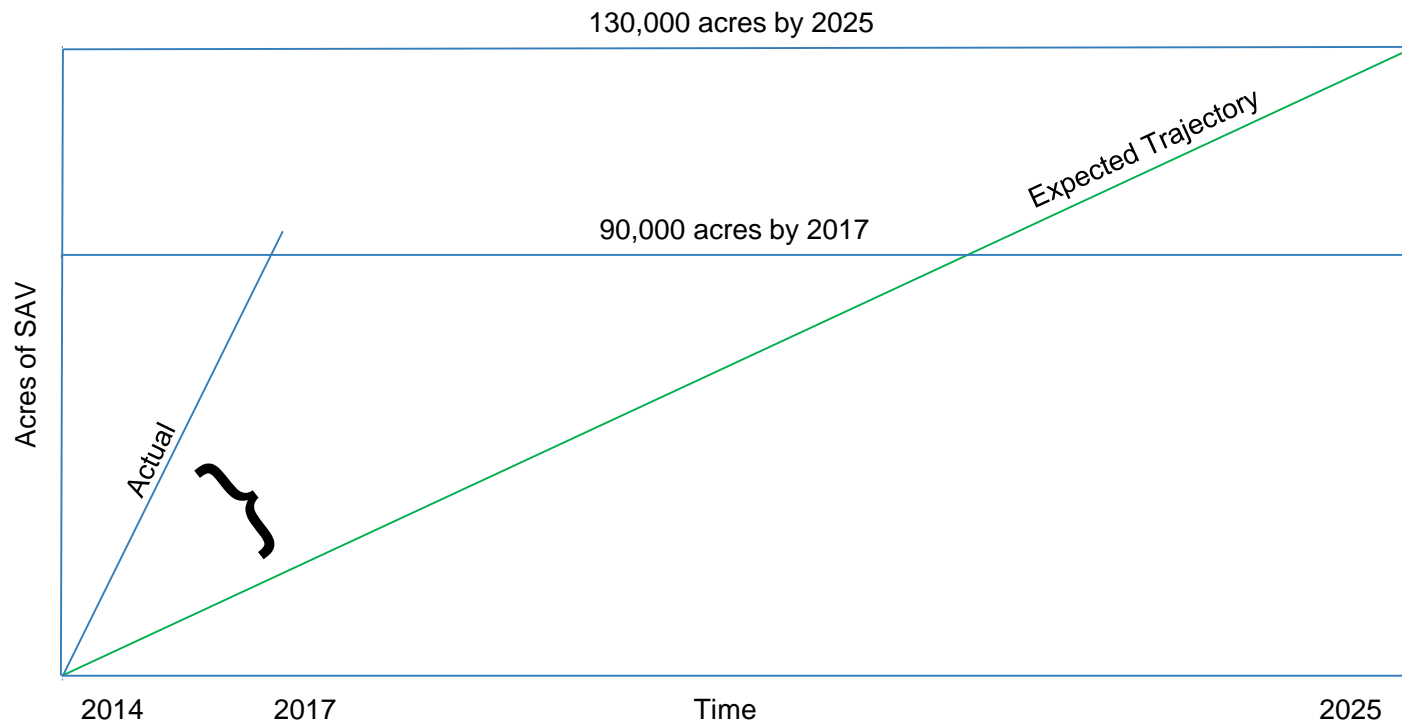
## What is our progress?





## Are we on track?

## SAV Outcome







## Analysis

Discussion Question 2: Which actions were most critical in progress thus far? Why?



Improving water clarity in  
the Bay



Monitoring SAV

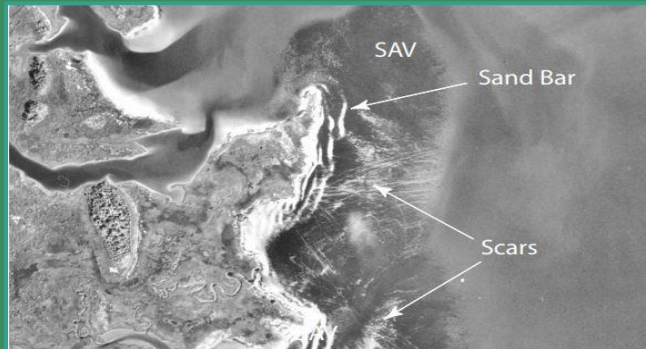


## Analysis

Discussion Question 3: Which management actions will be the most critical to your progress in the future? Why?



Improving water clarity in  
the Bay



Protecting existing SAV

# 3

## Challenges:

*Are our actions having the expected effect?*



## Challenges

**\$** Funding for the SAV Annual Survey has become less secure



Current regulations are not sufficient to protect SAV to the extent that we would ultimately reach our goal

# 4

## **Adaptations:**

*How should we adapt?*



## Based on what we've learned, we plan to...

- Changes to the SAV workplan will not be dramatic, but it will go the “less is more” route.
- Many of the specific actions that partners are doing are stated vaguely in the workplan and the SAVWG have little control as to the funding of these actions and whether they get done. Due to this, SAVWG plans to emphasize the communication of those findings to the CBP community in addition to tracking them.
- The new workplan will ultimately focus on monitoring and restoration to make sure each state is doing a small part, in addition to invasive species management.
- SAVWG would like to make a bigger effort to do positive blue crab and SAV communications and will consider partnering with the CBP Communications Workgroup to develop some media.

# Agreement Goals and Outcomes

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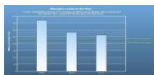
## Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance
- Blue Crab Management
- Oyster
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat



## Vital Habitats Goal

- Wetlands
- Black Duck
- Stream Health
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Forest Buffer
- Tree Canopy



## Water Quality Goal

- 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)
- 2025 WIP
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring



## Toxic Contaminants Goal

- Toxic Contaminants Research Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention



## Healthy Watersheds Goal

- Healthy Waters



## Stewardship Goal

- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Diversity



## Land Conservation Goal

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development
- Land Use Options Evaluation



## Public Access Goal

- Public Access Site Development



## Environmental Literacy Goal

- Student
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning

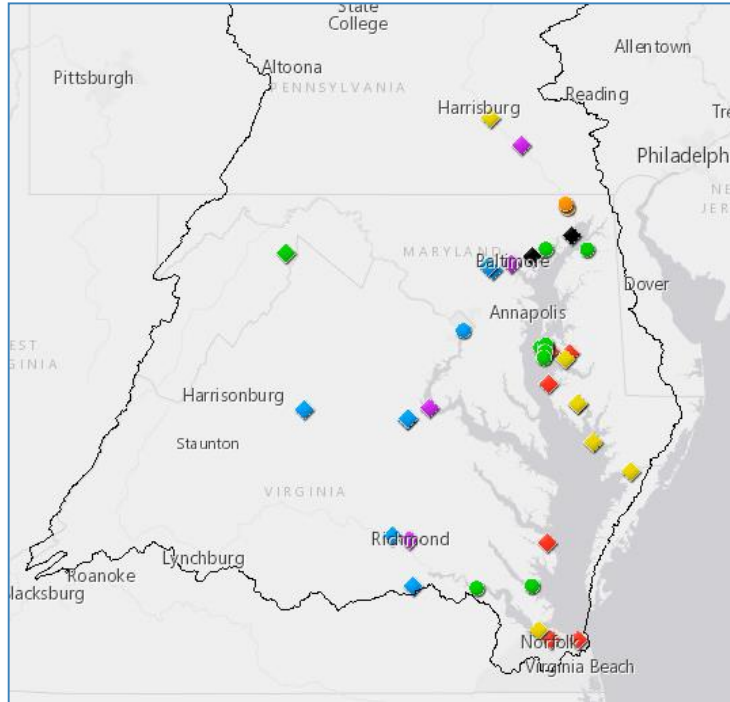


## Climate Resiliency Goal

- Monitoring and Assessment
- Adaptation Outcome



## Cross-Outcome Considerations



Becky and Brooke; do either of you have a map depicting and overlap SAV/blue crab/water quality metrics to include to the left?

*No we don't. Hoping to have something from the cross-git mapping group on shorelines, landuse, conflicting uses...we are open to anything ;)*





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# Discussion