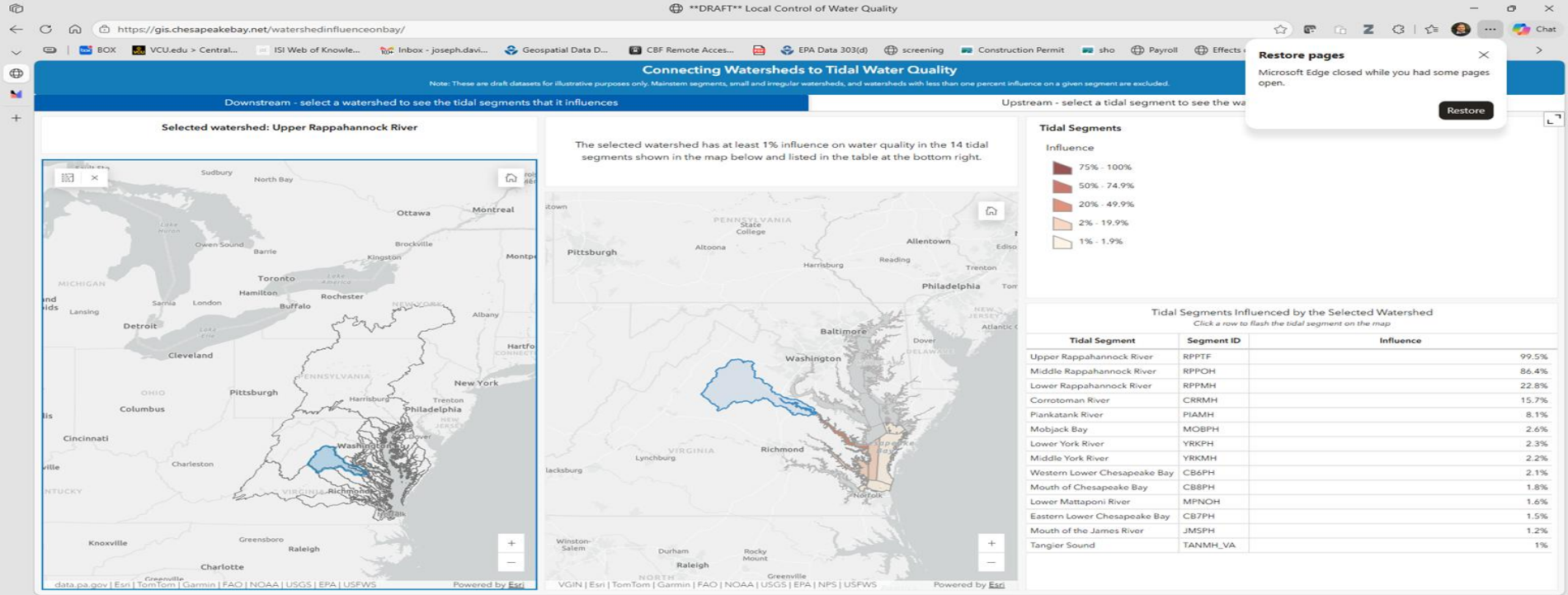
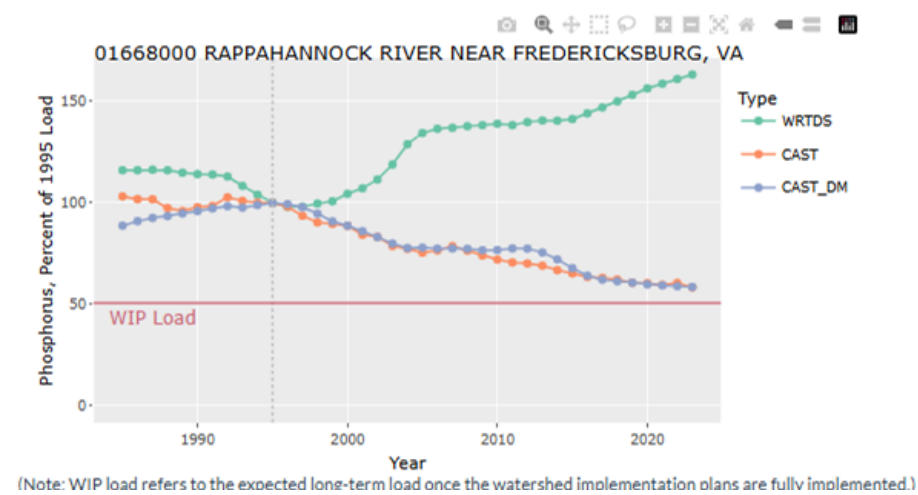
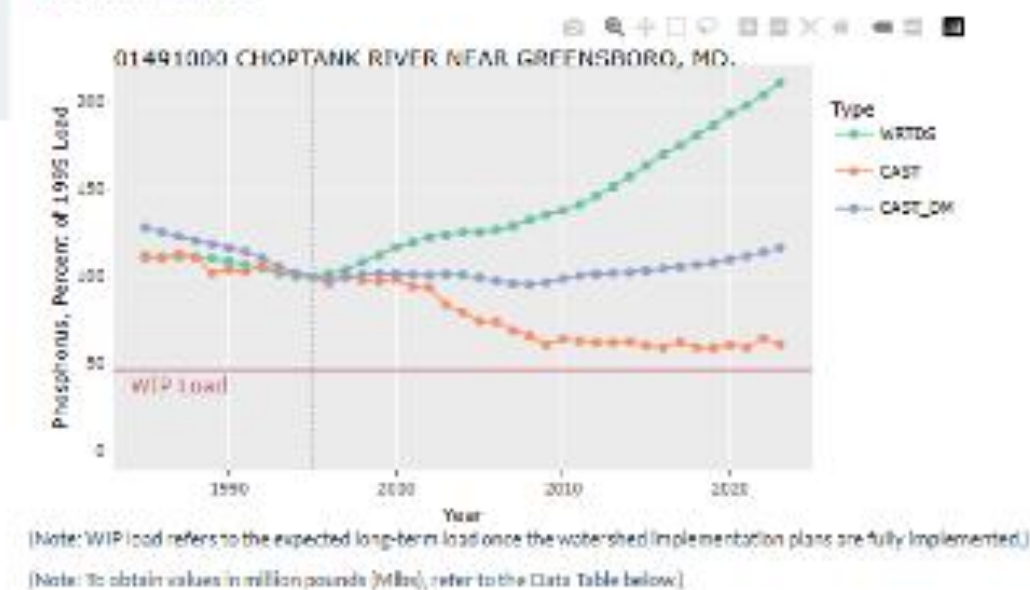




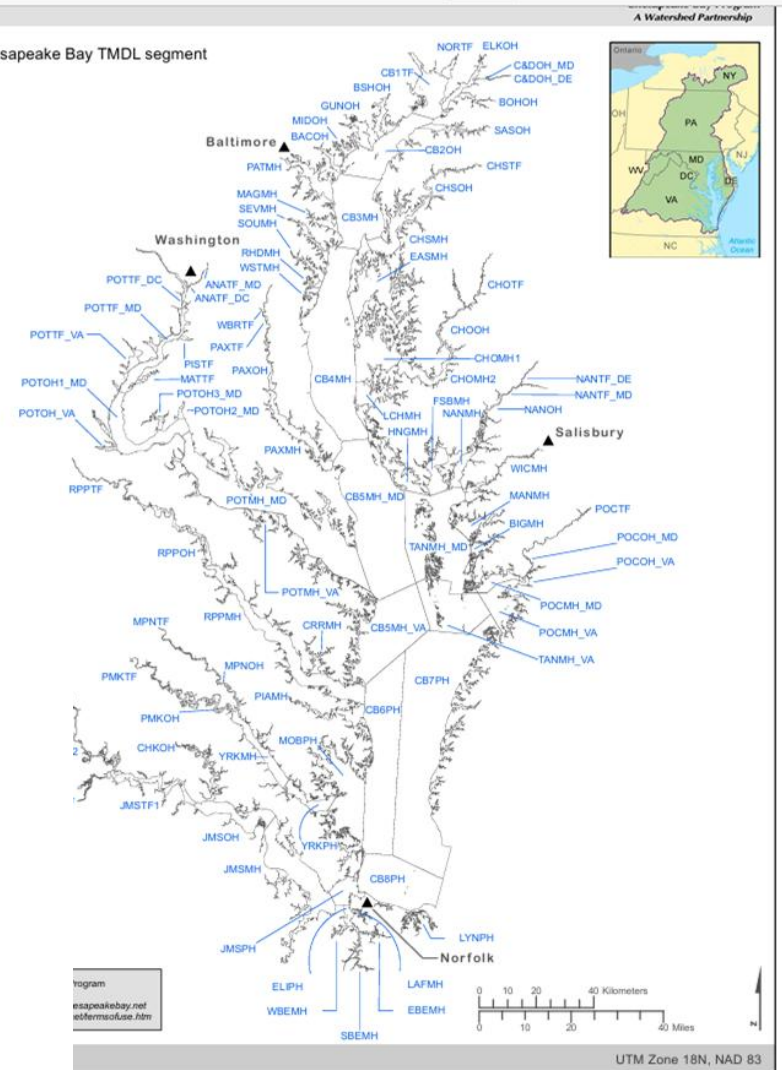
Interactive Plot



Interactive Plot



Chesapeake Bay TMDL segment

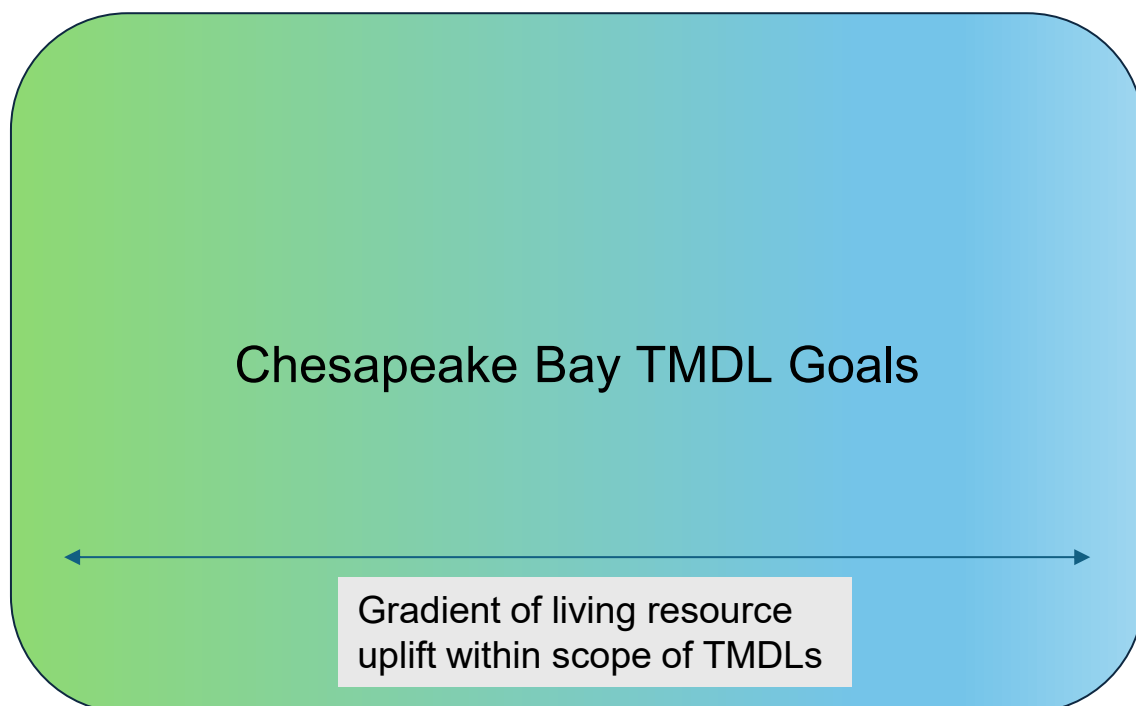
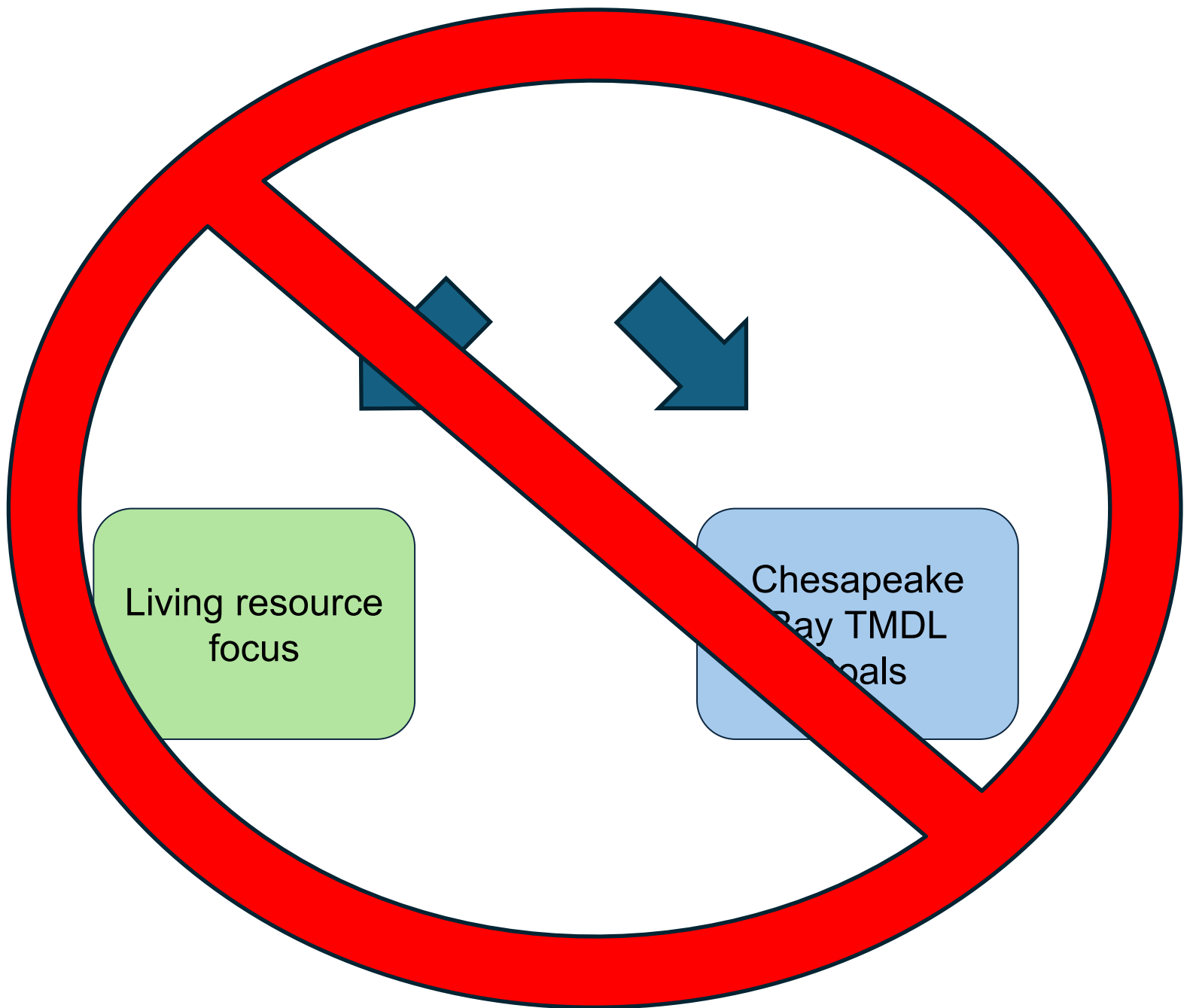


Adjusting our planning process utilizing a focus on living resource response

Clean water goal team meeting; 9.29.26

Joe Wood, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Kurt Stephenson, Virginia Tech



Definition of the tiered approach we agree upon:

Putting It All Together

- Overall, the responses agree tiered implementation is about ***targeted, staged, and data-driven implementation*** that ***accelerates progress*** towards ***water quality goals*** and ***further ecological benefits***
- Accelerates ecological benefits i.e. living resource response
- Targeted and Staged
- Data-Driven (Outcomes)

We think this approach will require changes to the way we use models and data, the way we plan, and how we view accountability.

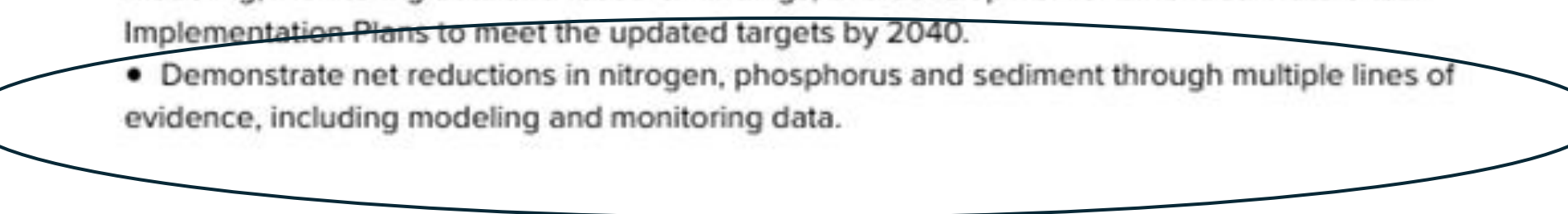
Revised Bay Agreement directs us towards a focus upon **multiple lines of evidence**

Outcomes



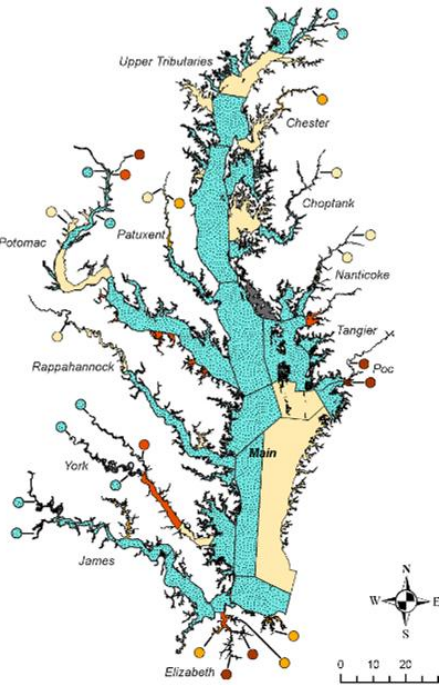
Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Sediment

Implement and maintain practices and controls to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. These reductions are necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standards, as described in the Bay TMDL. Those water quality standards support living resources and protect human health, as required by the [Clean Water Act](#).

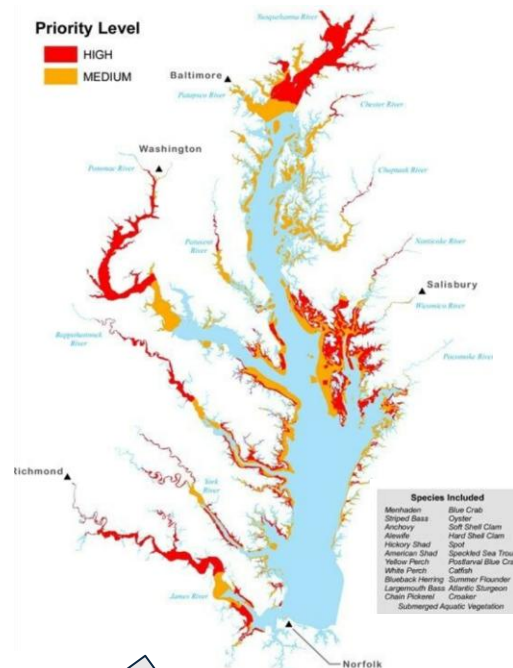
- Through 2030, signatories will continue to accelerate completion of all interim water quality planning targets through implementation of Chesapeake Bay [Watershed Implementation Plans](#), two-year milestone commitments and other innovative strategies to achieve and maintain reduced levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.
 - By December 31, 2030, revise the planning targets approved by the Principals' Staff Committee for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, incorporating the latest watershed modeling, monitoring data and research findings, and develop new or amended Watershed Implementation Plans to meet the updated targets by 2040.
 - Demonstrate net reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment through multiple lines of evidence, including modeling and monitoring data.
- 

Targeted and Staged approach: Identifying priority living resource areas

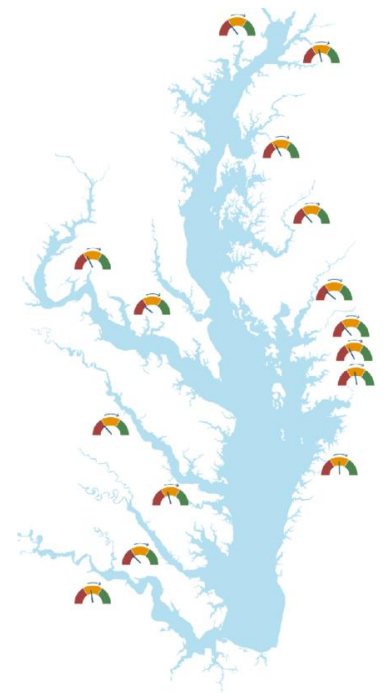
Identify WQ
deficits
(attainment)



Identify High
Impact LR areas



Prioritized areas:
WQ segments that
can improve
critical LR habitats



Identification of other high
impact LR impact areas
vulnerable or degraded by
non-WQ stressors

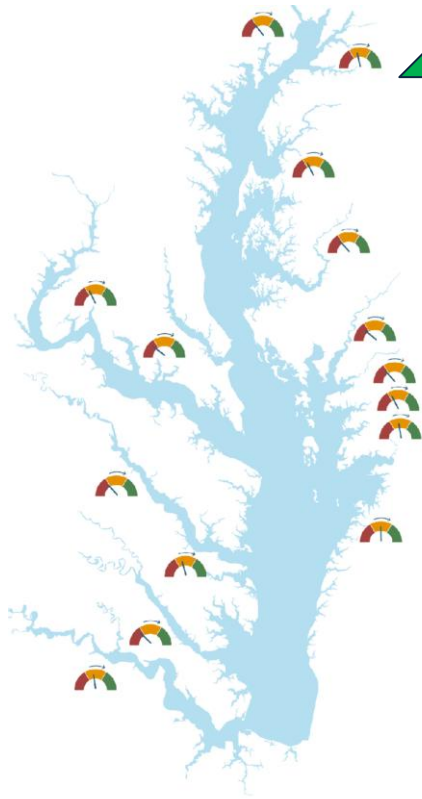


Identify areas where water quality
improvements can improve high
importance living resource habitats.

Identify areas where water quality
improvements can improve high
importance living resource habitats.

Targeted and Staged approach: How do we get there?

**Prioritized areas:
WQ segments that
can improve
critical LR habitats**

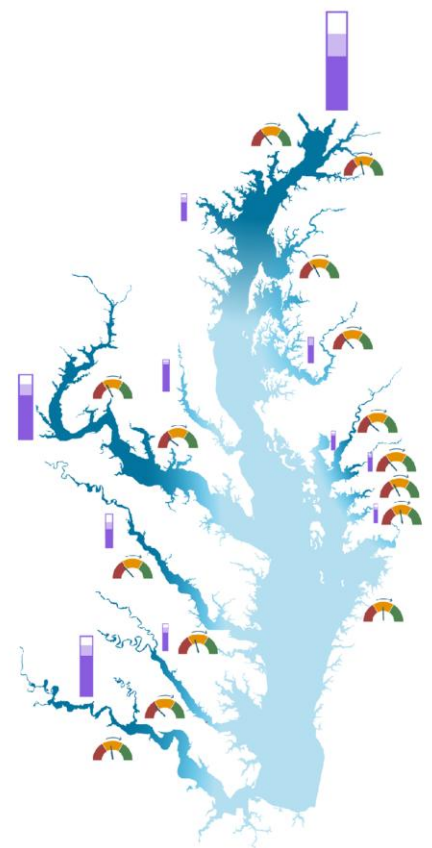


Identify areas where water quality improvements can improve high importance living resource habitats.

**Identify
Pollutant
contribution:
who “moves”
the WQ needle
(local and
estuarine
dominated)**

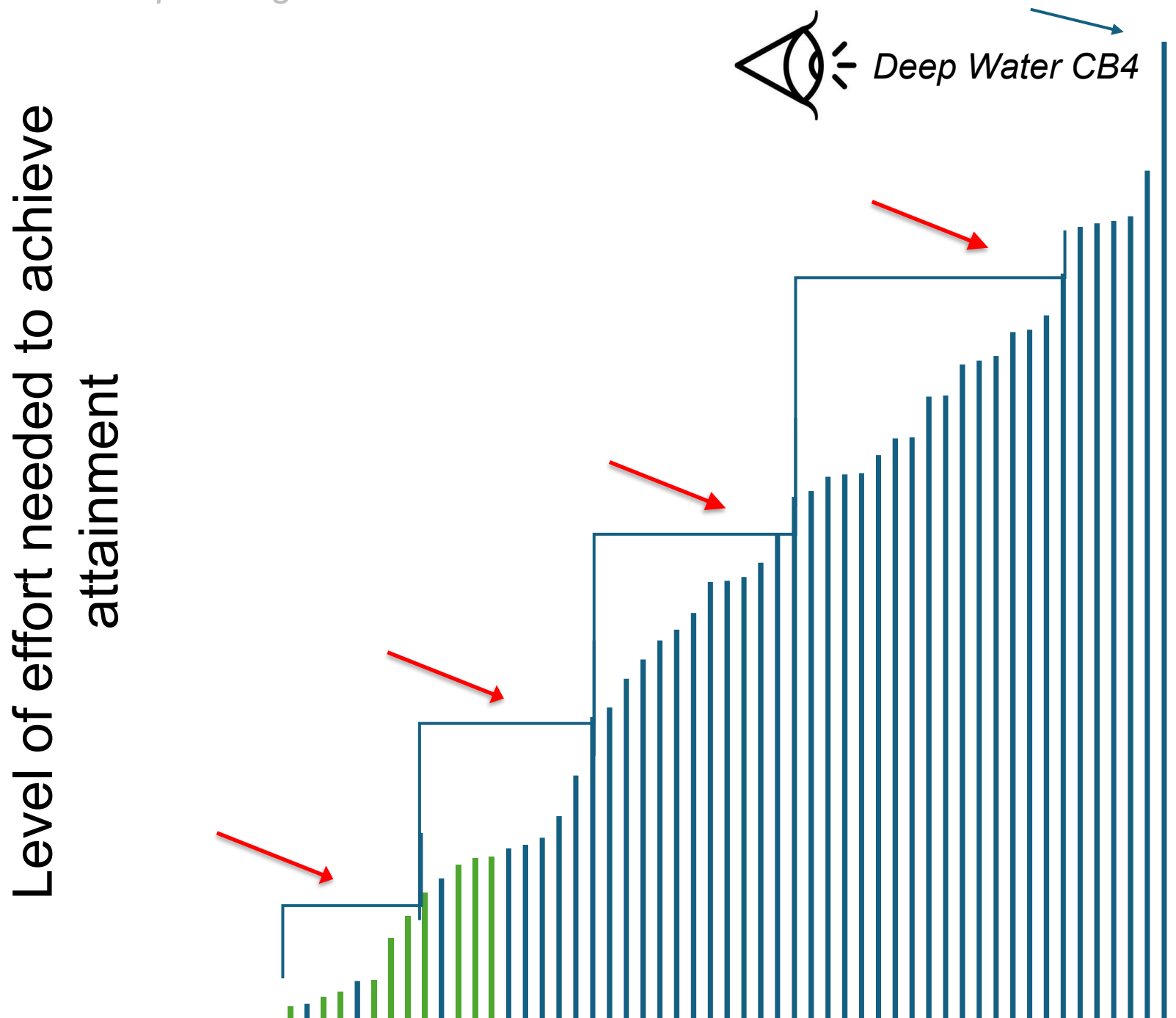


**Identify
pollutant
waypoints
supportive of
achievement**



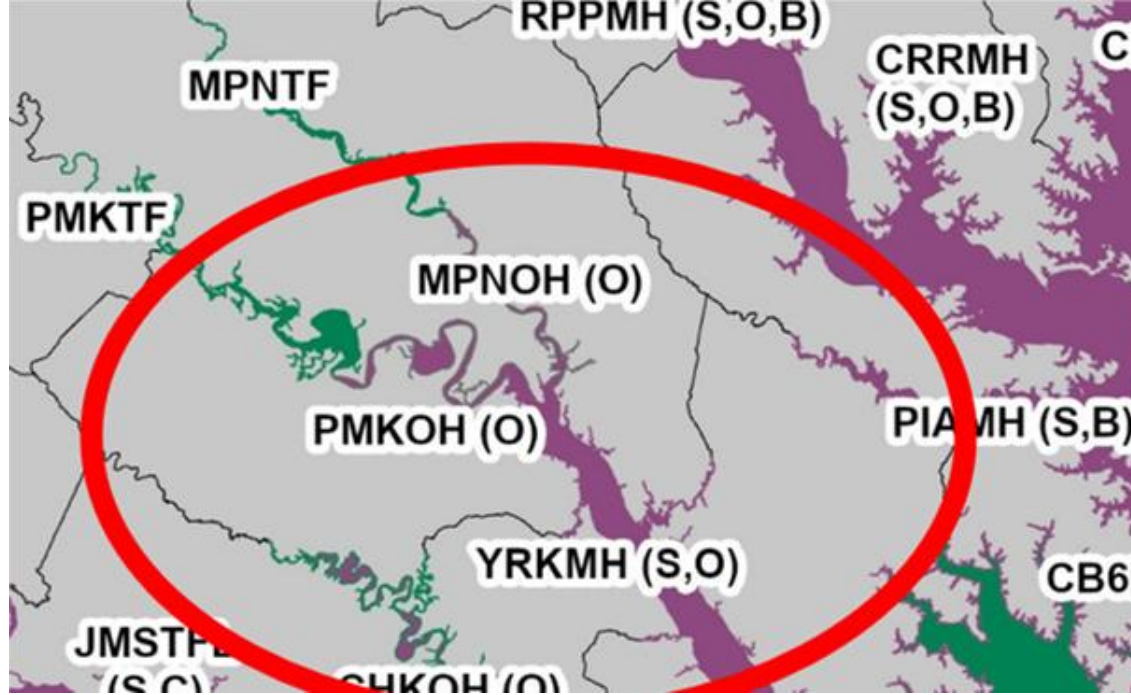
Tiering the response allows for waypoints to success

Conceptual figure

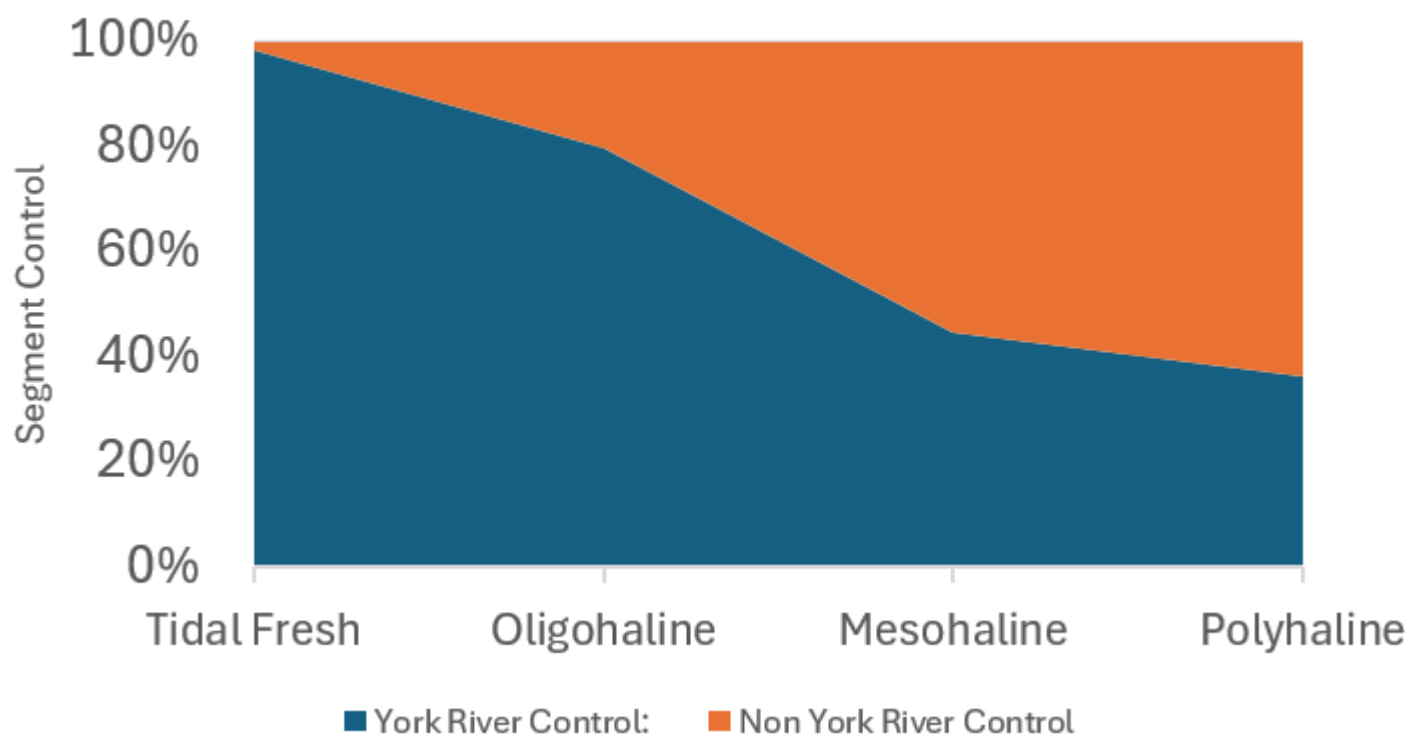


10 Standards * 92 segments
Green Bars designate high
living resource value relative to
other segments

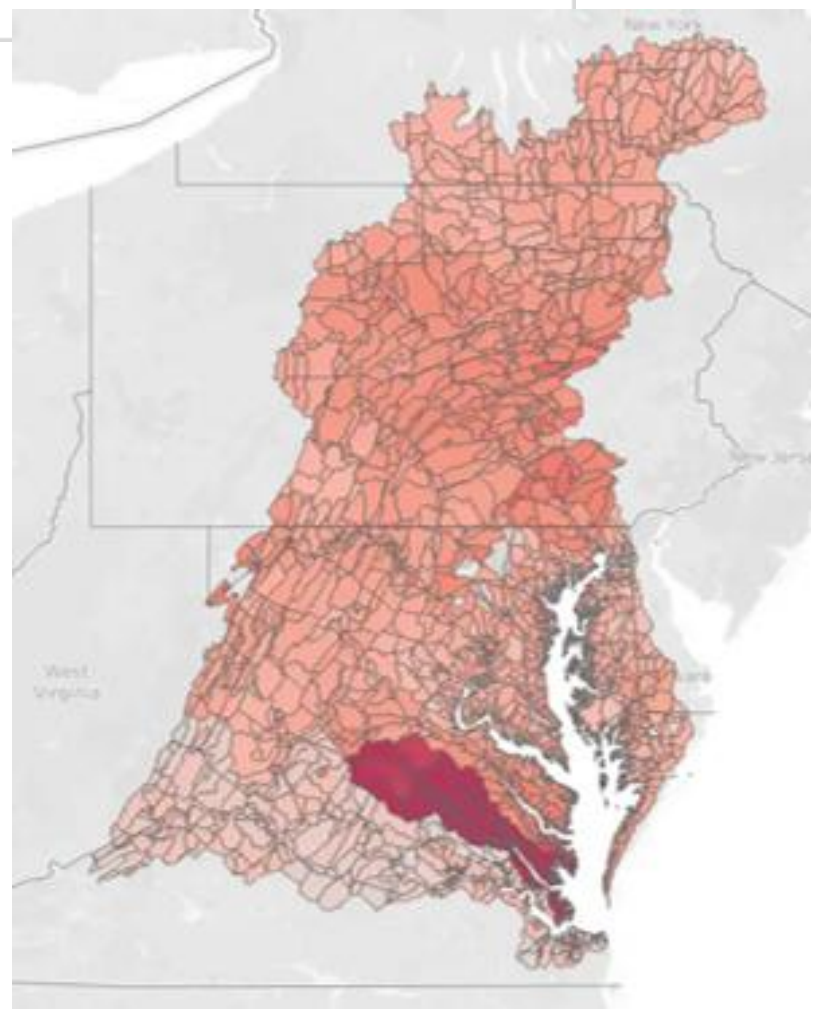
Example 1: The York River



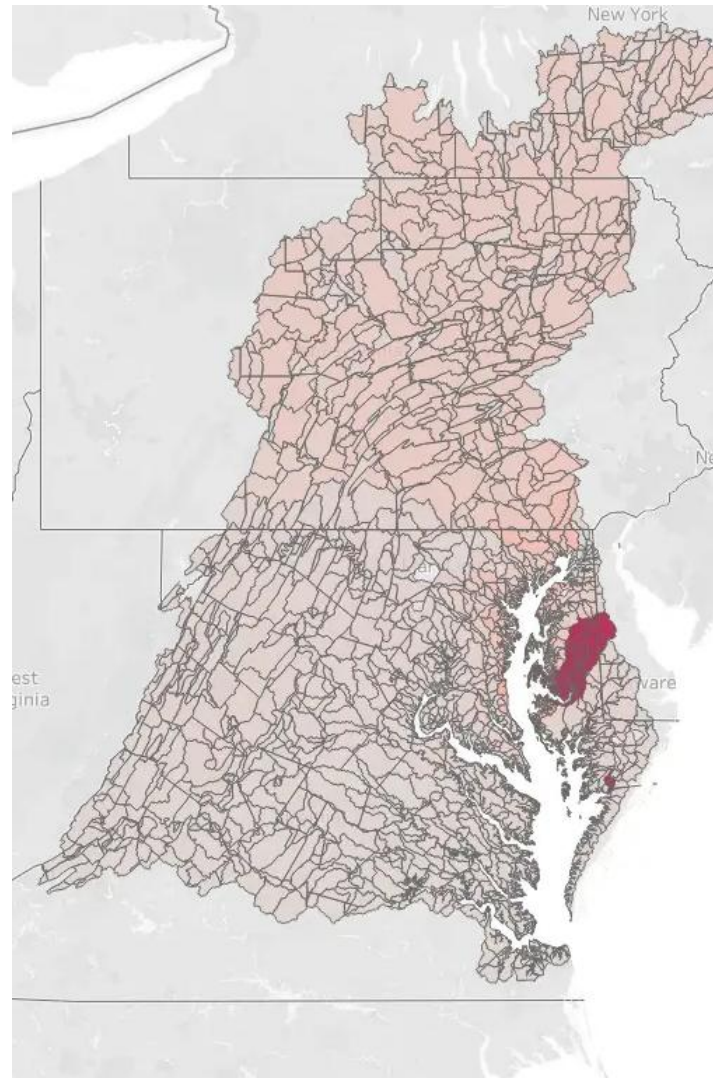
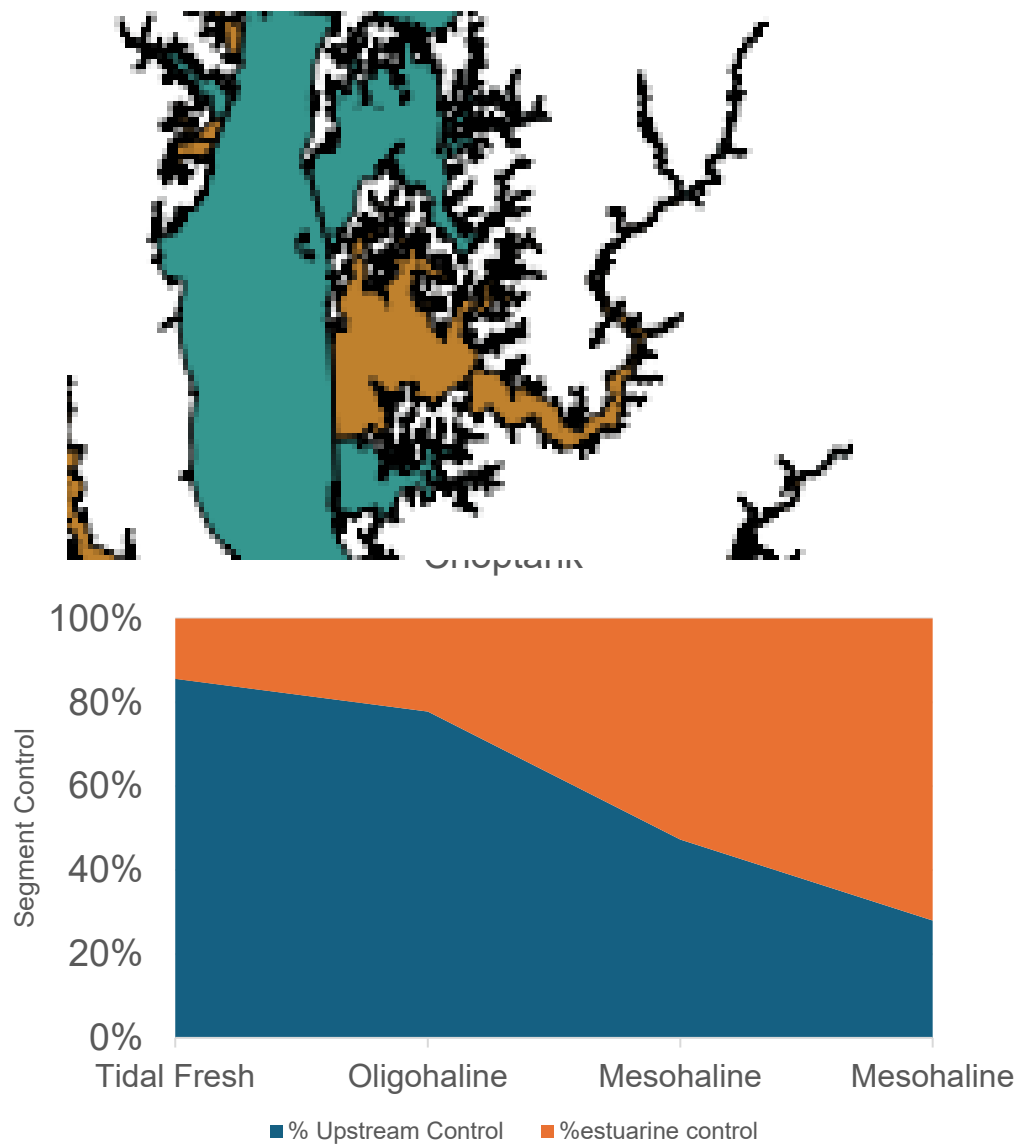
York River



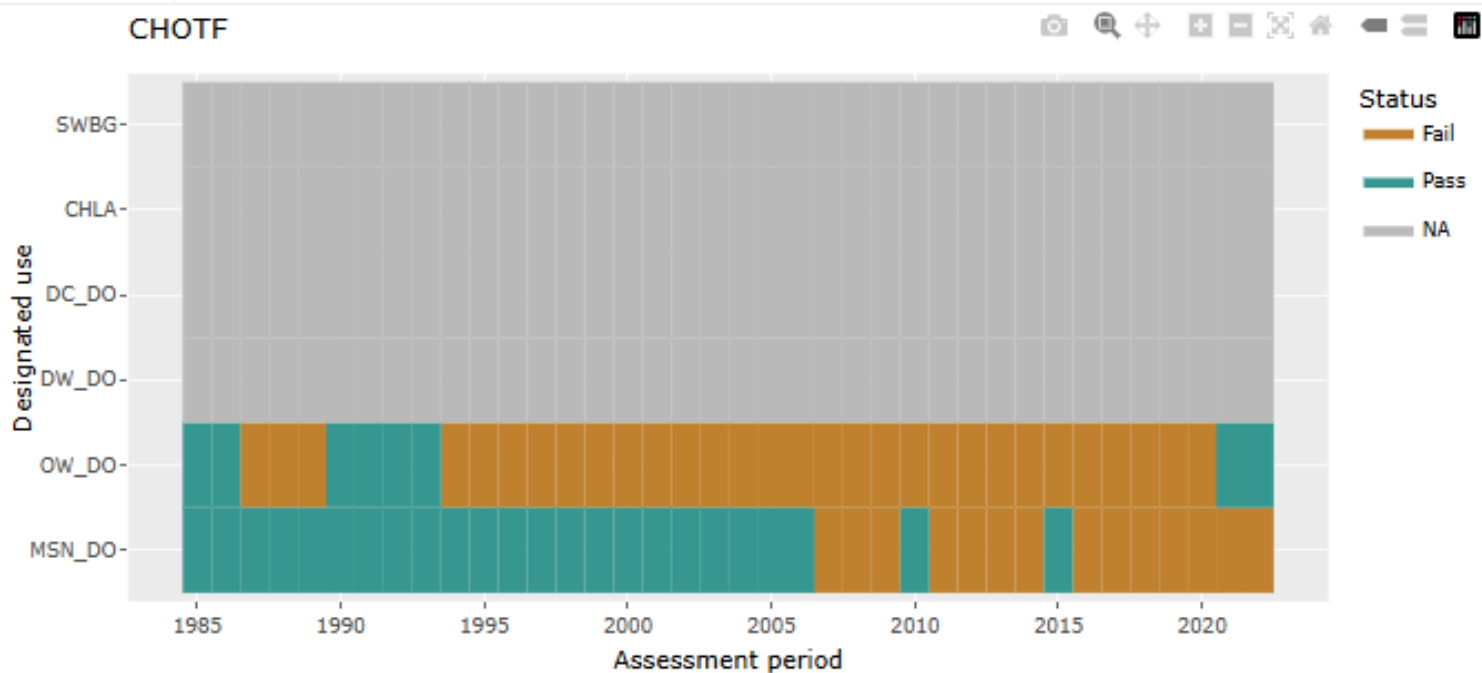
:from new
local
control
tool



Example 2: The Choptank River

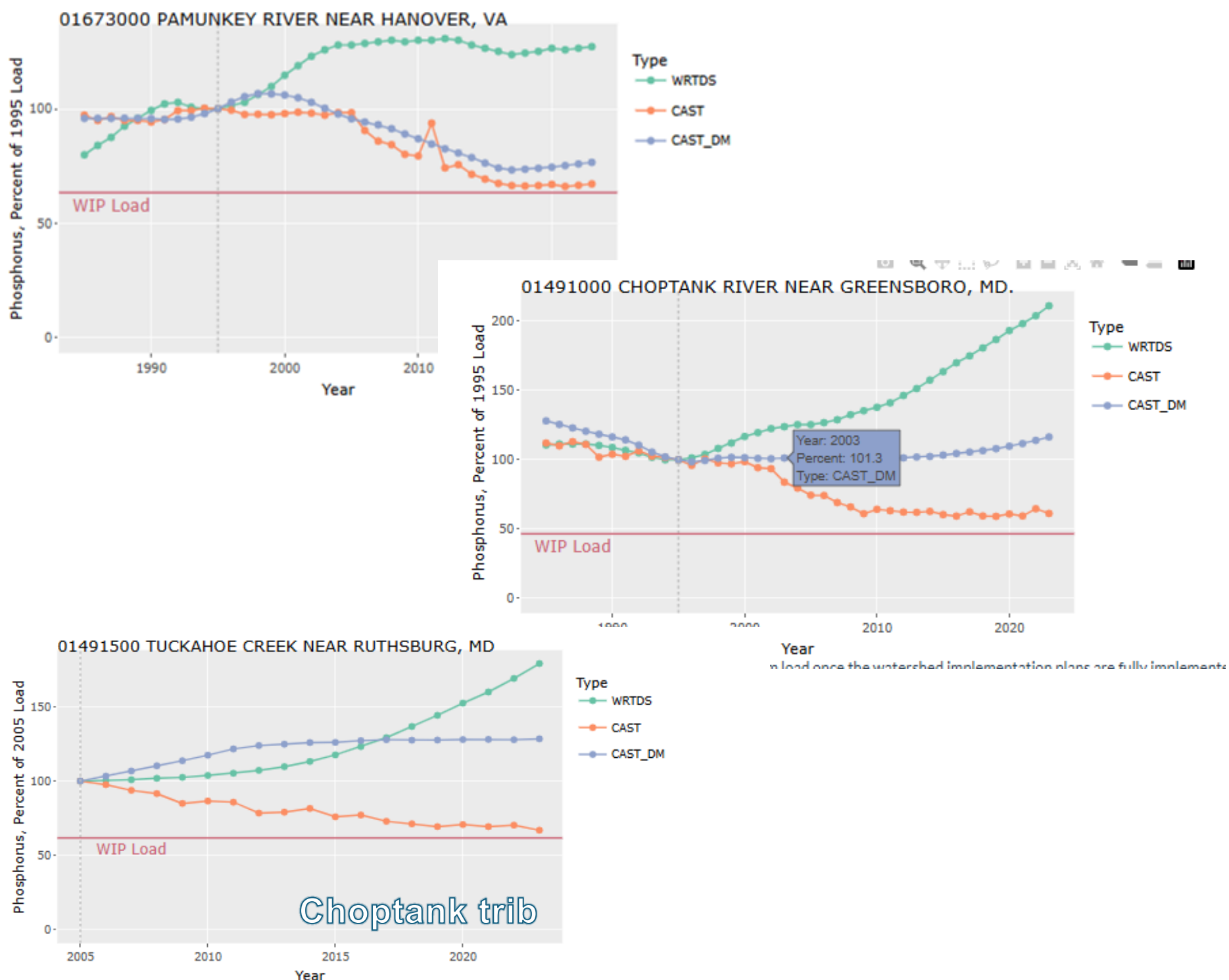


Data Figure



To make progress toward achieving targeted outcomes, requires addressing uncertainties that stand in the way

- We need to utilize our planning process to enhance learning and address response gaps like these



(Note: WIP load refers to the expected long-term load once the watershed implementation plans are fully implemented.)

(Note: To obtain values in million pounds (Mlbs), refer to the Data Table below.)

How do we get there?

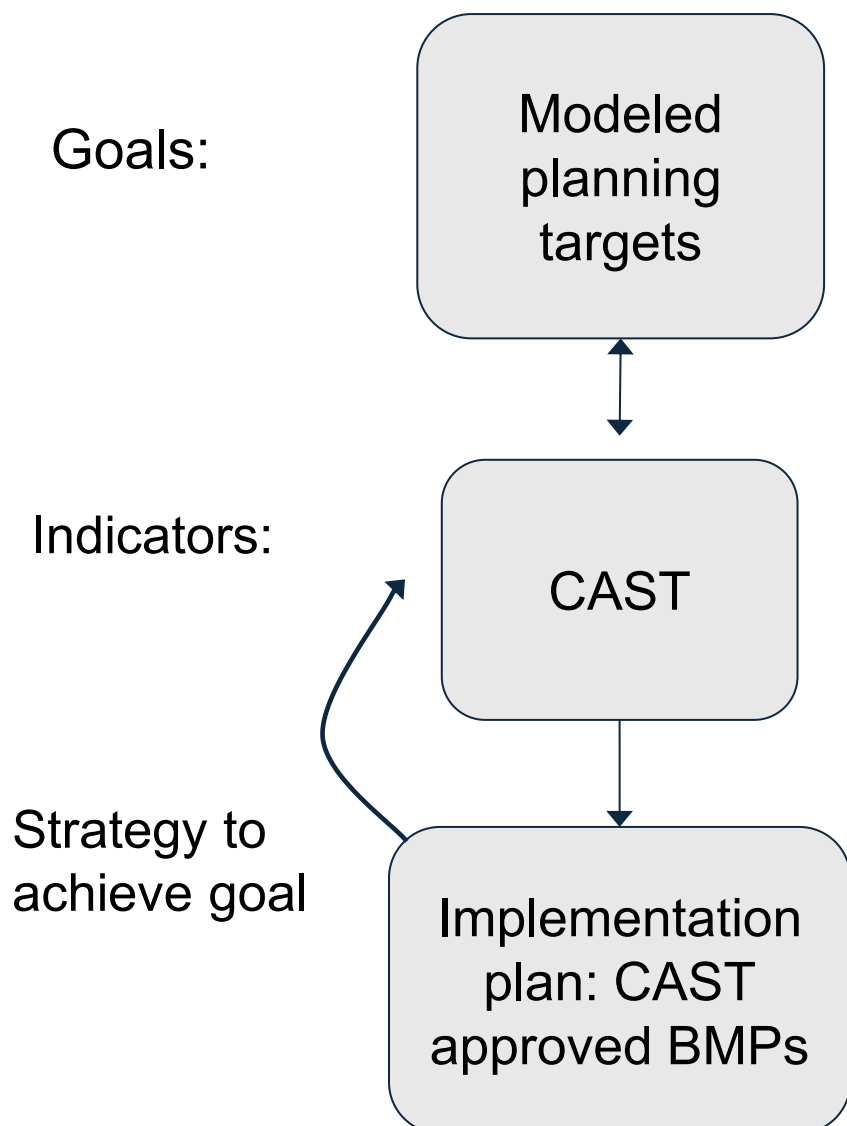
- It needs to
 - Address response gaps and knowledge gaps for priority areas
 - Promote accountability for outcomes utilizing multiple lines of evidence
 - Provides flexibility for decision-makers to adapt implementation programs to multiple lines of evidence, local information, etc.

Current WIP process

Planning process:

Expand how the program defines “success” and “progress” (observed outcomes) (Goals we are aiming at)

Continued traditional approach

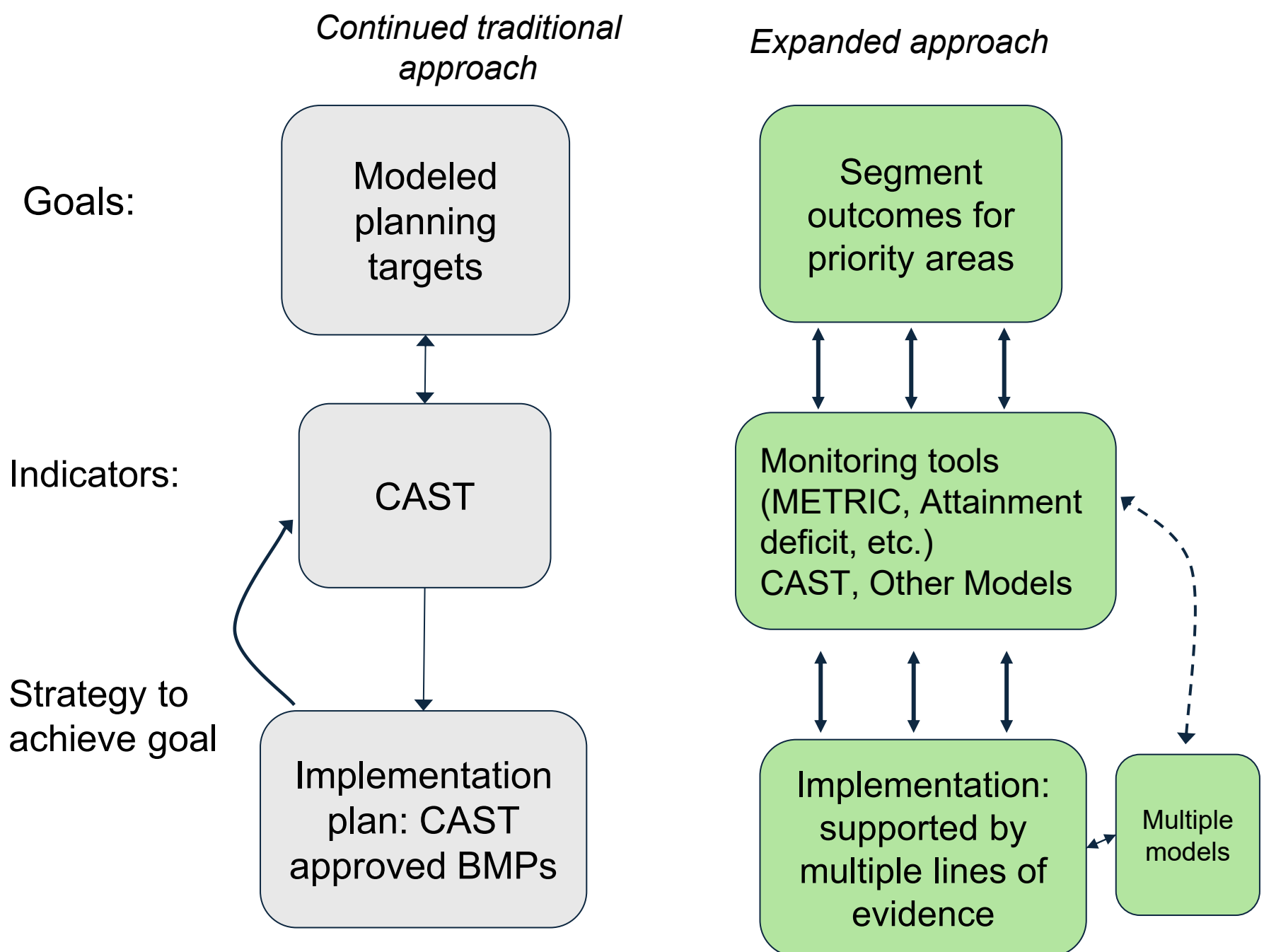


Expanded WIP process

Planning process:

Expand how the program defines “success” and “progress” (observed outcomes) (Goals we are aiming at)

Multiple lines of evidence for evaluating/scaling implementation (how we get there).



Point of discussion

- What question needs to be answered in your mind?
- What is the biggest challenge or problem with the approach described?
- What do you see is the biggest opportunity of this approach?