



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

September 11, 2025

Management Strategies

“Signing Up” to Participate in the
Development of Management Strategies
for CBWA Outcomes

MB Decisions and Discussions

- **Decision:** do signatory partners and federal agencies commit to "signing up" to participate in the development of Management Strategies prior to the 2025 EC meeting?
- **Discussion or Decision:** what does "signing up" entail?
- **Discussion:** which partnership entity will lead MS development?



2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

CBWA = Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
MS = Management Strategy

2014: Public Feedback & Response

- “...lacks accountability, relieves signatories of the responsibility of committing to do the work, creates the potential for goals or outcomes for which no jurisdiction elects to implement a MS”
- “...should specify roles and responsibilities of partners and indicate whether each signatory intends to implement a MS.”

2014 CBWA included:

- “Management Strategies (MS), which are aimed at implementing outcomes, will identify participating signatories and other stakeholders...”
- “The signatories and other partners shall thereafter update and/or modify such commitments every two years.”

January 2014

- Survey for CBP jurisdiction & federal partner Management Strategy (MS) development was completed (internal planning document).

[Jurisdiction name] - Outcome Relevance and Current Efforts

Outcome Area	Relevance? If Yes, <u>How</u> ?	Ongoing Efforts
Sustainable Fisheries		
Blue Crab Abundance	No	None
Blue Crab Management	No	None
Oysters	No	None
Forage Fish	Yes-Refer to spawning activities under Vital Habitats	Recovery targets and actions in place for shad in the [river name].
Fish Habitat	Yes – important fish spawning grounds are found in [jurisdiction name] Bay	Conservation/protection/restoration of land adjacent to fish spawning areas
Vital Habitats		
Wetlands	Yes-Wetland restoration is very important to [jurisdiction name] as their 2025 WIP goal is to restore XXXXX acres of wetlands on agricultural lands.	As of the 2012 process run, [jurisdiction name] has restored XXXX acres of wetlands on agricultural lands.
Black Duck	Yes- Black duck habitat restoration efforts in the area of [sub-watershed name] may play a role in the achievement of this goal, and some wintering habitat is provided throughout the [jurisdiction name] portion of the Bay watershed, but generally speaking [jurisdiction name] habitats are not the most critical to the Bay Program's achievement of this goal.	[jurisdiction name] participates in the work of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture and Atlantic Flyway Council, and therefore plays a role in the regional policy development supporting this goal

May 2014

- Matrix of likely jurisdiction and federal partner participation in MS development was drafted.
- Identified lead partnership entities and collaborators.
- Internal planning document.

Management Strategy Development

Outcome	GIT Lead	Lead Workgroup	GIT Cross Collaboration	*Likely Participating Jurisdictions	Likely Participating Federal Partners
Blue Crab Abundance Outcome	GIT 1	Ches. Bay Stock Assessment Committee	GIT 2	MD, VA, DC	NOAA
Blue Crab Management Outcome	GIT 1	Ches. Bay Stock Assessment Committee	GIT 2	MD, VA, DC	NOAA
Oyster Outcome	GIT 1	MD, VA, DC, DE, PA, NY, WV, FWS, NOAA, USACE, USGS, USACE	GIT 2, 3, 4	MD, VA, DC, DE, PA, NY, WV, FWS, NOAA, USACE, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Fish Habitat Outcome	GIT 2	Wetlands Wkgrp.	GIT 3	MD, PA, DE, DE, NY, VA, WV, FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Wetlands Outcome	GIT 2	Wetlands Wkgrp.	GIT 3	MD, PA, DE, DE, NY, VA, WV, FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Black Duck	GIT 2	Wetlands Wkgrp.	GIT 3	MD, PA, DE, DE, NY, VA, WV, FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Stream Health Outcome	GIT 2	Stream Health Wkgrp.	GIT 3	DC, NY, PA, VA, WV, FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Brook Trout	GIT 2	Stream Health Wkgrp.	GIT 4	NY, PA, VA, WV, FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE
Fish Passage Outcome	GIT 2	Fish Passage Wkgrp.	GIT 1, 4	PA, VA, MD, FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE	NOAA, USACE, Navy, USFWS, USGS, USACE

* Based on survey of CBP jurisdiction partners, January 2014.

June 16, 2014

- Chesapeake Executive Council meeting, where the CBWA was signed.
- [2014 Executive Council Meeting Briefing Book](#)
 - [2014 Agreement -- FINAL](#)
 - [Backgrounder: Agreement](#)
 - [Backgrounder: Outcomes](#)
 - [Individual Outcome Justification one-pagers](#)



September 16, 2014

- Backgrounder on CBP Partners' Management Strategy Participation was released.
- Highlighted signatory and federal agency participation by outcome.



Backgrounder

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CBP Partners'

Management Strategy Participation

The table below provides the compiled list of planned signatory participation in the development of [Management Strategies](#). As provided by the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#), participation in Management Strategies or participating in the achievement of Outcomes is expected to vary by signatory based on differing priorities across the watershed. This participation may include sharing knowledge, data or information, educating citizens or members, working on future legislation and developing or implementing programs or practices.

BY AGREEMENT OUTCOMES	Participating Jurisdictions/CBC	Participating Federal Agencies (bold = lead federal agency)
Sustainable Fisheries Goal		
Blue Crab Abundance	MD, VA, CBC	NOAA
Blue Crab Management	MD, VA, CBC	NOAA
Oyster	MD, VA, CBC	NOAA, USACE, FWS
Forage Fish	MD, VA, DC, PA, CBC	NOAA, FWS
Fish Habitat	MD, VA, DC, DE, PA, NY, CBC	NOAA, DOI (FWS/USGS), USACE, NRCS
Vital Habitats Goal		
Wetlands	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, NY, CBC	DOI (FWS/USGS), NOAA, EPA, USACE, NRCS
Black Duck	MD, DC, DE, VA, NY, CBC	DOI (FWS/USGS), USACE, NRCS
Stream Health	MD, DC, PA, VA, NY, DE, CBC,	DOI (FWS/USGS), EPA, USACE, NPS, NRCS
Brook Trout	MD, PA, VA, NY, CBC	DOI (FWS/USGS), NPS, FS, USACE, NRCS
Fish Passage	MD, PA, VA, CBC	FWS, NOAA, USGS, USACE
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	MD, DC, VA, CBC	FWS, EPA, USGS, USACE
Forest Buffer	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, NY, CBC	FS, EPA, FWS, NPS, NRCS, USACE, DoD
Tree Canopy	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, NY, CBC	FS, NPS, DoD
Water Quality Goal		
2017 Watershed Implementation Plans	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, NY, CBC	EPA, DHS, USACE, NRCS, DoD
2025 WIP	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, NY, CBC	EPA, DHS, USACE, NRCS, DoD
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, NY, CBC	EPA, USGS
Toxic Contaminants Goal		
Toxic Contaminant Research	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, CBC	DOI (USGS/FWS), EPA, DHS
Toxic Contaminant Policy and Prevention	MD, DC, DE, PA, VA, WV, NY, CBC	EPA, NOAA, DHS, FWS



2025 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Revisions

2025 Public Feedback

- “Without incentives, penalties, and other consequences for at least the development of management plans, then the outcomes may never be reached.”
- *Participation in MS... varies by signatory based on differing priorities across the watershed.* “This statement is reasonable, but it could benefit from examples of how priorities might differ by a given region or stakeholder group.”

A Potential Path Forward

- To promote transparency and accountability, signatory and federal partners could release a list of their commitments to develop Management Strategies for CBWA Outcomes at the EC meeting.

A Potential Path Forward

- A commitment to developing MS could entail:
 - assignment of staff who represent their MB member and actively engage in drafting of the MS.
 - provision of data needed to establish or refine a baseline, metric(s), and initial tracking of progress.
 - consideration of entity resources, policies, and programs that could be aligned to support MS implementation.

Possible MS Development Leads

- Action Teams formed to develop MS for each Outcome through 2026, composed of:
 - “Participating” signatories,
 - Chairs of existing/relevant WGs; and
 - Additional experts at suggestion of GIT
- Bridges existing and future structure, allows development work to begin as soon as this winter.

Signatory and federal partner survey

Commitment to Participate in MS Development column:

- Participating
- Not participating

Priorities column:

- Describe priorities

GOAL and OUTCOME	Commitment to Participate in MS Development	Jurisdiction/Federal Agency Priorities
THRIVING HABITAT AND WILDLIFE GOAL		
Blue Crab Sustainability		
Oysters		
Fish Habitat		
Wetlands		
Stream Health		
Brook Trout		
Fish Passage		
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation		

Internal report-out for
MB on commitments
to participate in MS
development:

- Participating
- Not participating

[illegible]

Backgrounder on MS Dev. Commitments

Publish a one-pager at the EC
Meeting

Summary of signatory and
federal partner commitment to
participate in MS development.



Backgrounder

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Participation in the Development of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Management Strategies

Description of commitment to MS development

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Outcomes	Participating Jurisdiction/ CBC	Participating Federal Agency (Bold = lead federal agency)
THRIVING HABITAT AND WILDLIFE GOAL		
Blue Crab Sustainability		
Oysters		
Fish Habitat		
Wetlands		
Stream Health		
Brook Trout		
Fish Passage		
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation		
CLEAN WATER GOAL		
Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring		
Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Sediment		
Toxic Contaminants Mitigation		
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES GOAL		
Protected Lands		
Land Use Decision Support		
Healthy Forests and Trees		
Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions		
ENGAGED COMMUNITIES GOAL		
Stewardship		
Local Leadership		
Workforce		
Public Access		
Student Experiences		
School District Planning		

Notes on MS Development Commitment

- MS is expected to be developed within **X timeframe** of the revision of the CBWA.
- Commitment to developing the MS does not require a commitment to support achievement of the outcome.
 - What it means to sign up to help achieve an outcome could be defined as MS are developed.
- Commitments will be reviewed and updated every **X years** following MS development, per CBWA.

Recap: Steps for the MB to consider

- Agree to releasing commitments at EC meeting.
- Decide what committing to the development of a Management Strategy means.
- Survey signatory and federal partners.
- Identify partnership entity to lead MS development.
- Publish commitments to develop MS.

MB Decisions and Discussions

- **Decision:** do signatory partners and federal agencies commit to "signing up" to participate in the development of Management Strategies prior to the 2025 EC meeting?
- **Discussion or Decision:** what does “signing up” entail?
- **Discussion:** is there agreement that the proposed action teams will draft Management Strategies?



Thank you!

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