



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

September 03, 2026

Model Update Frequency: CWGT Request of the WTWG

Watershed Technical Workgroup

Background

- At the August 24th CWGT meeting, ***the CWGT agreed to direct the WTWG to develop options for “when to update CAST” and to present those options to the CWGT at the November CWGT meeting.***
- Today: Inform the WTWG of the specifics of this request and discuss initial considerations for future WTWG meetings.

ASSIGNMENT

FOR

WATERSHED TECHNICAL WORKGROUP

**Develop options for when to perform data updates to
CAST between 2030-2040**

- Provide 3 options with rationale for each option and present those options at the November CWGT
- Utilize information that has been discussed widely with the Partnership
- Evaluate success/failure of previous attempts to standardize the update process

***Slide initially from CWGT August 24th [Presentation](#)**

Considerations

- Transition to P7 – 2030 – 2030 annual progress utilizing P7 suite of tools.
- Milestones – currently a 2-year cycle unless we change it, also no longer tied to input decks for CAST
- High-Res Land Use – Currently created/curated every 4-5 years. (updates 2029/2034)
- Ag Census – Created every 5 years by USDA (updates 2022, 2027, 2032)
- Fertilizer data
- Possibility of industry data to supplement existing data sets
- New BMPs – when can they be incorporated?
 - Updated BMP expert panel protocol
 - Ability for new BMPs without history to be incorporated
 - When/how new BMPs with history are added

	MS Develop. (up to 18 months)		Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Agreement Revision	
			Program Evaluation & Strategy Updates													
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	
Phase 7																
Planning Targets																
WIPS																
Transition to P7																
Mile- stones																
High Res Land use														??		
Ag Census																
New BMPs																
Model Updates																

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Walkthrough of CAST Data Update Frequency Spreadsheet

Next Steps & Initial Discussion

- The WTWG will continue to discuss Model update frequency at meetings Today-November, ahead of the November CWGT meeting.
- **For group discussion (Today)**
 - Do you have any initial thoughts on options for Model update frequency?
 - What factors are of most importance to you when considering update frequency?
 - Do you have any requests for how we go about responding to this request?