

SAV Workgroup

Chesapeake Bay Program



SAV Beyond 2025 – SAV Outcome Assessment

*Brooke Landry
Maryland DNR and
Chair, SAV Workgroup*

Through the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Vital Habitats*

Outcome: *Submerged Aquatic Vegetation*

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.



SAV Outcome Survey Results

Majority of respondents...

- think that the 185,000 goal is aspirational but achievable.
- want to update the goal.
- prefer to make the goal higher.
- want to align the goal with WQ standards.
- want acre goals for each salinity zone.
- want to stick with numerical goals only.
- want to explore inclusion of contributing factors.
- are comfortable including interim goals in the outcome language.



SAV Outcome Survey Results

At the Special Session on the SAV Outcome Assessment, there was discussion and interest in also updating the language to present annual SAV acres as a composite of previous years to align with ecological fluctuations, permitting and regulatory review process, and water quality standards assessments.

Majority of respondents...

- think that the 185,000 goal is aspirational but achievable.
- want to update the goal.
- prefer to make the goal higher.
- want to align the goal with WQ standards.
- want acre goals for each salinity zone.
- want to stick with numerical goals only.
- want to explore inclusion of contributing factors.
- are comfortable including interim goals in the outcome language.

Proposed DRAFT updated SAV Outcome

Through the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

Updated Outcome: ***Submerged Aquatic Vegetation***

- Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of **196,000 acres** of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward this ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of **100,000 acres by 2030 and 130,000 acres by 2035** for the whole Bay.
- Current SAV status each year will be measured as the maximum combined extent of SAV area across the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries within the preceding five (or three) years.
- Progress will also be measured against the following targets for each salinity zone (updated based on Virginia segment goal updates):
 - Tidal Fresh: 21,330 acres
 - Oligohaline: 13,094 acres
 - Mesohaline: 126,032 acres
 - Polyhaline: 35,790 acres

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Tidal Fresh: 21,330 acres
Oligohaline: 13,094 acres
Mesohaline: 126,032 acres
Polyhaline: 35,790 acres

Do we want the composite AND the salinity zone breakdown?

Do we want to assess the composites of each salinity zone also?



Questions?