STAR Scope and Evolution

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting

April 23, 2026

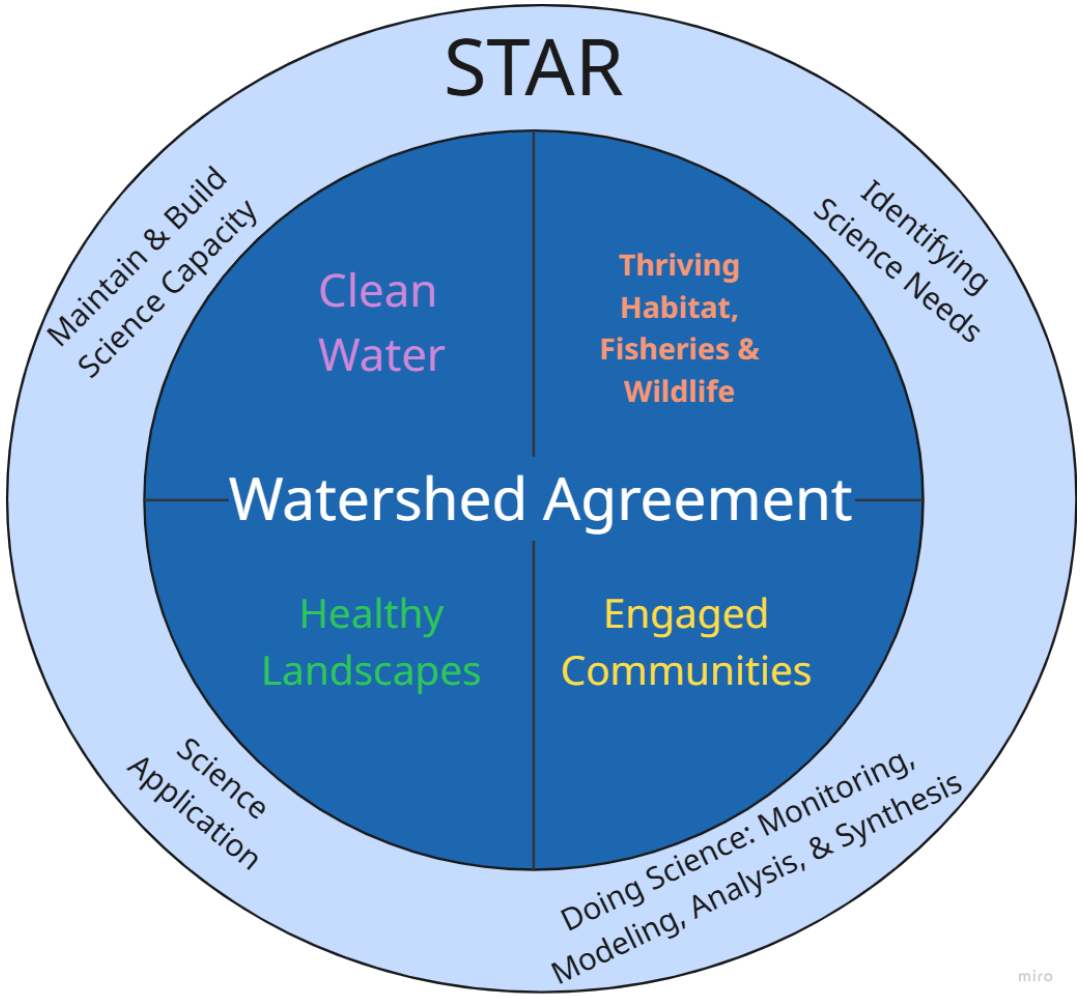
Ken Hyer

(STAR Chair)

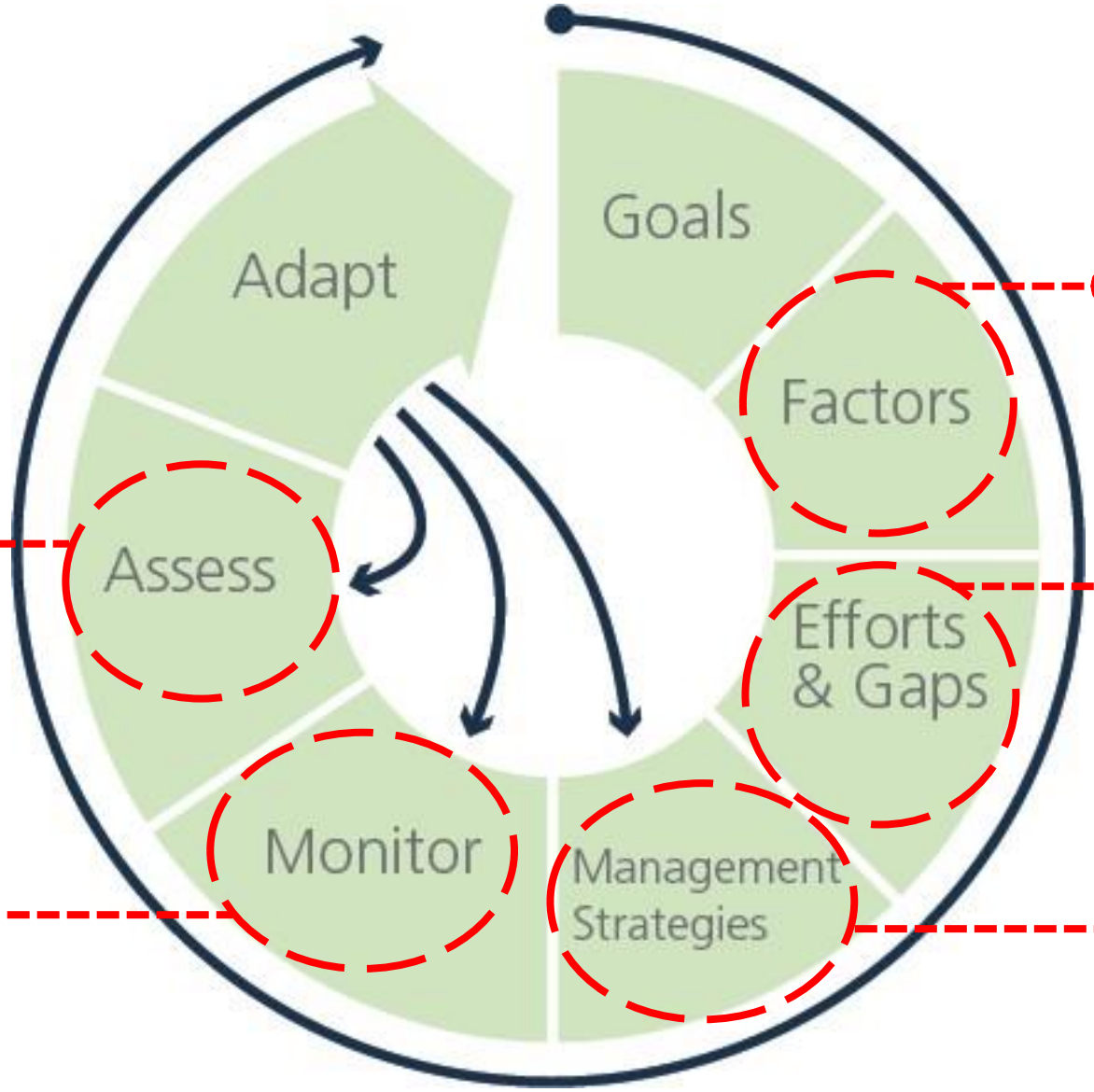
STAR Overall Mission: *The STAR's purpose is to coordinate monitoring, modeling, and analysis needed to update, explain, and communicate ecosystem conditions and changes to support decision-making to achieve the Agreement Goals and Outcomes. The STAR works closely with the GITs to help address their technical needs through coordination with multiple science partners.*

STAR addresses the following objectives for all outcomes:

- Curating Science Needs
- Maintain & Build Science Capacity
- Monitoring, Modeling, Analysis, & Synthesis
- Science Application



STAR's role in adaptive management:



Identify the impacts of stressors.

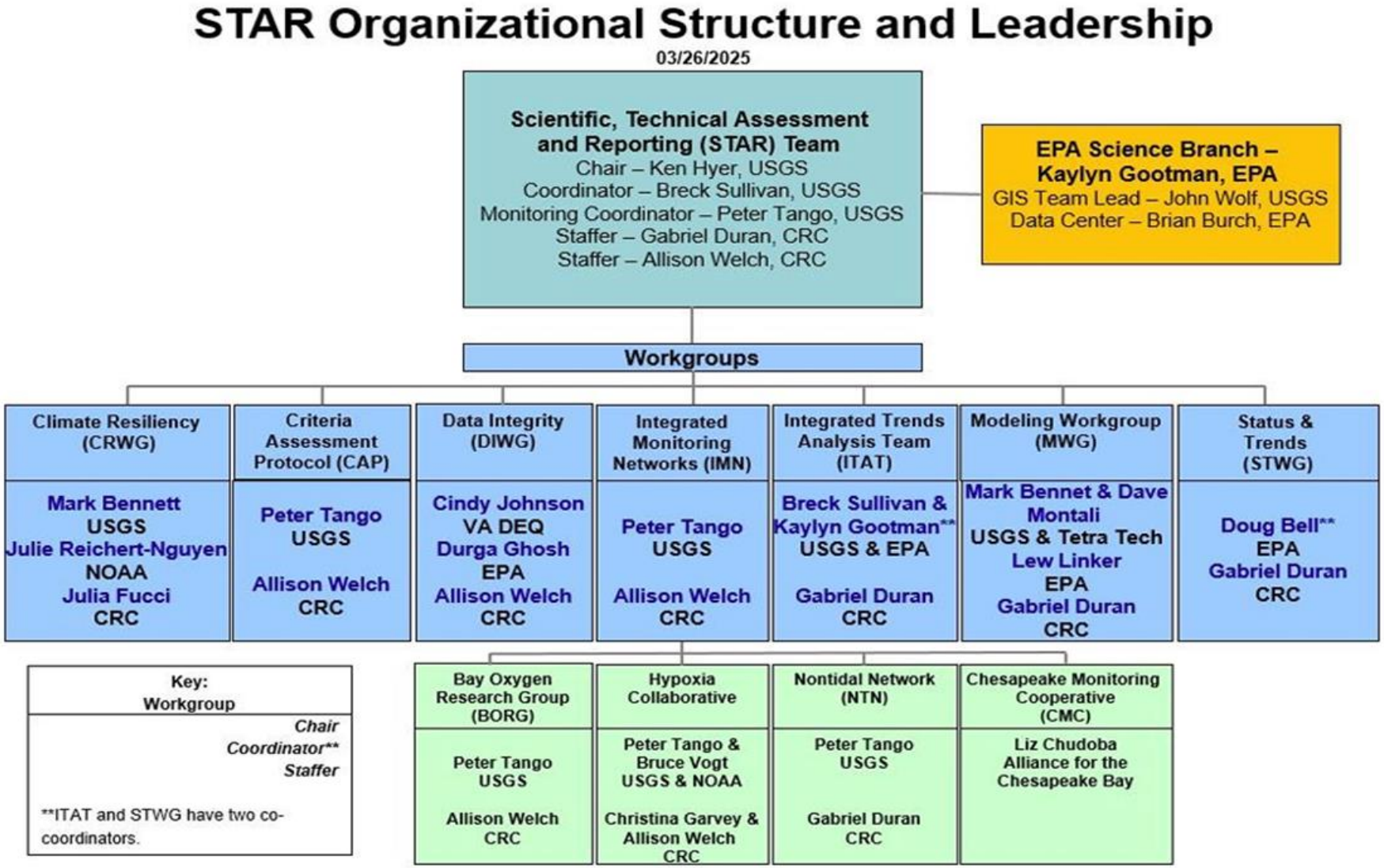
How do we fill Monitoring, Research, and Assessment Gaps?

Identify how to monitor and track/analyze progress.

Manage Monitoring Networks.

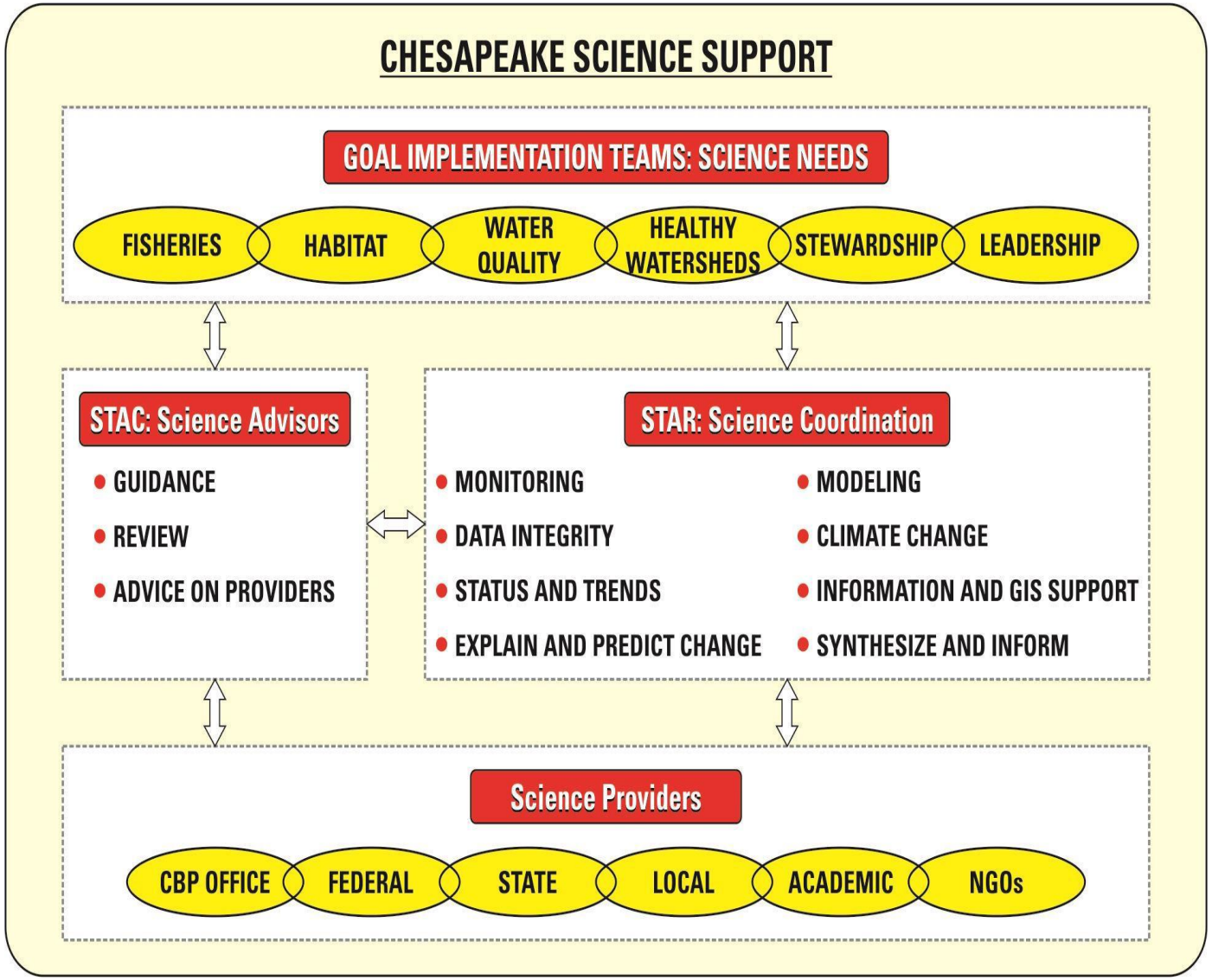
Assessments. Effectiveness of Management Actions.

Current STAR Structure



STAR Functional Attributes: Operationalize Objectives

- Coordination
- Monitoring
- Modeling
- Changing Environmental Conditions
- Geospatial Science and Applications
- Data Center
- Indicators



STAR as the kitchen junk drawer:

PROS:

- Incredible flexibility.
- Alignment with STAC.
- Immediate connection to many Workgroups (WGs).
- Independence of thought between WIP 2025 and WQSAM.

CONS:

- Most WGs do not report to STAR.
- Created a disconnect with the Science Branch (awareness, execution).
- Created separation between the monitoring and modeling topics.

Reworking during the update to the Governance:

Goals:

- Enhance alignment with the Science branch
- Strengthen connectivity between monitoring and modeling
- Continue to provide a space for coordinated science activities
- Continue technical service to all ALL GTs and WGs, related to monitoring, assessment, modeling, and synthesis.

Revised model that we're developing:

Goals:

- Why I'm enthusiastic
- The partnership is not pulling back from coordinated support
- USGS is not pulling back from science coordination or support
- More work on: Science coordination, advancing common priorities, cross GIT/WG issues, sharing new synthesis results
- Less work on: B2025, Science Needs database, partnership reports
- Details under development -we will discuss further in May or june

Science Support in the GMF:

In support of GTs, Workgroups, and/or Action Teams, in using science and engagement to advance all *Agreement* Goals and Outcomes, two technical support teams will be maintained

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Facilitate coordination and collaboration amongst CBP science providers for GTs and Workgroups, and where possible, provide monitoring, data management, modeling, and technical analysis.
- Synthesize and communicate scientific results and ecosystem conditions and changes to aid in science-informed management decisions.
- Engage with the Science and Technical Advisory Committee and its recommendations for enhancing CBP science and implementation.
- Provide support for other science, technical, and analytical issues that are outside the responsibility of a single GT or workgroup but benefit the partnership at large, such as addressing and accounting for changing environmental conditions .

Science Support in the GMF:

In support of GTs, Workgroups, and/or Action Teams, in using science and engagement to advance all *Agreement* Goals and Outcomes, two technical support teams will be maintained

Leadership and Membership:

This support team will be led by two co-chairs. One co-chair will be the Chief of the EPA CBPO's Science, Analysis, and Implementation Branch or his/her representative, while the other will be co-chair position will be maintained by a representative from the United States Geological Survey.

Due to the technical nature of this support team, membership will be flexible to meet the science and skills needs of CPB but will largely draw from federal and jurisdiction agencies, universities, and NGOs. An active and publicly accessible roster of membership will be maintained by the team

Science Support in the GMF:

In support of GTs, Workgroups, and/or Action Teams, in using science and engagement to advance all *Agreement* Goals and Outcomes, two technical support teams will be maintained

Operations:

1. The science support team will meet at the cadence and frequency necessary to carry out its roles and responsibilities. At least six public meetings will be held per year to ensure public transparency and engagement.
2. The science support team will coordinate with GTs and Workgroups to support their science needs. The co-chairs of the science support team will ensure coordination and that any requests for assistance are within the capacity of the support team and in furtherance of *the Agreement*'s Goals and Outcomes and EC and PSC priorities. For priority assistance requests that cannot be supported with existing CBPO resources, provide suggestions for securing outside resources to address these priorities.
3. CBPO will provide resources to support coordination activities.