

Chesapeake Bay Program Goals and Outcomes (Proposed, 010213)

Sustainable Fisheries Goal: Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and bay.

- **Blue Crab Outcome:** Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science.
- **Oyster Outcome:** Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 20 tributaries by 2025.
- **Fisheries Outcome:** Improve fisheries health and production by connecting land use decision making with ecosystem science and policy and creating a precautionary management approach to ensure the sustainability of Chesapeake bay fisheries resources across jurisdictions.

Vital Habitats Goal: Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed.

- **Wetlands Outcome:** Restore 30,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands, and protect an additional 225,000 acres of wetlands by 2025.
 - *Black Duck objective:* Restore wetland habitats to support wintering black duck population in the watershed of 100,000 birds by 2025.
- **Stream Restoration Outcome:** Restore stream health and function so that 70% of sampled stream sites throughout the watershed rate fair, good or excellent as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity by 2025.
 - *Brook Trout objective:* Increase naturally reproducing brook trout populations in headwater streams by increasing occupied patch area by 8% by 2025. (**Currently under revision to finer scale 'patch' metric** Currently under revision by STAR. TBD Dec 2012.)
 - *Fish Passage objective:* During the period of 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles. Measure success by monitoring for the presence of river herring, American shad, Hickory shad, Brook Trout and/or American eel in 50% of the restored rivers and streams.
- **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome:** Achieve and maintain 185,000 acres of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay to meet water quality standards.
- **Forests Outcome:** Riparian Forest Buffers: ~63% of all streams buffered by 2025.

Water Quality Goal: Restore water quality to achieve standards for DO, clarity/SAV, and chlorophyll-a in the Bay and its tidal waters as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

- **2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome:** Have all controls installed by 2025 to achieve the Bay's DO, water clarity/SAV, and chlorophyll a criteria.
- **2017 WIP Outcome:** Have practices in place by 2017 that will achieve 60 percent of the reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.

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Healthy Watersheds Goal: Maintain local watersheds at optimal health across a range of landscape contexts.

- **Healthy Waters Outcome:** State identified healthy waters remain healthy

Stewardship Goal: Promote stewardship and assist citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region.

Land Conservation Goal: Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

- **Protected Lands Outcome:** Protect an additional 2 million acres of lands throughout the watershed currently identified as high conservation priorities at the federal, state, or local level by 2025.

Public Access Goal: Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.

- **Public Access Site Development Outcome:** Increase public access by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025.

Environmental Literacy Goal: Ensure that students in Chesapeake Bay Watershed states graduate environmentally literate with the tools they need to make informed choices to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

- **Xxx Outcome:** TBD

Partnering and Leadership Goal: Continually improve governance and management to ensure Program effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and partner participation.

- **Xxx Outcome:** TBD

Identified Gaps: Toxic Contaminants, Social/Environmental Indicators