Being Accountable/Communicating Assessment Information to the Public in 2013

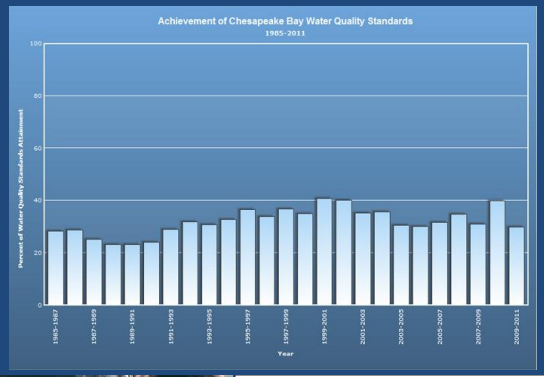
Update to the Management Board

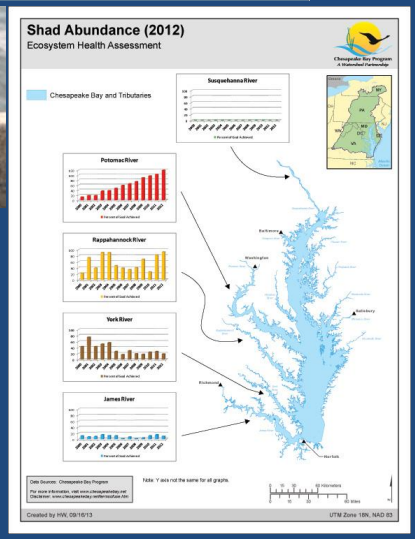
October 2013

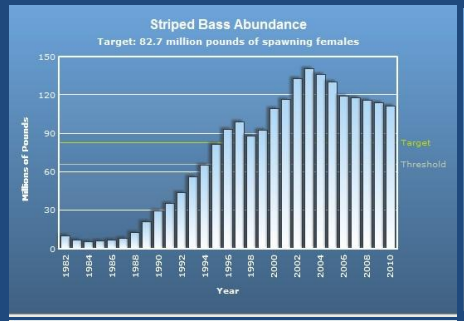
Nita Sylvester, EPA CBPO
Chair of STAR's Indicators Workgroup

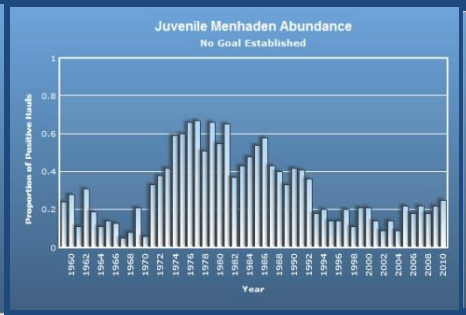
Purpose of Briefing

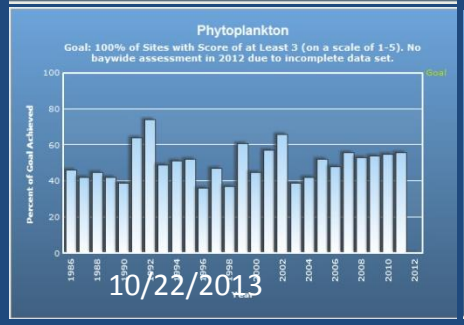
- Indictor updates, including new water quality standards indicator
- Approval of revisions to shad indicator
- Approval to remove 7 indicators from "Track Our Progress" section of ChesapeakeBay.net website (and 2 temporarily)

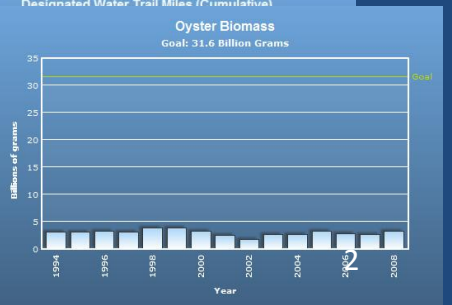








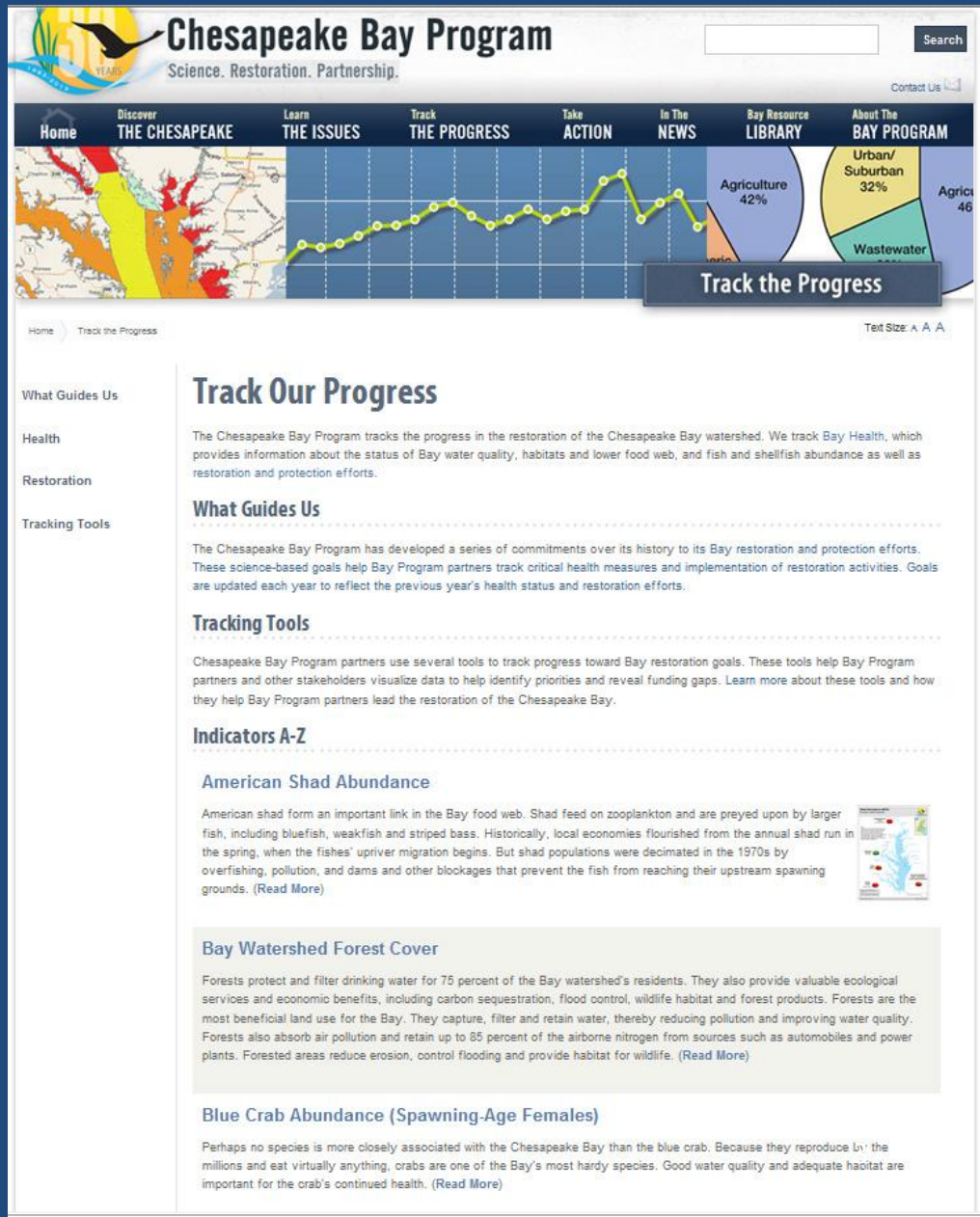




Background

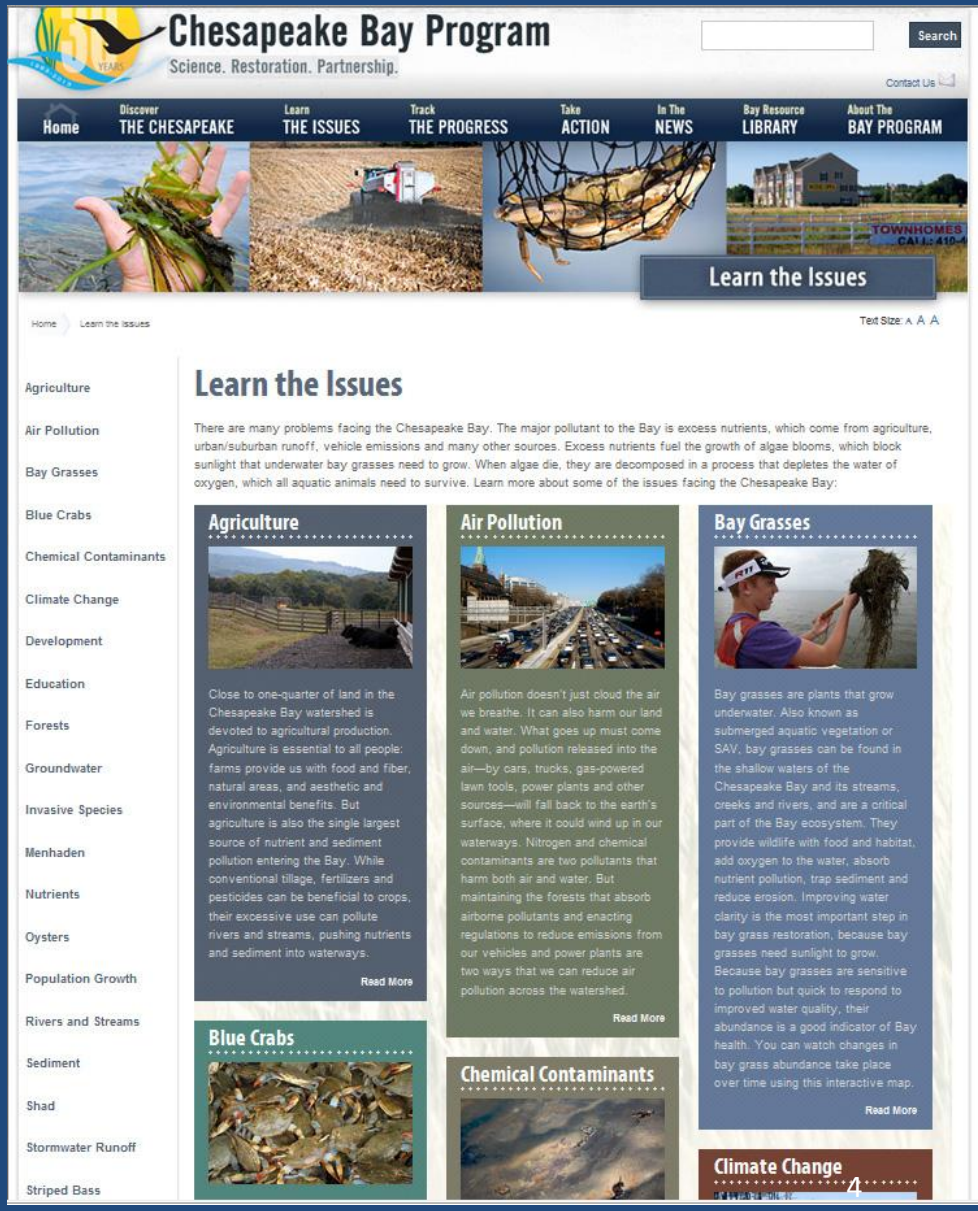
CBP Indicators:

- Approved by MB
- Available from “Track Our Progress” section of www.ChesapeakeBay.net
- Featured in
  - media releases
  - website news posts
  - Bay Barometers
  - State of the Program Reports
  - Reports to Congress
  - etc.



Update on Indicators

- What's been updated?
- What remains to be updated?
- What has been/will be revised?
- What will be replaced?
- What's being recommended for deletion from "Track Our Progress"?
  - Info on these topics will continue to be available in other locations of Bay.net website, per user audience interest.
  - Com WG will continue to work with STAR to ensure those pages refer to best science available



Factors Impacting Bay and Watershed Health

Pollutant s	Land Use	Natural Factors
• Nitrogen (R) • Phosphorus (R) • Sediment (R)	• Population • Forest Cover	• River Flow

- Green: previously reported indicator already updated
- Green w/ "(R)": previously reported indicator to be revised
- Black: previously reported indicator to be updated

Bay Health

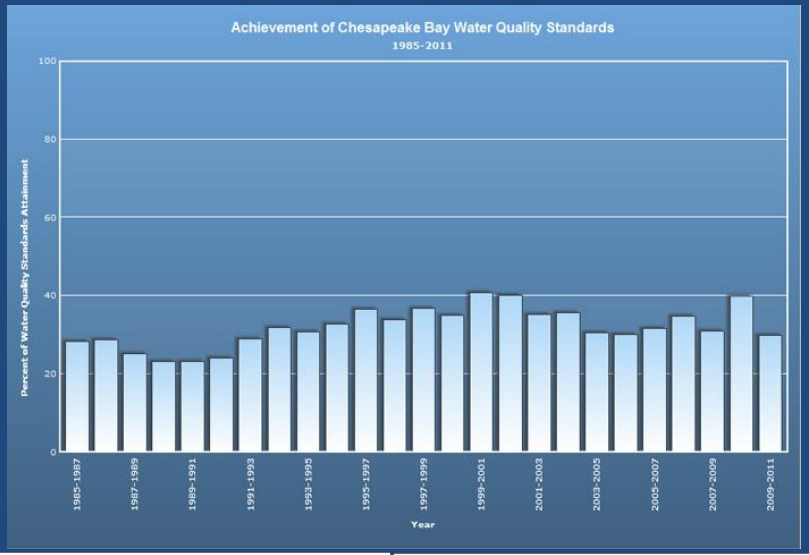
Habitats & Lower Food Web	Fish & Shellfish Abundance	Water Quality

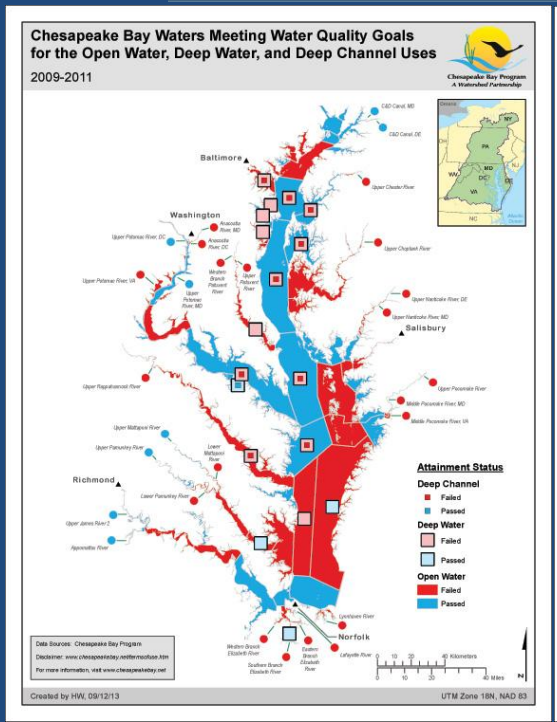
• SAV- baywide abundance
  • abun by zone
  • density
• Bottom Habitat
• Tidal Wetlands
~~• Phytoplankton~~
	• Blue Crabs
	• American Shad (R)
	• Oyster Biomass (R)
	~~• Striped Bass~~
	~~• Menhaden~~
		• *WQS Achievement*
		  • Dissolved Oxygen (R)
		  • Water Clarity (R)
		  • Chlorophyll *a* (R)
		• Chemical Contaminants

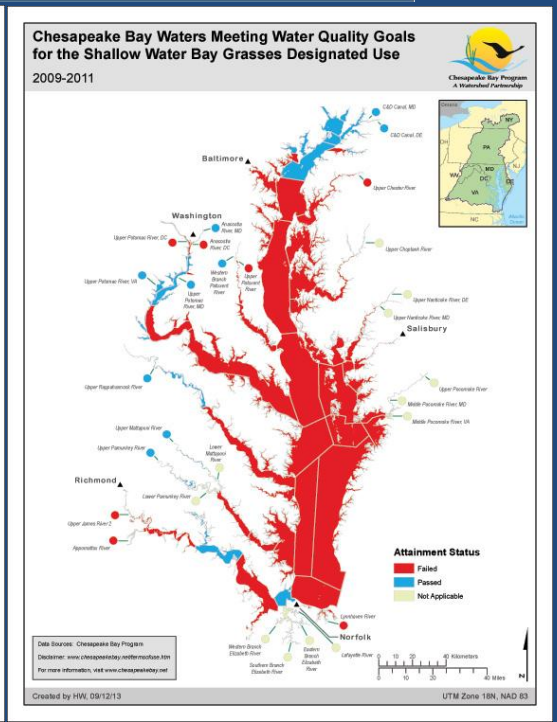
- Green: previously reported indicator already updated
- Green w/ "(R)": previously reported indicator already updated; to be revised
- *Green italics*: new indicator
- Black: previously reported indicator to be updated
- Black: w/ "(R)": previously reported indicator to be revised or replaced with new indicator
- ~~Strikeout text~~: previously reported indicator not updated and recommended for removal from "Track the Progress"

New Bay Water Quality Standards Achievement Indicator

- Fully consistent with how DE, DC, MD, and VA currently list their portion of the Bay's tidal waters.
- Component indicator pages (dissolved oxygen, clarity/underwater bay grasses, chlorophyll *a)* to be revised by end of this week.

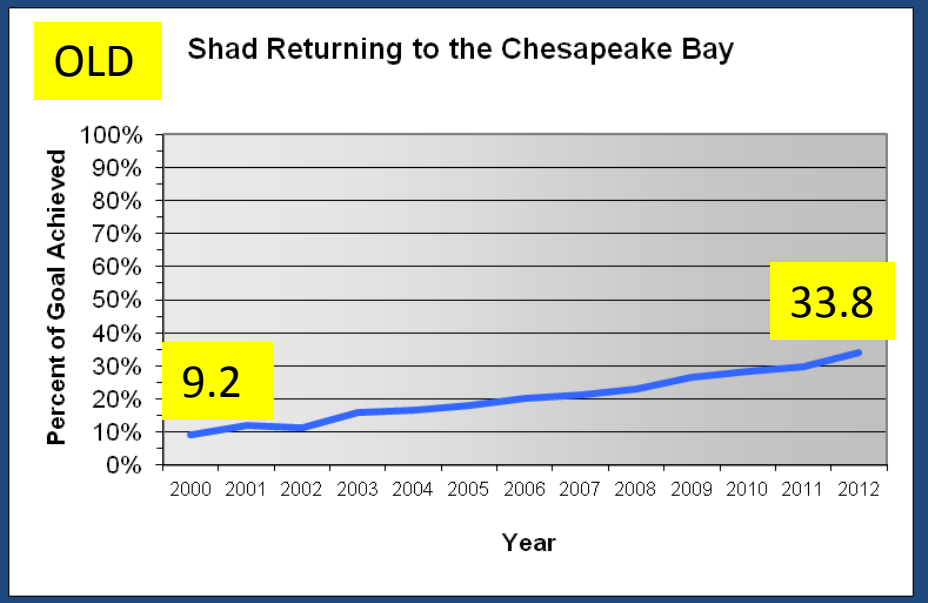


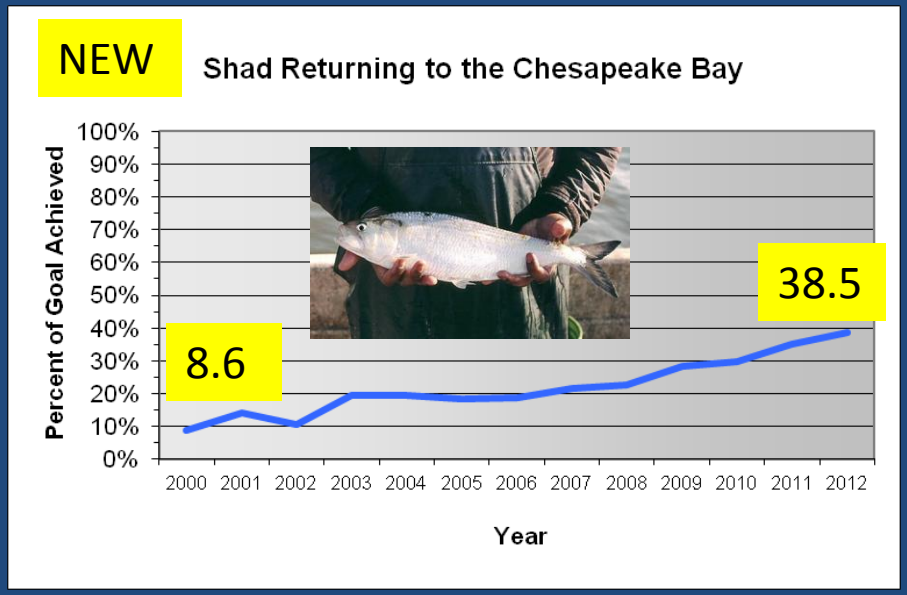




Revised American Shad Abundance Indicator

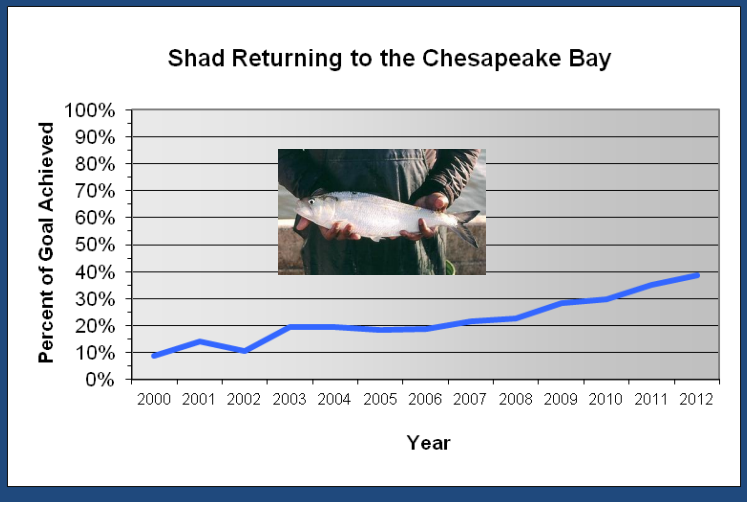
- Current indicator tracks abundance/targets in James, York, Potomac, Susquehanna.
- Revised indicator:
  - Adds Rappahannock data
  - Adds Lower James data
  - Revises York data
  - Revises weight of each river to calculate index
  - Static map on indicator webpage features status/trend charts for each component river
  - New dynamic map incorporates/features additional data

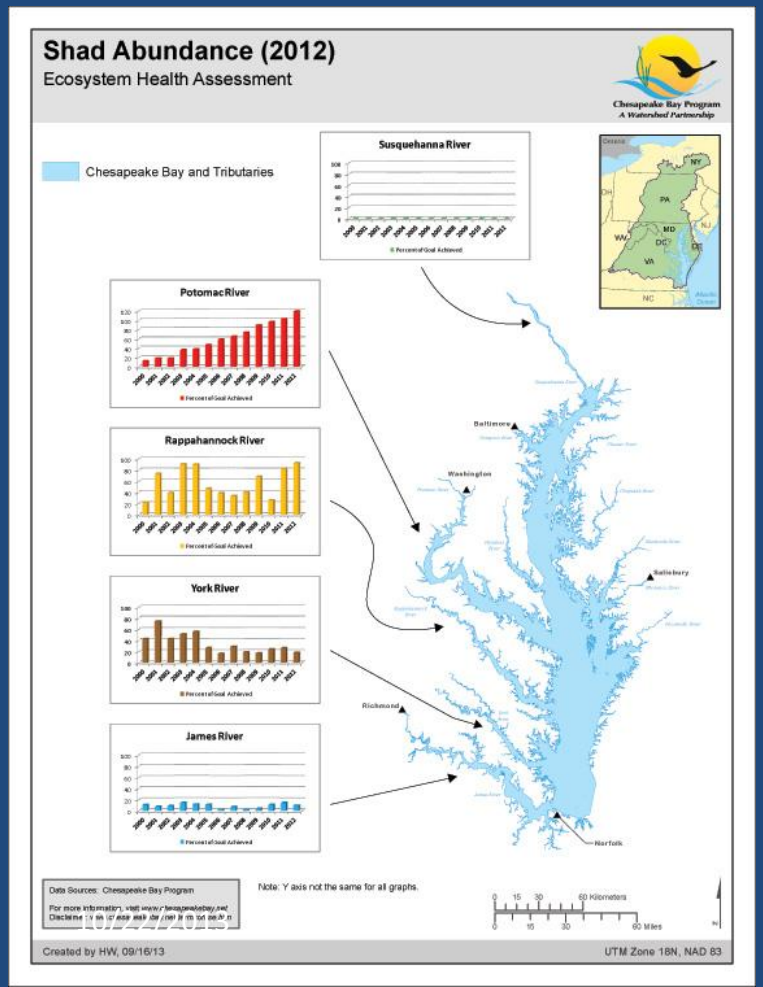


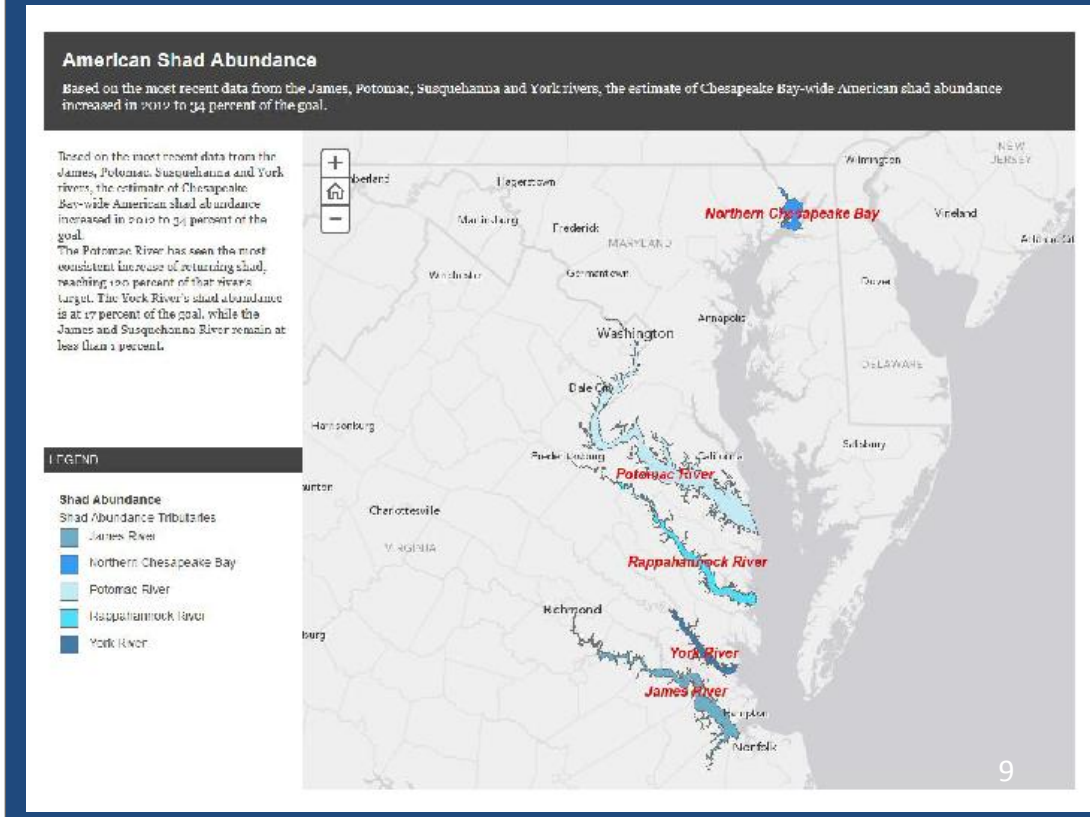


Requested Decision #1

- Approval to revise current shad indicator in “Track Our Progress” section of Bay.net website.







Watershed and River Health

Health of Freshwater Streams	Flow Adjusted Pollution Trends and Yield	Land Cover

• Health of Freshwater Streams in Watershed (R)	• Nitrogen: LT & ST FAC trends
	• Phosphorus: LT & ST FAC trends
	• Sediment: LT & ST FAC trends
	  • N - ST Yield
	  • P - ST Yield
	  • S - ST Yield
		• Forest Cover

- Green w/ "(R)": previously reported indicator already updated; to be revised
- Black: previously reported indicator to be updated

Restoration and Protection Efforts

Reducing Pollution	Restoring Habitats	Managing Fisheries	Protecting Watersheds	Fostering Stewardship

• Reducing N Pollution
• Reducing P Pollution
• Reducing S Pollution
  • Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades
	• Restoring Wetlands
	  • ~~Wetlands Enhance/ Rehab.~~
	• Reopening Fish Passage
	• Planting Bay Grasses (R)
	• Restoring Oyster Reefs (R)
		• Blue Crab Fishery Management	• Planting Forest Buffers
			• Protected Land
			• ~~Developing Watershed Management Plans~~
				• Public Access Sites
				  • ~~Water Trails~~
				  • ~~Bay Gateways~~
				• K-12 Education (R)

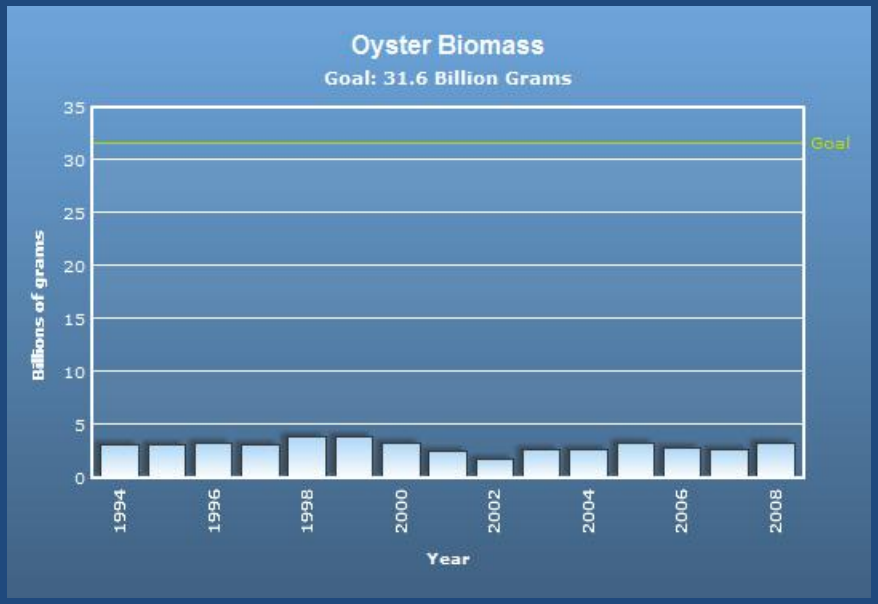
- Green: previously reported indicator already updated
- Green w/ "(R)": previously reported indicator already updated and revised
- Black: previously reported indicator to be updated
- Black: w/ "(R)": previously reported indicator to be replaced with new indicator
- ~~Strikeout text~~: previously reported indicator not updated and recommended for removal from "Track Our Progress"

What Will Be Developed?

- New Indicators to track new Agreement outcomes, e.g:
  - brook trout
  - oyster
  - black duck
  - environmental literacy
  - etc.

Requested Decision #2

- Approval to remove these indicators from “Track the Progress” section of Bay.net website <u>until new ones can be developed</u>.
  - Native Oyster Abundance
  - Restoring Oyster Reefs
- Oyster info will continue to be available in other locations of Bay.net website (per user audience interest).
- Com WG will continue to work with STAR to ensure those pages refer to best science available.



Requested Decision #3

- Approval to remove these indicators from “Track the Progress” section of Bay.net website :
  - Phytoplankton
  - Striped Bass Abundance
  - Juvenile Menhaden Abundance in MD
  - Wetlands Enhancement and Rehabilitation
  - Developing Watershed Management Plans
  - Bay Gateways Designated
  - Water Trails in the Bay Watershed
- Per user audience interest, info will continue to be available in other locations of Bay.net website.
- Com WG will continue to work with STAR to ensure those pages refer to best science available.