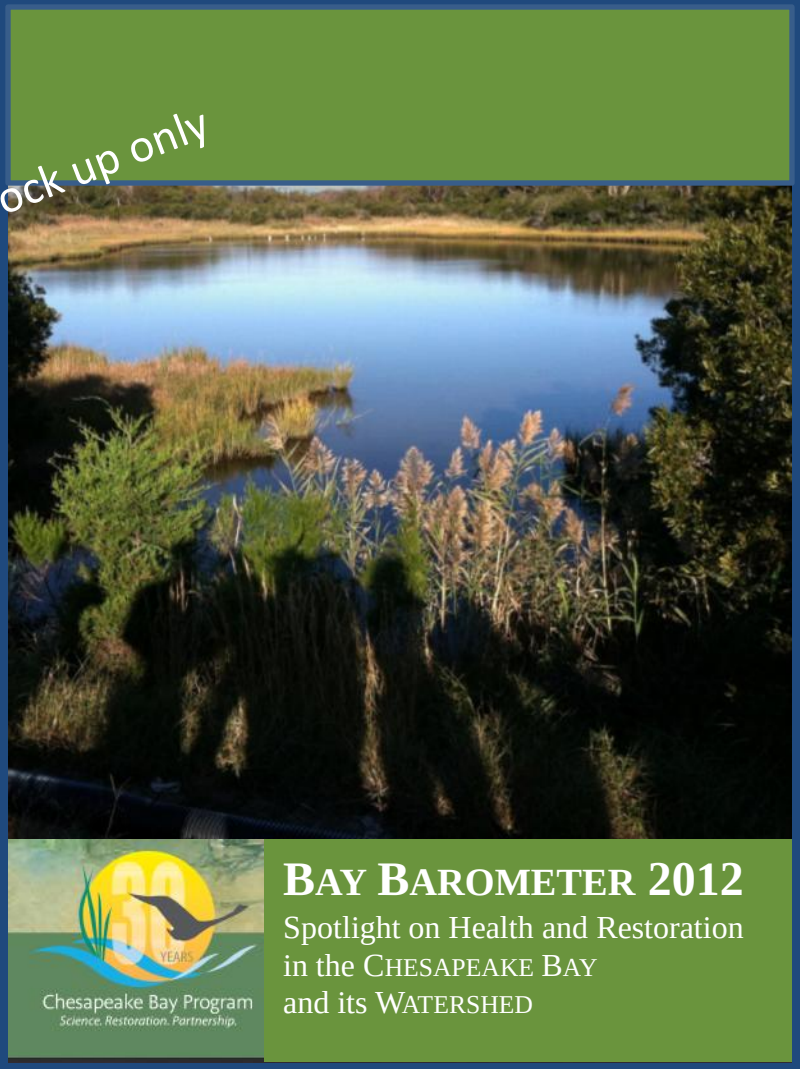


2012 Bay Barometer

MB Briefing

October 23, 2013

Margaret Enloe

(Alliance for the Bay)

Director, CBP Communications & Coordinator, Comm. Wkgp.

New – Summary page w/ icons

(Graphics are examples only for style; arrows for ref only; text is actual)

BAY HEALTH Indicators

Water Quality

30 percent of the Bay and its tidal rivers met overall conditions for healthy waters over 2009-2011

Underwater Grasses

48,191 acres of underwater grasses found in the Bay and shallows of tidal rivers

Toxics

74 percent of Bay and tidal rivers impaired or partially impaired

Blue Crabs

147 million spawning-age female blue crabs in the Bay

Striped Bass

82.7 million pounds of female, striped bass spawning stock in the Bay

American Shad

Rise in spawning shad in the rivers of the watershed

Bottom Habitat

45 percent of surveyed locations in the Bay had healthy populations of bottom-dwelling worms, clams and creatures that support the food web

New – Summary page (continued)

(Graphics are examples only for style; arrows for ref only; text is actual)

RESTORATION Indicators

Reducing Pollution to Bay & Tidal Rivers

Nitrogen loads reduced by an estimated 18.5 million pounds since 2009

Phosphorus loads reduced by an estimated 1.3 million pounds since 2009

Sediment loads reduced by an estimated 431 million pounds since 2009

Public Access

1,171 sites in the watershed offer people access to local waters for boating, fishing, sight-seeing and enjoying the natural beauty and resources

Wetlands

23,901 acres of wetlands established or reestablished in the watershed since 2010

Forest Buffers

285 miles of forests added along the edges of streams and rivers in the watershed in 2012; total 7,764

Fish Passage

34 more miles of rivers and streams reopened to migratory and resident fish across the Bay watershed in 2012; total 2,543

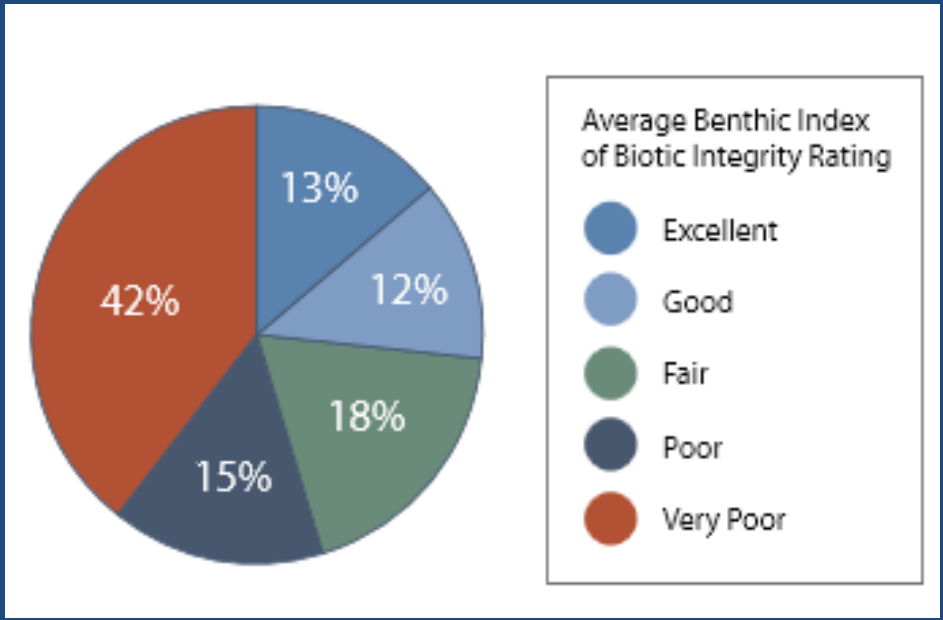
WATERSHED Health Indicators

Long Term Trends (25 years) – Nutrient levels improving; sediment lags behind

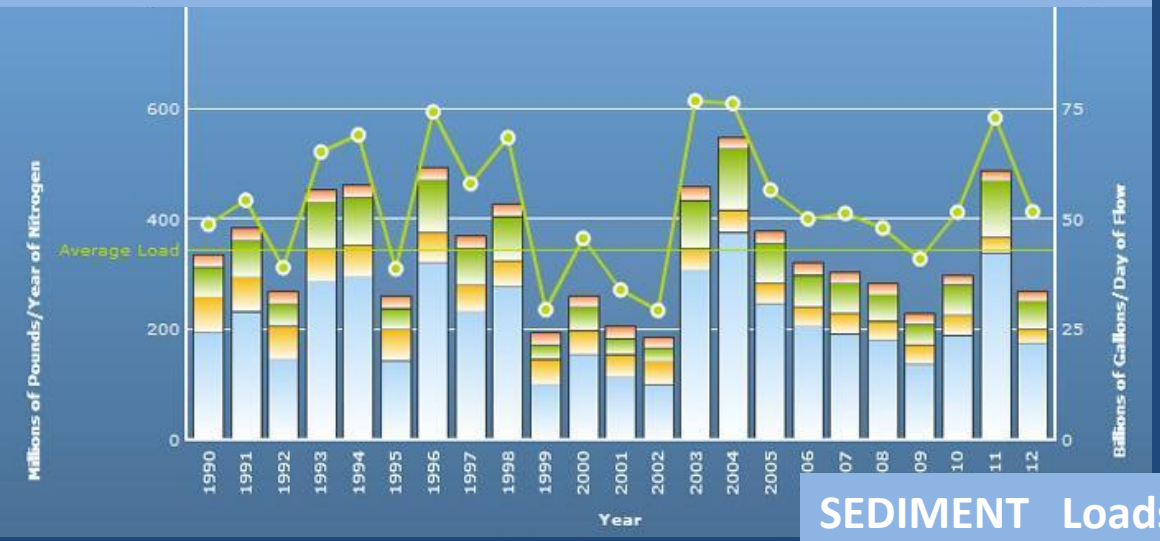
Nitrogen and Phosphorus decreases at 2/3 of monitoring sites

Sediment decreases at 1/2 of monitoring sites

Stream Health - same



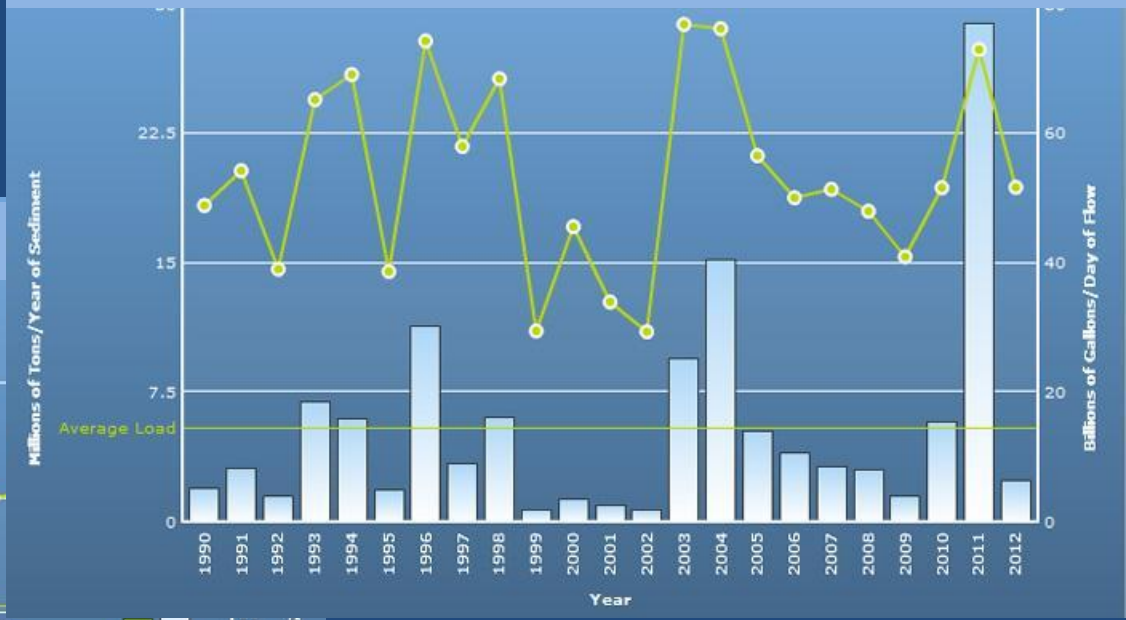
NITROGEN Loads & Flow



Loads & Flow 2012

2011 very wet
2012 very dry

SEDIMENT Loads & Flow



PHOSPHORUS Loads & Flow

News or Education pop outs (planned, space permitting)

- News: Oyster restoration efforts
- News: Striped Bass (ASMFC management & 2013 findings)
- News: Environmental Education (Envir. Literacy strategy)
- News: Pollution Diet – legal decision

- Learn the Issues: Lag Times
- Learn the Issues: Wastewater
- Learn the Issues: Nutrient and Sediment pollution

Public Release

- Media advisory
- News conference
  - mid-November (Annapolis area)
- News release
- Online
  - Web story and webpage, Bay Brief, Chesapeake Currents
  - Social Media outlets

Key Messages on Bay Barometer

1. *There are a lot of positive signs of strength and sustainability in the Bay.*
    1. *BB shows us the restoration progress, the health data and some hopeful items, too. (point to illustration)*
2. *It takes time for this strengths to show up in data that measures the ecosystem's health.* *(Restoration indicators up, health lags in some cases.)*
    1. There will always be a lag time between putting our restoration efforts in place and seeing improvements in health of the Bay and watershed.
        1. When you plant 100 trees to make a forest or set 100 thousand oysters on a reef, you can look at that work and record it on the spot.
        2. How that those trees grow and that reef expands and helps the Bay can only be tracked over time.
3. *We can hope (and even expect) positive signs will translate into positive results in 2013 figures.*

RESTORATION: Progress

1. Partners continue to make progress and results are visible and tangible.

   Examples:

   – CBP Partners report we've:

   - planted 285 miles of forest buffers,
   - created 18 new public access sites,
   - restored 23,901 acres of wetlands since 2010,
   - opened 34 more miles of streams to migrating fish, and
   - reduced pollution from nutrients and sediment even further.

HEALTH message: Challenges & Improvement

Examples

- **Long-term trends** for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution over the last 25 years show decreases at 2/3 of monitoring sites;
- **Long-term trends** for sediment pollution over the last 25 years show decreases in at ½ of monitoring sites;
- **Bay grasses:** Grass beds continue to feel the residual affects of warm water temps in 2010 and storms in 2011, resulting in lower abundance in 2012. Still, as expected, the large hardy grass beds, such as Susquehanna Flats, continued to show resilience.
- **Crabs:** Adult females resurged in 2012 by 51%
  - We are well above our target (strengthened in 2011) and also above the lower limit at which we would consider crabs to be 'overfished'
- **Shad:** Upticks in specific rivers show restoration efforts are helping this sensitive fish
- **Rockfish:** Expect results from ASMFC 2013 stock assessment later this year