

Dr. Kirk Havens, Chair
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
1375 Greate Road
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Dear Dr. Havens:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to STAC's review panel report entitled, "Evaluation of the Use of Shellfish as a Method of Nutrient Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay".

The partnership has decided, based on STAC's recommendation, to implement this BMP within the CBP modeling suite. The BMP will be implemented as a credit in the CBP accountability framework using numbers of oysters harvested. Estimates of oyster size and dry weights from Newell and Mann, 2012 will be combined with nutrient concentrations recommended in the STAC review report to credit nutrient reductions. This decision was made by the Watershed Technical Workgroup on 7/9/2014 and confirmed by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team on XX/XX/XX.

This credit will be applied to intensive aquaculture oysters only. We agree that extensive aquaculture and the wild oyster population are part of the overall functioning of the bay ecosystem. Aquaculture oysters are an anthropogenic effect in addition to the natural functioning and provide additional nutrient reduction.

The partnership understands from the report that STAC's recommendations were made under a lack of extensive data and that future revisions to these findings may follow additional research. The CBP is particularly interested in the generation of data and subsequent inclusion the in effectiveness analysis of oyster biodeposits.

Please extend my thanks to the review steering committee and external reviewers for the time and effort involved in the thoughtful production of this report. We appreciate the role of STAC in serving as an independent review body in improving our overall management of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

Sincerely,

Nick DiPasquale, Chair
Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board