

### **Strategy History**

- •First Strategy was written in 1978
- •The Strategy the SAV workgroup is currently operating under was signed by EC in 2003
- •Actions called for in that Strategy expired in 2008 (2010 for 185,000 ac Goal)
- SAV Workgroup started revising Strategy in 2008
   But placed on hold when it became apparent a review was necessary before proceeding
- •Restoration activities undertaken by the SAV workgroup were reviewed by STAC, with a report submitted December, 2011
- •Used that report to inform current 2013 Strategy revisions

### Overview of SAV Strategy

- I. STAC 2011
  - Conclusions
  - Recommendations
- II. SAV Strategy (2013) and Overarching Goal for SAV: 185,000 acres of SAV
  - Six Strategies are detailed and include two major themes:
    - Restoration Actions to increase SAV resource
    - Protection Actions for existing SAV resources
- III. Funding for 5 years ~ \$7.88m

### NOTE; THIS IS A COST, NOT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING

### I. STAC Review

#### Conclusions of previous restoration efforts

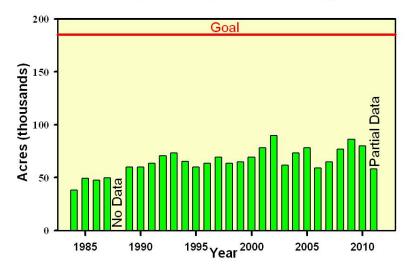
- Under the right conditions, SAV can be successfully planted
- Survival/persistence beyond 5 years is not typical
- Used informal adaptive management but room for improvement

#### Recommendations going forward

- Continue with restoration only in areas with acceptable water quality
- Continue targeted restoration efforts to establish viable beds and improve site selection criteria
- Develop SAV restoration strategies that will be responsive to climate change
- Use formal adaptive management for restoration and protection decision making
- Build on existing successful research of restoration techniques
- Guide implementation with focused research

### 1: Water Quality characterization/improvement for SAV Habitat protection and restoration

- Support through monitoring, mapping and review of water quality and SAV status and trends
- Coordinate with GIT 3 and GIT 4 goals, objectives and initiatives
- By December 2014, review water clarity criteria standards and attainment
- Continue aerial survey and manning to track annual progress to 185,000 acre goal Baywide Bay Grass Coverage



#### 2: Improve Protection of Existing SAV Beds

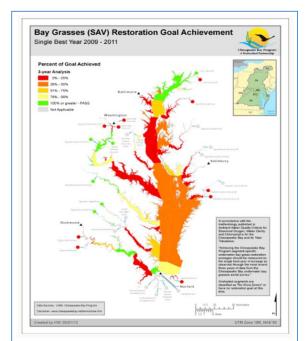
- Characterize threats to SAV, i.e. climate change and associated sea level rise
- By December 2014, identify and implement shoreline mgmt options for SAV growth/expansion
- Manage the regulatory program effectively reduce anthropogenic disturbance through "avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts" in process of permit review
- Advocate use of the 185,000 acre goal footprint for permitting decisions
- By December 2013, MD, DC, VA, to develop tributary specific guidelines against anthropogenic disturbance based on 185,000 acre goal.
- Establish SAV Protected Areas
- Minimize Impacts of invasive exotic species

- 3: Strategy to Accelerate SAV Restoration and Understanding of Ecosystem Processes through the Planting and Transplanting of New SAV Beds
  - Strategic targeting of restoration projects by annually performing water quality assessments and other habitat conditions
  - By December 2014, improve and implement a Bay-wide GIS based targeting system for SAV restoration using STAC results, etc. To be annually updated
  - Develop sources of plant material for restoration and research (December 2017 – ID techniques and facilities) / (December 2013 – SAV refugia/repositories)
  - Perform large-scale SAV planting (20 acres of SAV per year) and followup monitoring (December 2014 Publish Bay Program Web Protocols / Restoration Implementation Dbase). Evaluate success on pre-defined metric

3 years after planting at least 20% of the entire planted area will have at least a10% density cover of the planted SAV species, as estimated either by surface or diver surveys.

#### 4: Improve coordination of SAV Protection and Restoration

- Conduct regular meetings including conference calls and workshops that include jurisdictions and stakeholders
- Annually disseminate results of restoration and research activities to management and the public, i.e. Annual report, research summaries for Bay Program websites, partners' websites





#### 5: Enhance public communication and education

- Increase public involvement in SAV protection and restoration
- Coordinate with GIT 5 to consider ways to best educate public about protection and restoration of SAV.
- Work with the CBP and state webmasters to provide updates on status and location of SAV restoration activities and other important SAV items of interest
- Continue to involve students and citizens in SAV restoration activities such as propagation, ground-truthing for the aerial survey and water quality monitoring.
- Work with CBP Communications Office to coordinate SAV-related press communications among Bay Program jurisdictions, stakeholders and the public including survey results, planting successes, and new technologies.

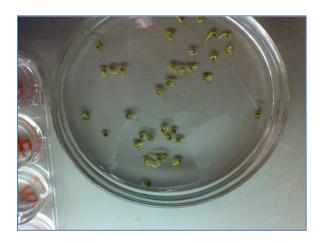




#### 6: Conduct research to support SAV Protection and Restoration

- By December 2013, develop, implement and disseminate results from SAV research agenda
- By December 2014, produce "SAV Habitat Requirements and Restoration Targets: Technical Synthesis III"
- Develop effective SAV restoration and protection methods through consideration of the factors influencing them





### III. SAV Strategy –Five Year Budget \$7.88M

- \$2,500,000 for research (\$500,000/year)
- \$2,277,600 for enhanced water quality monitoring
  - Includes modernizing 40 sondes (~\$700K)
  - \$313K/year for cruises, sample processing, staff
- \$2,008,050 for propagule production and restoring 20 acres per year
- \$500,000 for citizen involvement programs (\$100,000/yr)
- \$472,750 for staff time for coordination (1/4 FTE in MD, VA and DC and associated expenses such as travel, software etc.)
- \$110,000 to fund Technical Synthesis III (critical need)
- \$15,000 for workshops, etc.

## Request of the Management Board

- Approve, approve with revision or reject
   Strategy
- If approved (either directly or with revision) recommend next steps
  - Should we pursue PSC or EC approval?

## Thank you for your attention



### SAV Strategy and the Decision Framework



Adaptive Management – determination of next steps for SAV mgmt based on success of overall strategy – reviewed annually.

Performance
Assessment Evaluation
of the SAV Strategy,
actions and results of
monitoring.

Monitoring = Progress toward SAV goal Honoger Adaptively

Articulate program goals.

Identify the goals the GIT is working toward.

Performance Acceptance More Universities and Gaps.

Honoliering Hanagement Strategy

SAV Strategy outlines new/continued approaches to restoration and protection 185,000 acres/plant 20 acres every year

Biogeochemical, human factors, climate, research, and protection influence SAV presence/restoration

Insufficient
Stewardship/education/wa
ter quality, regulation,
protected areas, research,
improved site selection
and technology, funding