# CMC
## Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

## What is the CMC?

The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative is a group of leading organizations providing technical, logistical, and outreach support for the integration of new water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. We envision a Chesapeake community where all data of known quality are used to inform watershed management decisions and restoration efforts.

The Cooperative works with diverse partners to collect and share new and existing water quality data. We aim to develop a comprehensive understanding of Chesapeake Bay Watershed health. Data contributions by a network of volunteer and non-traditional sources will provide valuable information that supports shared decision-making and adaptive management.

## Who can participate?

- Any group interested in establishing a volunteer water quality monitoring program in their area. This can include, but is not limited to:
  - Watershed organizations
  - Environmental and conservation groups
  - Soil and water conservation districts
  - Local governments
  - Educational groups
  - Individuals
- Any group listed above that already collects water quality data and wants to contribute to the Chesapeake Bay Program and wider audiences.

## Why should you get involved?

- Free water quality monitoring training
- Assistance in acquiring monitoring supplies
- Technical support for establishing and maintaining a monitoring program
- Free data interpretation and report card development workshops
- Access to the user-friendly database for storing and managing water quality data

## How can you get involved?

Visit chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org to connect with the Team, sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter, and get information about trainings.

## Data availability, potential users, and uses:

Are you... *looking for more data on local streams?*
...*a monitoring program collecting quality data?*
...*concerned about the health of Chesapeake Bay and want to see data from other organizations?*

Data submitted to this project's database will be available to the public through a user-friendly interface. Anyone can access and use the data. Information that accompanies the raw data (metadata) will allow data users to identify the methodology and quality assurance criteria that fit their data-use needs.

## What data are we working with?

This project is focused on water quality monitoring, which includes chemical and physical assessments such as pH, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and nutrients. We are also focused on biological assessments, which includes benthic macroinvertebrates, chlorophyll, and bacteria.

## Tier designations based on use and quality assurance:

The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative uses a tiered structure to classify water quality and macroinvertebrate data of varying uses and levels of quality assurance. To advance through the tiers, an increase in quality assurance and quality control during sample collection and analysis, as well as increased precision and accuracy of methodology and equipment, is required.

| TIERS | Intended Data Use |
|---|---|
| TIER 1 | Education, Environmental Health Screening |
| TIER 2 | Environmental Health Report Cards, Environmental Health Screening, Targeting of Management Actions |
| TIER 3 | Chesapeake Bay Watershed trends and assessments to help inform policy and management decisions |

## Key players



*The CMC team includes representatives from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.*

Alliance *for the* Chesapeake Bay

Chesapeake Bay Program
*A Watershed Partnership*

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE
DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE

ALLARM
Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring
est. 1986

University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE