

Chesapeake Bay Program
Overarching/Priority Goals and Outcomes
Updated by GIT Chairs – October 19, 2012

1	<p>Sustainable Fisheries</p> <p><u>Overarching Goal:</u> Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and bay.</p> <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science. 2) Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 20 tributaries by 2025. 3) Improve fisheries health and production by connecting land use decision making with ecosystem science and policy and creating a precautionary management approach to ensure the sustainability of Chesapeake bay fisheries resources across jurisdictions. 	
2	<p>Vital Habitats</p> <p><u>Overarching Goal:</u> Restore a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed.</p> <p><u>Outcomes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wetlands: Restore 30,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands, and protect an additional 225,000 acres of wetlands by 2025. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Black Duck: Restore wetland habitats to support wintering black duck population in the watershed of 100,000 birds by 2025. 2) Streams: Restore stream health and function so that 70% of sampled stream sites throughout the watershed rate fair, good or excellent as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity by 2025. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Brook Trout: Increase naturally reproducing brook trout populations in headwater streams by 8% over existing catchment area by 2025. **Currently under revision to finer scale 'patch' metric** Currently under revision by STAR. TBD Dec 2012. b. Fish Passage: During the period of 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles. Presence of river herring, American shad, Hickory shad, Brook Trout and/or American eel in restored rivers and streams. 3) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation: Achieve and maintain 185,000 acres of SAV in Chesapeake Bay to meet water quality standards. 4) Forests: Riparian Forest Buffers: ~63% of all streams buffered by 2025. 	

3	Water Quality	
	<p><u>Overarching Goal:</u> Restore water quality to achieve standards for DO, clarity/SAV, and chlorophyll-a in the Bay and its tidal waters as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Have all controls installed to achieve the Bay's DO, water clarity/SAV, and chlorophyll a criteria by 2025. 2) Have practices in place by 2017 that will achieve 60 percent of the reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels. 	
4	Healthy Watersheds	
	<p><u>Overarching Goal:</u> Maintain local watersheds at optimal health across a range of landscape contexts.</p> <p>Strategies: (no specific outcomes yet, will replace strategies w/ outcomes @ Dec. GIT meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide a forum for mutual learning and exploration of scientific and management issues. 2) Develop information resources, including health and protection status tracking capabilities, and otherwise support communications in support of healthy watershed identification and protection. 3) Develop the science that supports better characterization of healthy watershed functional values. 	
5	Foster Stewardship	
	<p><u>Overarching Goal:</u> To promote stewardship and assist citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region.</p> <p>Goal: Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outcome: Protect an additional 2 million acres of lands throughout the watershed currently identified as high conservation priorities at the federal, state, or local level by 2025. <p>Goal: Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Outcome: Increase public access by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025. <p>Goal: Ensure that students in Chesapeake Bay Watershed states graduate environmentally literate with the tools they need to make informed choices to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Outcome: TBD 	
6	Partnering and Leadership	
	<p><u>Overarching Goal:</u> Continually improve governance and management to ensure Program effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and partner participation.</p>	

GAPS: Toxic Contaminants, Social/Economic Indicators