



**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board Meeting
July 9, 2015**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Jul 23 Executive Council Meeting (DC, National Arboretum)
Jul 30 STAR meeting
Aug 13 Management Board conference call
Sep 8-9 STAC meeting
Sep 16-17 Citizens' Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting (Havre de Grace)
Sep TBD Principals' Staff Committee Quarterly Meeting
Sept 17? MB meeting
Sep 24-25 LGAC meeting
Sep 25-27 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum

Program Updates

Third Circuit Court TMDL lawsuit decision

The federal courts have once again rejected a legal challenge to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia ruled that EPA's action to set pollution limits for the Chesapeake Bay is authorized by, and consistent with, the Clean Water Act.

In 2011, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the National Association of Home Builders and a number of agricultural trade associations filed suit against the EPA, claiming the federal agency lacked authority to issue the TMDL. Numerous local and national partners intervened in support of the EPA, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mid-shore Riverkeeper Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation and others. In 2013, Pennsylvania Federal Judge Sylvia Rambo upheld the pollution limits, leading plaintiffs to appeal.

Affirming a 2013 lower court ruling, the Court's unanimous decision is a victory for the 18 million people in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The American Farm Bureau Federation plans to review the ruling for several days before deciding whether to appeal or take other actions.

Chesapeake Bay Program Responses to STAC Reports

Two Bay Program responses to STAC reports have been shared with the Management Board for comment. Comments on the *Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* are due by July 15, and comments on the *Estimating Land Management Effects on Water Quality Status and Trends* report are due by July 22.

Contact: Nick DiPasquale, dipasquale.nicholas@epa.gov

Federal Facility Targets Protocol Finalized

On June 30, CBP Director Nick DiPasquale transmitted the final *Protocol for Setting Targets, Planning BMPs and Reporting Progress for Federal Facilities and Lands* (Protocol) to the CBP partnership's Management Board. The Protocol, dated June 22, was crafted by the Federal Facility Targets Action Team, co-chaired by CBP Deputy Director Jim Edward, and sets targets, develops plans and accounts for reporting progress made in reducing nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff from federal lands and facilities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This will assist Bay jurisdictions in setting federal facility targets in their 2-year Milestones and Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans. Contact: Jim Edward (410) 267-570 edward.james@epa.gov

Final Management Strategies Posted Online

On June 30 the CBP partnership posted to the web the 25 Management Strategies that support the 10 goals and 31 outcomes of the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The strategies build upon the vast scientific and policy expertise that makes our organization unique and strong. They also reflect the many interests and opinions offered by concerned citizens and organizations across the region during the public comment period which closed on April 30. These Management Strategies have been passed on to the Chesapeake Executive Council, who in turn will formally release them during their annual meeting July 23.

Contact: Greg Barranco (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

2015 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

On Thursday, July 23, the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) will hold its annual meeting at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., to set goals and guidance for the partnership. Council Chair, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, will preside over a public meeting and press conference of this senior level of Bay Program leadership following a private luncheon of the Executive Council.

Contact: Margaret Enloe, (410) 267-5740

STAC Report on Human Behavior

The field of behavioral economics seeks to understand how individuals interpret information and why they make certain choices. In a new report, experts from the Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) explore the subject and its potential uses for the Bay region. *Exploring Applications of Behavioral Economics Research to Environmental Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* suggests that partnerships between policymakers and social scientists could help identify additional ways to blend behavioral research with restoration work. Several recommendations for research are included, such as how community recognition could make homeowners more likely to implement conservation practices.

The report, *Exploring Applications of Behavioral Economics Research to Environmental Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, is available on the STAC website at:

<http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/index.php>

Blue crab population shows modest rise, stock considered sustainable

According to the 2015 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report, released by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), the start of the 2015 crabbing season saw 101 million adult female blue crabs in the Bay. This marks a 47 percent increase from last year's abundance of adult females. Because blue crab abundance is above the 70 million threshold, the blue crab stock is not considered depleted. And because just 17 percent of adult females were harvested in 2014—well below the 25.5 percent target—overfishing is not occurring.

In its report, CBSAC urged the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) to maintain a risk-averse management approach to protect juvenile crabs, whose numbers fluctuate from year to year. The committee, which is made up of scientists, academics and government representatives and housed under the Bay Program's Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT), also recommended evaluating the establishment of a Bay-wide allocation-based management framework.

An allocation-based management framework would allocate an annual "total allowable catch" of male and female crabs to Maryland, Virginia and the PRFC. In the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Bay Program committed to evaluating the establishment of this framework. "[This report] directly supports our efforts to achieve the blue crab outcomes set forth in the [Watershed] Agreement, using the best science available to provide meaningful input to management decisions made by jurisdictions," said Peyton Robertson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office Director and Sustainable Fisheries GIT Chair, in a media release.

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

LGAC's next quarterly meeting will be held in Shepherdstown WV in conjunction with the Chesapeake Watershed Forum, September 24-25, 2015. A pre-Forum workshop on Integrated Infrastructure Programs is planned. To be added to the Interested Parties list, please contact Amy Robins at arobins@allianceforthebay.org.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.

At the last quarterly CAC meeting the members discussed the three main topics for recommendations to the Executive Council. Their comments will center around taking advantage of untapped federal funding, making the Agreement workplans relevant on the local level, and exploring ways to use innovation and independent evaluation of verification practices. They also reconstituted their subcommittees to align with the Agreement Goals. The new subcommittees are: Water Quality,

Agriculture and Fisheries, Land Use and Urban Stormwater, and Stewardship. The next CAC meeting will be held on September 16-17 in Havre de Grace, MD.

Contact: Jessica Blackburn, jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

STAC will hold its second quarterly meeting of FY 2015 on September 8-9, 2015 at an undetermined location in (or near) Annapolis, Maryland. Please direct any STAC quarterly meeting questions or inquiries to STAC staff, Renee Kelly at kellyr@si.edu.

FY 2015 Workshops: STAC approved funding for the following seven workshop proposals. Funding began on June 1, 2015 and ends on May 31, 2016. Planning for these workshops is underway.

- 1) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System
- 2) Conowingo Infill Influence on Chesapeake Water Quality
- 3) The Development of Standardized Climate Projections for Use in Chesapeake Bay Program Assessments
- 4) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making
- 5) Optimization for TMDL Implementation Planning
- 6) Enhancing Capacity to Support the Chesapeake Agreement Outcome through Increased Integration of Regional Science and Management Efforts
- 7) Integrating and Leveraging Monitoring Networks to Support the Assessment of Outcomes in the New Bay Agreement

For additional information about the workshops above, contact Rachel Dixon at dixonra@si.edu or visit the STAC workshop webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_ws.php.

STAC is in the process of finalizing four workshop reports. Below is a list of reports that STAC will distribute over the next few months.

- 1) Re-plumbing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Improving Roadside Ditch Management to Meet TMDL Water Quality Goals.
- 2) Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities.
- 3) Evaluating Proprietary BMPs: Is it time for a State, Regional, or National Program?
- 4) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making.

STAC distributed a workshop report in June, 2015. The report entitled "Exploring Applications of Behavioral Economics Research to Environmental Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" was distributed on June 29, 2015. This report is a summary of a 2014 workshop that investigated different potential applications of behavioral economics, and behavior decision research related to Policy-making in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The report can be found on the STAC publications database at: http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/342_Abdalla2015.pdf.

Finally, STAC is working closely with CBP representatives to plan for the upcoming CBP Partnership requested STAC sponsored independent scientific peer reviews. The ~8 remaining reviews will take place between now and 2016. The STAC reviews will help inform the Partnership's 2017 Midpoint Assessment. The list of upcoming STAC reviews is below.

- 1) 2015 Chesapeake Bay Criteria Addendum

- 2) Proposed revised James River chlorophyll *a* water quality criteria
- 3) Application of WRTDS to watershed WQ trend analysis and explanations and General Additive Models (GAMs) to estuarine WQ trend analysis and explanations
- 4) Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder
- 5) Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
- 6) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
- 7) Approach being taken to factor climate change considerations into the 2017 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment

For additional information regarding the reviews above, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu or visit the STAC review webpage at: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/stac_rev.php.

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

- **Blue Crab Advisory Report:** CBSAC just published the 2015 Blue Crab Advisory Report which was endorsed by the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee. The blue crab population is currently **not overfished** and **overfishing is not occurring** based on the female-specific reference points for abundance and exploitation rate.
 - The report can be found [here](#) under “Publications” on the Fisheries GIT web page.
- **Full Fisheries GIT Meeting:** The full Fisheries GIT met on June 1-2nd, 2015 at CBF’s Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA. The meeting addressed multiple GIT priorities including striped bass, forage, habitat and blue crabs. GIT members also discussed management strategy public comments and next steps for developing work plans. Thanks to all the presenters for the really fantastic, compelling presentations!
 - The meeting featured updates on two projects funded by the EPA-CBP GIT funding: development of a striped bass health indicator and development of forage indicators.
 - All meeting materials (agenda, presentations) can be found [here](#).
- **Cownose Rays:** During the public comment period at the Fisheries GIT meeting, Sonja Fordham of Shark Advocates International requested that the Fisheries GIT support a workshop to discuss the best available science on cownose rays. The concern is that cownose rays are being killed using bow and arrow during tournaments, but potential effects this might have on their populations are not known. Cownose rays are considered to be nuisance by some because of perceived population increases and predation on oyster reefs and clam aquaculture.
 - Inquiries and press on the issue have been increasing in Maryland and organizations have been contacting the Fisheries GIT.
 - The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office has previously funded research on basic biology and potential predation of oysters by cownose rays.
 - ***Sonja Fordham is developing a workshop proposal for review by the Fisheries GIT.***
- **Forage Workshop Report:** STAC is currently reviewing the final report for the “Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities” workshop submitted by co-

chairs Tom Ihde (ERT/NCBO) and Ed Houde (UMCES-CBL). This is the last review period before the report is finalized.

- The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will have their next monthly conference call in late July.

Contact: Bruce Vogt, bruce.vogt@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

- Wetland Expert Panel back up and running. The panel is reviewing wetland uptake efficiencies for 3 counties (one in each hydro-geomorphic region) in preparation for making recommendations to the Land Use Workgroup for the model re-calibration.
- The response letter has been prepared from the Chesapeake Bay Program Director to STAC regarding 'Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed' STAC report recommendations.
- SAV Workgroup has new Co-Chairs: Brooke Landry and Becky Golden, MD DNR.
- Stream Health Management Strategy issues with permitting language worked out to satisfaction of USACE, other partners; thanks to Neely Law and Rich Starr (Stream Health WG Co-Chairs) for leading these fruitful discussions.
- Steering Committee call held June 17; workgroups have begun prioritizing items for workplans.
- Planning for fall HGIT meeting in October; location TBD but will focus on applying landscape-level science tools to help prioritize and target actions called for in the biennial workplans.
- The Mid Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive species met on June 30th to discuss proposals received for their small grants program.
- After 3 years of supporting the Habitat GIT, Staffer Hannah Martin will soon be moving on to other opportunities; she will be greatly missed!

Contact: Jennifer Greiner, Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held a conference call on June 22:

- The WQGIT was briefed on the status of the Nutrient Management Phase 5.3.2 expert panel report, which was released for partnership review on June 25. WQGIT members were also invited to attend the webinar briefing of the full report on July 1.
- The WQGIT discussed potential revisions to their Governance Protocol to reflect recent changes in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's governance document. Substantive changes that were discussed included an expanded definition of consensus decision-making; removal of supermajority voting; procedures for selecting a WQGIT Chair and Vice-Chair; and a definition of WQGIT and WQGIT Workgroup membership.

Upcoming WQGIT Topics for July 13 conference call:

- The WQGIT will be seeking final approval of the proposed revisions to the BMP Protocol document.
- The WQGIT will be seeking final approval of the Shoreline Management BMP expert panel report.

Other Updates:

- Draft BMP Verification Program Plans were due from the jurisdictions on June 30. All received draft Plans were sent to the BMP Verification Review Panel on July 1 so they could begin their initial review.
- The due date for jurisdictions to submit their draft historical BMP data was June 30.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.

- The Healthy Watersheds, Land Use Options Evaluation and Land Use Methods and Metrics Management Strategies are now in final form thanks to GIT leaders and members who were significant contributors along the development process.
- GIT leaders are in communication with TetraTech who will, within the next month, provide a scope of work entailing costs and what likely will be required to successfully carry out the management approach tasks of the Land Use Options Evaluation Management Strategy.
- The GIT is in the process of brainstorming project proposal ideas for this year's EPA GIT funding cycle. Several ideas are very relevant to the land use and/or healthy watersheds management strategies.
- GIT leaders are currently preparing for a GIT meeting in September which will focus on the management strategy workplans. It is also likely that there will be one or two case study presentations on ongoing healthy watershed conservation work.

Contact: Tuana Phillips, Phillips.tuana@epa.gov

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.

Citizen Stewardship

The Stewardship Team is continuing to make progress on developing a method to track changes in public attitudes, behaviors, and actions related to stewardship. A stewardship behavior survey tool is in the process of being developed; field interviewing is scheduled for late summer/fall. This summer the Stewardship Team will convene to kick off the work plan development process. Please contact Amy Handen at Amy.Handen@nps.gov for more information.

Environmental Literacy

The Education Workgroup leadership met on July 6th to discuss the agenda for the upcoming Environmental Literacy Summit being held at NCTC on November 9 & 10, and give updates on the ELIT tool data collection effort. Contact Shannon Sprague at Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov for more information.

Public Access

A July/August meeting is being planned for the Public Access Team to kick off the work plan development process. For more information please contact John Davy at John.Davy@nps.gov.
Land Conservation

Throughout May and June, a work group of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership conducted research to inform the development of a coordinated mitigation strategy to minimize the impacts of linear infrastructure projects. The group is preparing a summary of preliminary findings and will brief the Steering Committee at the in-person meeting scheduled for July 21 in Annapolis.

Progress continues on the Protected Lands management strategy. The draft received minor public comments and the final draft scheduled to be released on June 30. The next phase is the formation of a biennial work plan which will outline the actions each jurisdiction or agency will accomplish over the next two years to contribute to the goal of protecting an additional two million acres by 2025.

Planning is underway for the Partnership's Annual Meeting on October 5-6, 2015 at the National Conservation Training Center. Capacity has been expanded to accommodate 150 participants in response to growing interest in the Partnership. Registration information will be sent in early July. For more information on the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership contact Kate.Baker@partner.nps.gov.
Contact: Amy Handen, ahanden@chesapeakebay.net

Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team

The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.

Contact: Peter Tango, ptango@chesapeakebay.net

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

Upcoming Editorial Calendar

July

7.1(Wed.) Media release/News post: [CBSAC Report](#)

7.2(Thurs.) Chesapeake Currents/John Davy article on public access

7.2(Thurs.) News post: STAC report on behavioral economics

7.6(Mon.) From the Field: CBIBS buoys

7.7(Tues.) Restoration Spotlight: Oregon Dairy in Lancaster County, Pa.

7.9(Thurs.) Feature: Green Muslims
7.21(Tues.) By the Numbers: Chemical contaminants
7.23(Thurs.) Media release/News post: EC Meeting

July TBD

UMCES: Chesapeake Bay report card (when SAV data is in)
Photo Essay: Eagle tagging
News post: Urban Waters Small Grants awards

August TBD

News post: SAV data
Restoration Spotlight: Butler Farms in Inwood, WV

CBP News Releases

- CBSAC – see: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/presscenter>
- SAV data – discussion abt promotion

CBP Comm Activities

- MS Release (6/30) – complete
- EC Planning
- Working with the Web Team on responsive redesigns of the Field Guide and Track the Progress sections of the Bay Program website

Contact: Margaret Enloe, menloe@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

June 30	Management Strategies final
June 30	Jurisdictions finalize BMP Verification Programs
June 25	Scientific Technical Analysis and Reporting (STAR) meeting
June 18	Federal Leadership Committee Designees Meeting
June 16	1 year anniversary of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement signing