

SAV Restoration Goals

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership adopted a baywide 185,000 acres goal for underwater grasses abundance, which was based on historical (measurements of SAV abundance throughout the Bay. Partnership adopted, segment specific acreage goals reflect numbers that were clipped while also accounting for depth limitations.

However, the baywide water quality standards adopted by the tidal jurisdictions, in most cases, are not reflective of the Partnership adopted goals (Table vi-1 expanded; Table vi-2 expanded). Instead, they often reflect the expanded SAV restoration goals without clipping and/or depth limitations. Virginia fairly consistently adopted the expanded SAV restoration goal into their standards with the following exceptions:

Segment	WQS Acreage Goal
RPPOH	4
RPPMH	1700
YRKPH	2793
JMSMH	200
JMSPH	300
JMSTF1	1000
JMSTF2	200

Maryland standards, although scattered amongst the various means of calculating SAV acreage, can all be traced back to the attached tables, with a couple exceptions: BACOH (Back River) and CHSTF (Upper Chester River). In 2007, USEPA, under the published ambient water quality criteria guidance, proposed 340 and 230 acres as the new SAV restoration goal for the Back River and Upper Chester River, respectively. These numerical values were calculated as the shallow-water habitat area divided by 2.5. However, the acreage values actually adopted into Maryland's standards for the Back and Upper Chester Rivers is 30 and 1, respectively, which is based on observed data.

Accountability and adaptive management are key elements of the CBP Partnership. Which restoration goals we ultimately measure towards has a direct impact on our accountability for how well we are faring in our efforts to restore water quality. Jurisdictions are required to meet their standards, and therefore, we should be consistent in our accountability measures and consider revising the 185,000 acres goal to the 192,000 acres that our partners are expected to restore.