

#### Overview Chesapeake Watershed Agreement 2014 *draft* Management Strategies

April 30, 2015



#### Chesapeake Watershed Agreement (June 2014)

- Purpose: Continue protection & restoration efforts
- Who: Chesapeake Bay Program = Regional Partnership
  - 6 Bay States (MD, VA, PA, NY, DE, WV)
  - District of Columbia
  - Chesapeake Bay Commission
  - Federal Government (EPA, AG, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior & Transportation)
- Vision: ".....an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders."



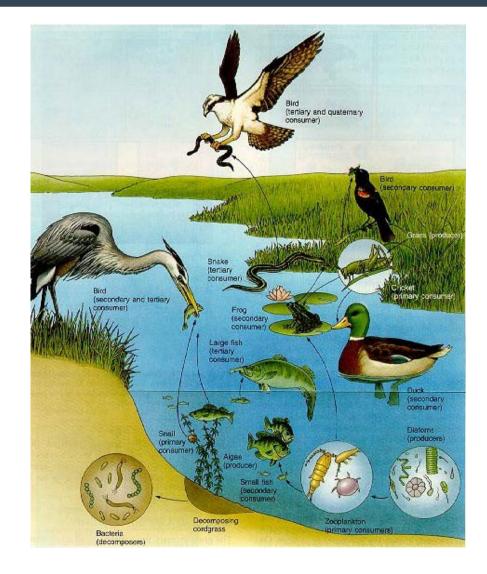
#### **Key Components**

- Although a "voluntary" agreement signatories are committed to core values & willing to take action to advance restoration and protection of Chesapeake Bay & tributaries
- Agreement consists of 31 interconnected outcomes
  - Outcomes = specific, time-bound, measurable targets
- 25 Management Strategies
  - outline steps to achieve outcomes
- Seeking public input on draft Management Strategies
- Open public comment: March 16 April 30 (special extension to May 11<sup>th</sup> for TFAC comments)



#### **Abundant Life Outcomes**

- •Blue Crab Abundance & Management
- •Fish Habitat
- •Forage Fish
- •Oysters
- •Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAVs)
- •Wetlands
- •Black Ducks
- •Brook Trout
- •Fish Passage
- •Forest Buffers
- •Stream Health
- •Tree Canopy





#### **Clean Water Outcomes**

- Watershed Implementation Plans (2017 & 2025)
- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention
- Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring
- Healthy Watersheds
- Toxic Contaminants Research





# Land Conservation Outcomes

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development
- Land Use Options Evaluation





# **Engaged Communities Outcomes**

- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Diversity
- Environmental Literacy Planning
- Students
- Public Access Site Development
- Sustainable Schools





## **Climate Resiliency Outcomes**

- Climate Adaptation
- Climate Monitoring and Assessment





Management Strategies (provide broad, overarching direction)

- Describe the steps to reach the outcomes by 2025
- Format includes 7 sections
  - Overarching Goal, Outcome Statement and Baseline
  - Participating Partners
  - Factors Influencing Success
  - Gaps
  - Management Approaches
  - Monitoring Progress
  - Assessing Progress
  - Adaptively Managing
  - Biennial Workplan (will be developed by December 2015)



Chesapeake Watershed Agreement 2014

#### **Blue Crab Abundance & Management Outcomes**

**Sustainable Fisheries Goal**: "Protect, restore and enhance 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"

**Blue Crab Abundance Outcome**: "Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science"

**Blue Crab Management Outcome**: "Manage for a stable and productive crab fishery including working with the industry, recreational crabbers and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. By 2018, evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions for the purpose of accounting for and adjusting harvest by each jurisdiction"



# Management Strategy Timeline

- Open public comment period March 16 April 30, 2015
- Incorporate comments
- CBP Management Board review
- Principal Staff Committee review May 1 June 29, 2015
- Final Management Strategies released June 30, 2015
- Goal Implementation Teams develop 2-yr work plans July 1-Dec 14
- First biennial work plan due December 15, 2015
- Next updated work plan December 2017



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