



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 11th 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)



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



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chesapeake Watershed Agreement 2014

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www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies

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