



Chesapeake Bay Program

A WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
FOR A WHOLE ECOSYSTEM

CBP partners and staff have expertise that is as
broad and varied as the Bay watershed itself.
They represent the best in



The Chesapeake Bay Program Outcome Attainability

November 23, 2021

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Outcome Attainability Team (OAT)

- For those Outcomes that have a target and a timeline:
 - What do we know about the status?
 - Which are on track, which are significantly off track?
 - What don't we know?
- For those Outcomes that have either no target or timeline:
 - How do we define success?
- Based on the answers to the questions above, where do we focus our time and attention?

Watershed Agreement Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance & Management
- Oyster Restoration
- Fish Habitat
- Forage fish

Vital Habitats

- Fish Passage
- Forest Buffers
- Stream Health
- Brook Trout
- SAV
- Tree Canopy
- Wetlands
- Black Duck

Clean Water

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

Conserved Lands

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Options Evaluation
- Land Use Methods & Metrics

Engaged Communities

- Diversity
- Public Access
- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning
- Student MWEEs

Climate Change

- Climate Monitoring and Assessment
- Climate Adaptation

Watershed Agreement Outcomes with Targets and Timelines

Sustainable Fisheries	Vital Habitat	Clean Water	Conserved Lands	Engaged Communities	Climate Change
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*Target and date set by CBP. Not in original Outcome language

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Outcome Dashboard

To Accompany the Progress Report

Summary (31 original outcomes, 29 remaining)

- On Course: 12
- Off Course: 11
- Uncertain: 6

Strengths

- Quick Program snapshot
- Can be used to galvanize action
- Can be used to prioritize where collective effort is spent



Outcomes with targets and timeframes

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES GOAL

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **NO CHANGE** | LONG TERM **ON COURSE** [Blue Crab Abundance](#)

Maintain crab population at 215 million adult females. Refine targets through 2025 based on best science.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **INCREASE** | LONG TERM **ON COURSE** [Oyster Restoration](#)

Restore native habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025.

VITAL HABITATS GOAL

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **NO CHANGE** | LONG TERM **OFF COURSE** [Brook Trout](#)

Restore and sustain brook trout populations with 8% increase in occupied habitat by 2025.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **INCREASE** | LONG TERM **ON COURSE** [Fish Passage](#)

By 2025 open an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **DECREASE** | LONG TERM **OFF COURSE** [Forest Buffers](#)

Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year and conserve existing buffers until at least 70% of riparian areas are forested.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **NO CHANGE** | LONG TERM **UNCERTAIN** [Stream Health](#)

Improve health and function of 10% of stream miles above the 2008 baseline.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **DECREASE** | LONG TERM **OFF COURSE** [Submerged Aquatic Vegetation \(SAV\)](#)

90,000 acres by 2017; 130,000 acres by 2025; ultimate goal of 185,000 acres.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **NO CHANGE** | LONG TERM **OFF COURSE** [Tree Canopy](#)

Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **INCREASE** | LONG TERM **OFF COURSE** [Wetlands](#)

Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025.

SHORT TERM PROGRESS **INCREASE** | LONG TERM **OFF COURSE** [Black Duck](#)

By 2025, restore, enhance, and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

Detailed Outcome Summaries

Strengths

- Provides more detail than dashboard
- Easy access for staff briefings
- Opportunity to identify known impediments
- Opportunity to identify path forward
- Characterize quantitative and qualitative outcomes

OUTCOME: Continually increase finfish and shellfish habitat and water quality benefits from restored oyster populations. Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 and ensure their protection.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The [Oysters Outcome](#) is on course. Three (Harris Creek, Lafayette River and Little Choptank River) of the 10 tributaries scheduled for restoration have been completed and formally recognized as restored. Three more were completed in 2021 (Lynnhaven, Piankatank and Tred Avon rivers) and will be formally recognized later on this year. Planning, financial resources and construction schedules are in place for the remaining four tributaries (Great Wicomico, Manokin, Lower York and Upper St. Mary's rivers). Additionally, the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Virginia has been restored to the same standard as the original ten tributaries. This outcome is expected to be met by 2025.

BACKGROUND: The [Executive Order 13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) included a goal to restore oyster populations in 20 tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. In response to this goal, the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team established the Oyster Metrics Workgroup to develop common Bay-wide restoration goals, success metrics and monitoring and assessment protocols for sanctuary reefs including progress toward achieving a sustainable oyster population and ultimately increasing levels of ecosystem services. Based on experience with current restoration implementation and resource availability, experts determined that an outcome of restoring native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 was a more appropriate goal to include in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

BASELINE: One tributary (Harris Creek) had been identified, but not yet restored, for large-scale oyster restoration by the time the most recent *Watershed Agreement* was signed in 2014.

DATA SOURCE: The Maryland and Virginia Oyster Restoration Interagency Teams are responsible for developing Oyster Restoration Tributary Plans for each waterway, in consultation with partners and scientists. These plans have been developed for all 10 selected tributaries and include information such as target reef acreage to be constructed and project costs.

Restoration is documented in annual reports developed by the Maryland and Virginia Oyster Restoration Interagency Teams and produced the auspices of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team.

Proposal: Workshops and Reporting

Workshops

- Three One-day facilitated workshops hosted by the Wetlands and Forestry Workgroups
 - Tidal Wetlands
 - Non-Tidal Wetlands
 - Forest Buffers
 - Who: Workgroup members, appropriate program managers identified by the workgroups, the Management Board, and others

Reporting

- Biennial State of the Program Report
 - Synthesize and format the one page detailed outcome summaries along with the dashboard to create a State of the Program Report for the Executive Council
 - Who: Goal Implementation Teams, Coordinators, Staffers (input)
 - Communications Team (coordination, standardize)

Take Home Message

- We're doing great on 12 outcomes, lets celebrate and keep working to achieve them.
- Focus on water quality and rapidly accelerate progress on wetland and forest buffers. These will help improve multiple outcomes such as brook trout, black duck, climate, fish habitat, and water quality.
- We have challenges with some outcomes, we understand these and are continuing to work on resolving them at the Management Board. Maintain focus and report progress regularly, beginning with the State of the Program Report.