

Quarterly Progress Meeting - August 2017



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

Goal: *Vital Habitats Goal*



Outcome:

Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward the ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of 90,000 acres by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.



What We Want



Public and Political Engagement

- Promote benefits of SAV

- Support of sustainable SAV monitoring program

Assistance from Budget & Finance Workgroup

- Identify additional funding partners for SAV monitoring program (short-term)

- Develop a sustainable finance strategy for SAV monitoring program (long-term)

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Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?



Logic Behind Our Outcome

Following the Decision Framework:

Factors Influencing Success

- Suitable Habitat Conditions
- SAV Monitoring
- Public Outreach & Communication
- Political Engagement/
Funding

Current Efforts and Gaps

- Funding SAV monitoring & restoration
- Investments in SAV restoration research
- Lack of effective SAV communications strategy

Management Approaches

- Restore water quality
- Protect existing SAV
- Restore SAV in suitable areas
- Enhance Research, Citizen Involvement & Education in the Bay watershed

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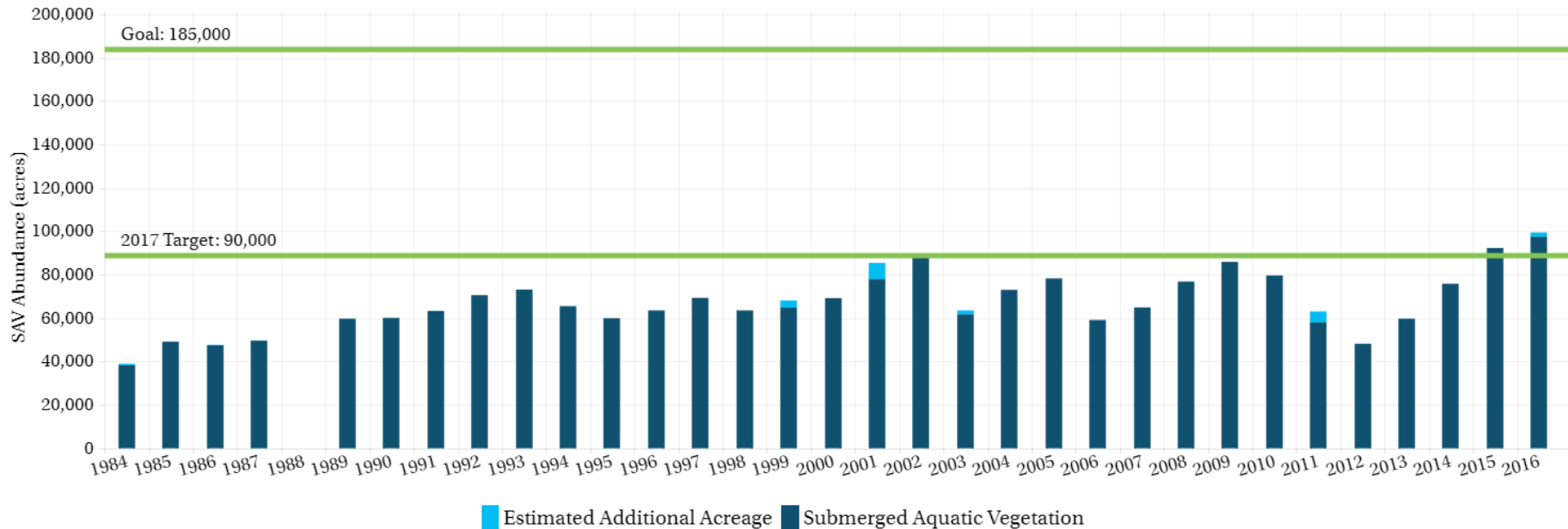
Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



What is our progress?

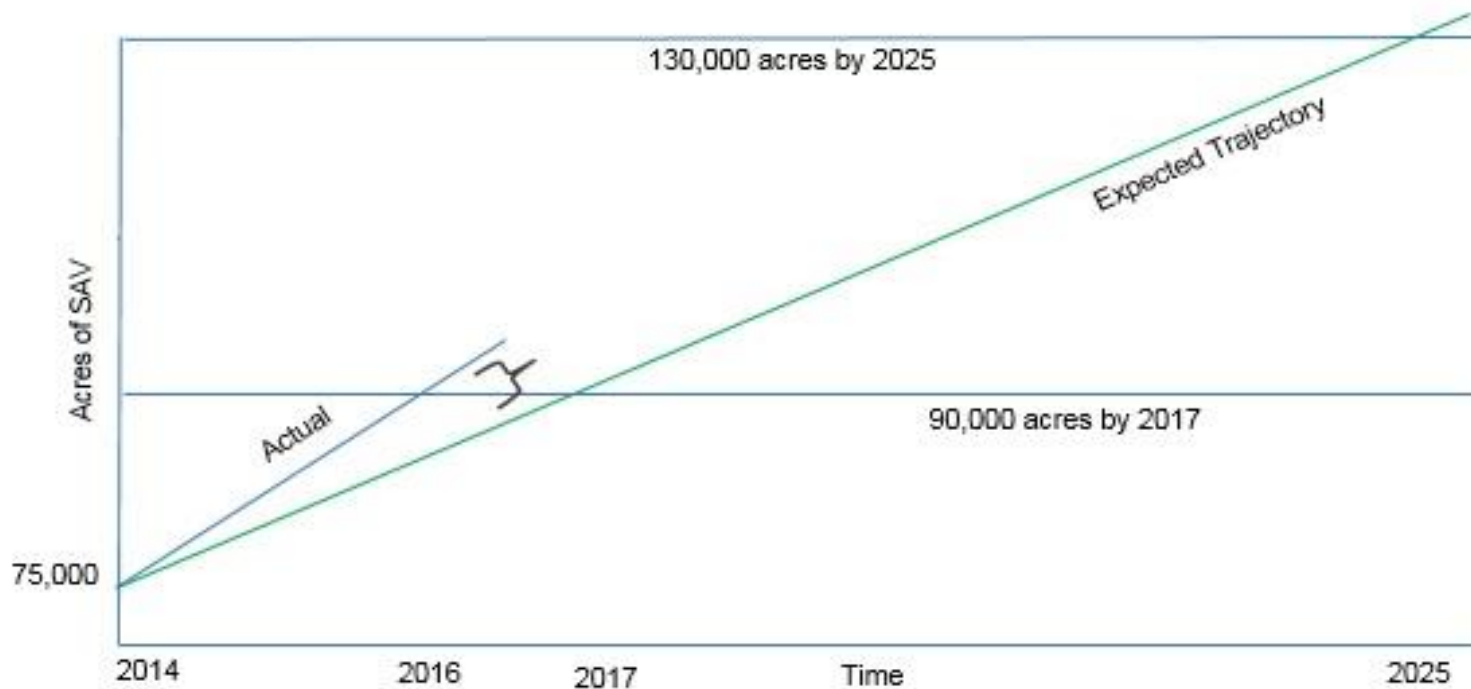
53% of ultimate goal
achieved in 2016





Are we on track?

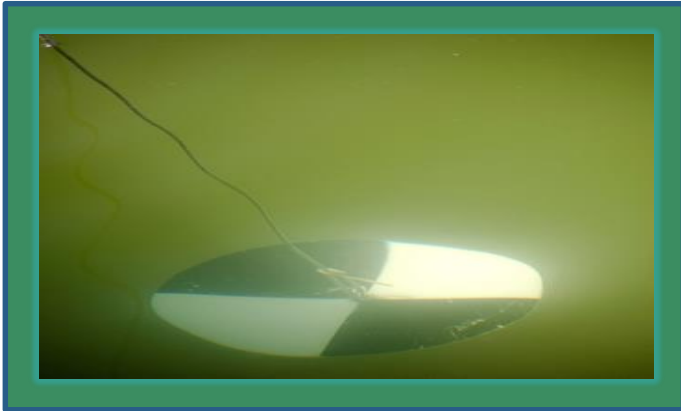
SAV Outcome





Analysis

Discussion Question 2: Which actions were most critical in progress thus far? Why?



Improving water quality in
the Bay



Monitoring SAV

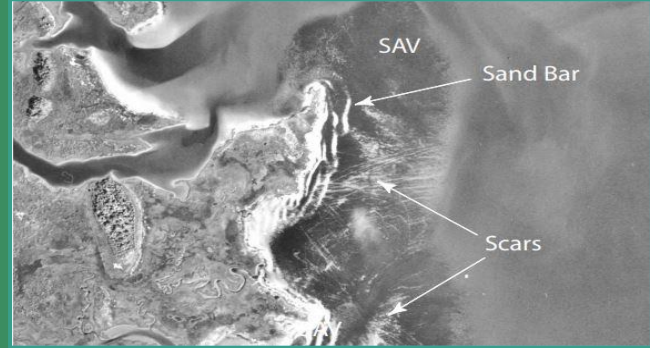


Analysis

Discussion Question 3: Which management actions will be the most critical to your progress in the future? Why?



- Improving water quality
- Continue TMDL efforts
 - Create suitable SAV habitat



- Protecting existing SAV
- Continue SAV monitoring
 - Public outreach
 - Political engagement

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Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

\$ Funding for the SAV Annual Monitoring

\$ Funding for SAV Restoration & Restoration Research

▲ Lack of effective SAV Communications Strategy

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Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

Explore variations & alternatives to SAV monitoring program if current program can not be sustained

Increase public outreach & citizen science for SAV monitoring & restoration projects

Improve cross-GIT/Communications WG collaborations to promote SAV (“blue crab and fish habitat” as an example)

Agreement Goals and Outcomes



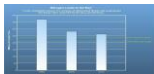
Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance
- Blue Crab Management
- Oyster
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat



Vital Habitats Goal

- Wetlands
- Black Duck
- Stream Health
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Forest Buffer
- Tree Canopy



Water Quality Goal

- 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)
- 2025 WIP
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring



Toxic Contaminants Goal

- Toxic Contaminants Research Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention



Healthy Watersheds Goal

- Healthy Waters



Stewardship Goal

- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Diversity



Land Conservation Goal

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



Public Access Goal

- Public Access Site Development



Environmental Literacy Goal

- Student
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning



Climate Resiliency Goal

- Monitoring and Assessment
- Adaptation Outcome



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Discussion