

Chesapeake Bay Program Reaching 2025

A Progress Report



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The Road Ahead for the Partnership

Charting a Course to 2025

- Progress toward achieving the 2014 outcomes by 2025
- Additional focus on water quality/TMDL; accelerating progress; emerging science; wetlands and forest buffers
- Lessons-learned and considerations for beyond 2025



Outcome Attainment by 2025

Water Quality	Watersheds	Habitats	Fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ WIP 2017 ◆ WQ Standards Attainment/Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Land Use Methods/Metrics ◆ Land Use Option Eval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fish Passage ◆ Stream Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blue Crab Abundance ◆ Blue Crab Management ◆ Fish Habitat ◆ Forage Fish ◆ Oysters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Tree Canopy –Forest Buffer –WIP 2025 –Toxics Policy/Prevention –Toxics Research 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Wetlands –Submerged Aq. Veg. –Brook Trout –Black Duck 	

Climate	Stewardship	Partnership	Uncertain Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Env. Lit. Planning ◆ Public Access ◆ Sustainable Schools ◆ Protected Lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Watersheds Stewardship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Climate Adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Diversity Outcome –Student Outcome 		



Water Quality Conditions

Progress:

- 49% of Nitrogen Reduction Goal Met
- 64% of Phosphorus Reduction Goal Met
- 100% of Sediment Reduction Goal Met
- Sophisticated Watershed Implementation Plans, targeting, tracking and monitoring

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Climate change, population growth, land-use changes
- Implementing Conowingo WIP
- Significant on-the-ground investments

Future Focus:

- Nonpoint sources
- High-impact targeting in culturally/ecologically important areas
- Shallow-water emphasis



Important Successes

Many outcomes are on track

Stream Health

- Clean streams with healthy invertebrate communities
- Key support for freshwater species
- Accounting, tracking, monitoring in place

Fish Passage

- Opened 619 stream miles/2 years, far above target of 132
- Shad, herring, striped bass, eel
- Key to the economy and ecology of the region

Oysters

- 7/10 tributaries complete + bonus tributary
- Internationally recognized success
- Generate more oysters, fish habitat, and clean and clear water

Public Access

- 231/300 access sites complete
- 21 new sites per year
- Key for equity and inclusion
- Important for public support and well-being



Work to Be Done – Keystone Outcomes

Wetlands and Forest Buffers

- Wetlands Goal: 85,000 acres **Status:** less than 20,000 acres
- Forest Buffers Goal: 900 miles/yr **Status:** less than 10%

Key Strategies

- Identify federal/state representatives to lead restoration efforts in high-priority areas
- Build on Networks to reach local communities on a regional scale and lessen burden on private landowners
- Establish criteria-driven geographic targeting coupled with restoration and maintenance costs



Conclusions

Many of our outcomes are on track to be met or exceeded by 2025

Between now and 2025 (and beyond):

- Target and increase investments to accelerate progress
- Identify Champions to provide additional leadership and to catalyze change
- Strengthen networking systems to incentivize communities to address current Bay challenges

