



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Management Board
December 7, 2017**

Program Update

CBPO Calendar

Dec. 7	Management Board Meeting
Dec. 12-13	STAC Workshop: Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change
Dec. 14	STAR Meeting
Dec. 14-15	LGAC Meeting
Dec. 18-19	Full Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
Dec. 19-20	Principals' Staff Committee Retreat
Jan. 8	Water Quality Goal Team Meeting
Jan. 10	Communications Workgroup Biannual Meeting
Jan. 11	Management Board Meeting
Jan. TBD	Phase III WIP Expectations Document released
Jan. 30	Quarterly Goal Team Chairs and Leadership Meeting

Updates

Transition in Leadership for Chesapeake Bay Program Office

On December 31, 2017, Nick DiPasquale will be retiring from EPA after more than six years of service as director of the agency's Chesapeake Bay Program Office and chair of the CBP Management Board. Nick started as director of the CBP's office in August 2011 and helped guide the partnership program through massive changes including implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, the development of the Phase I and II Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) and development and implementation of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. EPA Region III Administrator Cosmo Servidio has asked CBPO Deputy Director Jim Edward to serve as acting director. Jim has worked for the EPA in various positions since 1984 and previously served as acting director from May 2010 to August 2011 when he oversaw development of the historic Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the 2010 Executive Order Strategy on the Chesapeake Bay. As Deputy Director, Jim coordinates the formulation and execution of the Bay program budget and plays a lead role in coordinating the activities of EPA with officials of other Federal agencies in implementing the *Watershed Agreement*. He also serves as chair of the Federal Office Directors, playing a lead role coordinating the activities of EPA with officials of other Federal agencies. Jim has a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from Rutgers University, a Master's Degree in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts and attended Harvard University where he completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Senate Appropriations Bill includes level funding for Chesapeake Bay Program

Now that work has been completed on the massive tax overhaul legislation, Congress has shifted its focus to the task of completing approval of fiscal year 2018 appropriations. House Republicans are currently debating plans for another continuing resolution (CR) beyond Friday, December 8 when the

current CR expires. A discussion draft being discussed internally would provide another continuing resolution to extend funding at current levels through Dec. 4; however, it is unclear whether it can be passed in time to avoid a government shutdown this month.

Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriations Committee, in their mark-up of the 2018 appropriations for Interior, Environment and related agencies, recommended \$73 million for the Chesapeake Bay program, or level funding to FY2017. From within the amount provided, \$6 million would be provided for nutrient and sediment removal grants and \$6 million for small watershed grants. The Committee also noted that past agreements signed by the CBP partners included commitments to locate a Chesapeake Bay Liaison Office in Annapolis, Maryland to facilitate coordination among the jurisdictions and participating Federal agencies. The Senate language recommends continuing that arrangement along with staff from several of the other state, federal and non-federal partners.

Contact: Greg Barranco, (410) 267-5778, barranco.greg@epa.gov

Federal Water Quality Two-Year Milestones open for public comment

The 2018-2019 draft Federal Water Quality Two-Year Milestones were released to the public on November 21 for a 30-day public comment period. The draft milestones are posted on the Chesapeake Bay Program's federal leadership webpage

(https://federalleadership.chesapeakebay.net/file.axd?file=2017%2f11%2f2018-2019+Programmatic+WQ+Milestones_112017+clean.pdf). The milestones commitments, many of which are designed to support the jurisdictions in meeting their water quality milestones, represent activities with the potential to have significant environmental outcomes, require significant resources, or directly support the jurisdictions in meeting Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) commitments. These commitments are contingent on receiving adequate funding in the 2018 fiscal year budget.

Comments are due by December 21.

Contact: Jim Edward, (410) 267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

Advisory Committee Updates

Local Government Advisory Committee

The purpose of the LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

LGAC's next meeting is December 14-15, 2017 in Lancaster, PA. Topics for discussion include stream restoration, floodplain restoration, updates on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, local leadership baseline survey methodology and the Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center and Chesapeake Bay Program updates. Thursday afternoon will include a three-hour tour of four local restoration sites in the Lancaster area.

Two LGAC member seats remain open in Maryland, and one in New York.

Contact: Mary Gattis, mgattis@allianceforthebay.org

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with responsibility for representing residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advising the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of restoration.

CAC held a quarterly meeting in DC on November 29-30. The Committee heard updates on DC's Phase III WIP local engagement plans, DC Water's environmental impact bonding initiatives, toured a stream restoration site on the grounds of the National Arboretum, received a primer on water quality nutrient trading with examples of helping VA landowners meet their conservation goals, had an update on the Midpoint Assessment and upcoming PSC policy decisions, and was briefed on the citizen stewardship index. The members thanked Nick DiPasquale for his service to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Action items include: exploring a future webinar to introduce CAC members to CAST, sending letters to editors of local papers to highlight the importance of the Bay Program partnership and local examples of lessons and successes learned at CAC meetings, and sending a letter to the new VA Governor stress the importance of making the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries a high priority for the Commonwealth.

CAC's next quarterly meeting will be in Annapolis on February 22-23, 2018.

To be added to CAC's Interested Parties List, please contact: Adam Bray abray@allianceforthebay.org
For program questions, contact Jessica Blackburn jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Upcoming Meetings:

STAC held its third quarterly meeting of FY2017 on December 5-6, 2017 at the Westin Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Our next meeting will be held on March 13-14, 2018 at a location to be determined. For any quarterly meeting inquiries, or to be added to STAC's Interested Parties list, contact STAC Staff Elaine Hinrichs, hinrichse@chesapeake.org.

Workshops:

Special Announcement: The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY2018 STAC workshops will be distributed on December 8, 2017. To access the RFP announcement, contact STAC Staff to be added to our Interested Parties list, or go to <http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/assistance.php>. Proposals are due January 26, 2018.

STAC will be hosting a workshop on December 12-13 entitled "Integrating Recent Findings to Explain Water Quality Change: Support for the Mid-Point Assessment and Beyond" in Annapolis, MD. The goal of this workshop is to provide a mechanism for a focused exchange among the scientists leading the efforts to explain water-quality change and the managers working to incorporate those explanations into management of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. More information can be found [here](#).

STAC is planning for three additional workshops that will take place over the next few months - listed here in order of anticipated date. Information regarding recent and upcoming workshops - including agendas, presentations, and reports (as available) can be found on the [workshop homepage](#).

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Beyond 2018: A Proactive Visioning Workshop – **January 17-19, 2018**
- 2) Reassessing Habitat Conditions in Sub-estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay and Responses to Resource Management
- 3) Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decision

Recent Reports:

STAC released a report entitled “Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits of Nutrient and Sediment Pollutant Reducing BMPs” on December 4, 2017. The report can be found at:

http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/381_McGee2017.pdf.

STAC is working to finalize the following eight reports. Information regarding workshops held prior to FY2016 can be found on the [STAC archived workshop homepage](#). All STAC activity reports can be found on the [STAC publication page](#) when available.

- 1) Consideration of BMP Performance Uncertainty in Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation
- 2) Monitoring and Assessing Impacts of Changes in Weather Patterns and Extreme Events on BMP Siting and Design
- 3) Legacy Sediment, Riparian Corridors, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (FY2016)
- 4) An Analytical Framework for Aligning Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Efforts to Support Climate Change (FY2016)
- 5) Understanding and Explaining 30+ Years of Water Clarity Trends in the Bay’s Tidal Waters (FY2016)
- 6) Linking Wetland Workplan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation (FY2015)
- 7) Assessing Uncertainty in the CBP Modeling System (FY2015)
- 8) Comparison of Shallow Water Models for Use in Supporting Chesapeake Bay Management Decision-making (FY2015)

Reviews:

STAC is finalizing two technical reviews that will help inform decisions related to the Partnership’s 2017 Mid-point Assessment. For more information, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org.

- 1) Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (WQSTM)
- 2) CBP Partnership’s Climate Change Assessment Framework and Programmatic Integration and Response Efforts

For more information regarding any of the reviews above, visit the [review homepage](#) or contact STAC Coordinator Rachel Dixon at dixonr@chesapeake.org

Goal Implementation Team, STAR and Communication Workgroup Updates

Status and Trends (Previously Indicators) Workgroup:

The following indicators were updated since the October Management Board meeting:

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Statement of Progress</i>	<i>Link</i>
Toxic Contaminants	80 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal segments are partially or fully impaired by toxic contaminants.	http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/toxic-contaminants-policy-and-prevention
Juvenile Striped Bass Abundance and Fishery Management	Between 2016 and 2017, the relative abundance of juvenile striped bass in Maryland and Virginia waters increased. In Maryland waters, the abundance index rose from 1.25 to 13.2, which is well above the long-term average. In Virginia waters, the abundance index rose from 5.44 to 8.98, which is just above the long-term average.	https://www.chesapeakebay.net/state/striped_bass

Indicators that are likely to be updated before or close to the next Management Board meeting include:

- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring (tidal segments achieving water quality standards and USGS assessment of monitored nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads) (December 2017)
- Student MWEE (December 2017)
- Sustainable Schools (December 2017)
- Planting Forest Buffers (Winter 2018)
- Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands (Winter 2018)

NOTE: an asterisk* denotes new indicators that have been approved through the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR. The Indicators Coordinator provides notification to the Management Board and to STAR of these new indicators; members of either group may request additional information or a presentation at a meeting on these new indicators.

Contact: Laura Free, 410-267-5713, free.laura@epa.gov

Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team is planning their [winter biannual meeting](#), which convenes their diverse membership to discuss fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay. The meeting will be held on December 18 -19 at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force hosted an Invasive Catfish Symposium on November 6-7 at the VCU Rice Rivers Center to discuss the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery. Topics included population dynamics, movement and habitat use, diet, and harvest. Presentations are posted to the Catfish Symposium [website](#).

The Fish Habitat Action Team is working with a small group from the Chesapeake Bay Program to develop communication materials that recommends inclusion of fish habitat into the Watershed Implementation Plans.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team released the meeting summary from the [June 2017 meeting](#) and their Fall 2017 newsletter. The [meeting summary](#) compiles key highlights from the presentations and discussions held at the June biannual Fisheries meeting, while the [Fall 2017 Newsletter](#) provides a high-level overview of the efforts completed by the full team to achieve their outcomes.

Contact: Kara Skipper; kara.skipper@noaa.gov

Habitat Goal Implementation Team

The Habitat GIT works to restore a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

The Habitat GIT held its Fall meeting on November 8th, 2017 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA. Select workgroups presented updates to their biennial workplans, and the team explored opportunities for alignment of key actions with partners including USACE, NFWF, USGS, and the Southern Tip Partnership.

On November 9th, the Habitat GIT hosted a half-day Nature's Network training workshop at the Brock Environmental Center following the full GIT meeting. Participants were introduced to the suite of scalable conservation design tools and explored (through Chesapeake-specific case studies) their potential to help CBP partners achieve the wetland and black duck outcomes. If you are interested in hosting a training workshop, please contact Hobaugh.paige@epa.gov.

A committee within the Stream Health Workgroup has formed to resolve issues with permitting of restoration projects. The group is seeking state and regulatory agency representation particularly from Delaware. The panel will be holding a call mid-December. Please contact cumming.margot@epa.gov if your jurisdiction or agency would like to participate.

An updated Fish Passage map has been posted [on ChesapeakeProgress](#) that shows barriers removed, passage installed and stream miles opened. It is interactive and can show change over time relative to the 2012 baseline.

The Fish Habitat STAC Workshop on Factors Influencing the Mainstem, Tidal, and Non-Tidal Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed will take place in March of 2018. The STAC Workshop steering committee has considered several methods to achieve the workshop goals. After a presentation on the National Fish Habitat Assessment (NFHA), the committee has decided to build from this assessment and information at the workshop. The Steering Committee is interested in reducing scientific uncertainty with the NFHA by evaluating the availability and inclusion of additional Chesapeake Bay regional data. This is an ambitious outcome for a 2-day workshop. There are regional data available that could fill some of the data gaps in the assessment and can be examined for use at the workshop, but the data are not compiled. The USGS has agreed to provide technical assistance in identifying and begin to compiling additional regional data as well as complete some exploratory analysis for the

workshop. With USGS help, the workshop's product and recommendations can be significantly enhanced.

Contact: Paige Hobaugh, hobaugh.paige@epa.gov

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

The WQGIT held conference calls on November 13 and November 27:

- The WQGIT was briefed on the SAV Synthesis Team's work on describing SAV coverage trends in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal segments, including development of explanations products to support development of the Phase III WIPs.
- The WQGIT approved No Action and E3 scenario definitions for tidal BMPs, including shoreline protection and oyster practices.
- The WQGIT approved updates to wastewater modeling decision rules for the wastewater sector in the Phase 6 No Action and E3 scenarios.
- The WQGIT was briefed on the overall progress of the CBPO Modeling Team and Modeling Workgroup in finalization and application of the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools and results of key scenarios run on the final Phase 6 modeling tools.

The WQGIT and Modeling Workgroup held a joint meeting on December 4-5. A full summary of actions, decisions and recommendations will be posted to the December 4-5 [meeting page](#). A subset of actions and decisions includes:

- All jurisdictions (with the exception of DE) approved the adoption of the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools for finalization of the Phase III planning targets and for management application in the development and implementation of each jurisdictions Phase III WIPs and 2-year milestones through 2025. Once DE's concerns are addressed on how nutrient management is simulated and credited in the Phase 6 modeling tools, the WQGIT will recommend to the PSC the adoption of the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools.
- The WQGIT recommended the PSC adopt an assimilative capacity of 195 million pounds for nitrogen and 13.7 million pounds for phosphorus.
- The WQGIT recommended several changes to the draft Phase III Planning Targets Review timeline and process briefing paper. The revised paper will be reviewed and approved at the December 11 WQGIT conference call.
- WQGIT jurisdictional representatives will present their respective jurisdictional profiles to the PSC. These profiles include jurisdictions' progress to date, planning targets, and changes to loads and baseline conditions in Phase III.
- Further discussion on whether to use the Partnership-approved methodology to finalize the Phase III planning targets or if the Phase II level of effort should be used to inform Phase III WIP development and implementation.
- The WQGIT will recommend the PSC adopt a dual programmatic and numeric approach to addressing climate change in the Phase III WIPs. This includes communicating the current understanding of additional nitrogen and phosphorus loads to the Chesapeake Bay by 2025 due to climate change, and transparency in acknowledging gaps in research and management tools

that will be developed prior to 2025 to inform implementation efforts to address climate change. The full recommendation is available in the summary actions and decisions (link above)

- The WQGIT agreed to uphold the recommendation on 2025 growth made to the PSC in September 2017. The WQGIT recommended that 2025 growth projections be used as base conditions for the Phase III WIPs. The growth projections will be updated every two years with the best available data to inform development of the two-year milestones.
- The WQGIT will recommend development of an implementation plan separate from the Phase III WIPs to address additional loads from the infill of Conowingo Dam. The timing and strategy for this approach, including who will be responsible for the needed reductions, the role of Exelon in this process, and strategies to pool resources for plan implementation. This approach will be collaborative across the Partnership, recognizing that all jurisdictions have benefited in the past from the trapping capacity of Conowingo Dam, and all jurisdictions should contribute to addressing loads from Conowingo.

The WQGIT will hold a conference call on December 11. A subset of planned topics includes:

- The WQGIT will approve the revised timeline and process document for the 4-month review of the Phase III planning targets.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on Appendix A of the EPA's interim Phase III WIP expectations, which includes segment-shed expectations for the four tidal jurisdictions of MD, VA, DC, and DE.
- The WQGIT will be briefed on the Forestry WIP development guide, developed by the CBP Forestry Workgroup.

Contact: Lucinda Power, power.lucinda@epa.gov

Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. With this goal, GIT 4 intends to bring attention to the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today. This initiative complements the "dirty waters" approach which focuses on restoring impaired waters.

Contact: Katherine Wares; kwares@chesapeakebay.net

Foster Stewardship Goal Implementation Team

The Fostering Stewardship GIT promotes individual stewardship, supports environmental education for all ages, and assists citizens, communities and local governments in undertaking initiatives to achieve restoration and conservation in the Chesapeake region. It aims to build public support of restoration efforts and increase citizen engagement and active stewardship.

Contact: Drew Pizzala; drew_pizzala@partner.nps.gov

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

CBP Biennial Strategy Review System

The SRS team is presenting a recommended process/timeline for updating 2-year work plans and management strategies to the Management Board for approval on December 7, 2017. Upon approval,

outcome leads that presented at the May, August, and November Quarterly Progress Meetings will begin working with workgroup members, implementing agencies, the SRS team/adaptive management mentors, and other stakeholders to revise work plans and management strategies as appropriate.

As a reminder, all SRS documents, including schedules and materials relating to the Quarterly Progress Meetings, can now be found under “Project and Resources” of the [Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Team](#) page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Contact: Dave Goshorn, david.goshorn@maryland.gov

FY2017 GIT Funding

The Chesapeake Bay Trust will be releasing the FY2017 CBP GIT Funding RFP by Friday, December 8, 2017. The RFP will remain open for competitive bidding until mid-January 2018. A second RFP for delayed proposals, or for any proposals that do not receive complete/satisfactory bids, will be released for competitive bidding in February 2018.

Contact: Greg Allen, allen.greg@epa.gov

GIT Budget and Finance Workgroup

The Workgroup is working with the SAV workgroup to develop a process for creating finance systems and/or strategies. The second of three “dialogue sessions” was held on November 15, and included members of the two associate workgroups, as well as stakeholders from federal and state agencies, local government, and other financial and conservation organizations. The third and final session is scheduled for January 17, 2018. This session will expand to include additional stakeholders from industry, banking, and other relevant sectors. Findings will be presented to the Management Board after the third dialogue session, and planning will begin for how to translate the work with the SAV workgroup into a larger, one-day finance system/strategy workshop.

Contact: Dan Nees, dnees@umd.edu

GIT 6 Contact: Emily Freeman, freeman.emily@epa.gov

Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team

The purpose of STAR (Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting) is to facilitate productive deployment of scientific resources, to provide timely, quality information to managers, and to expand communication between workgroups.

SRS Monitoring and Science Needs are Post-Management Board Meeting focus

STAR and the Goal Teams continue to review the monitoring and science needs requested by the Outcomes Teams during the spring and summer 2017 Management Board meetings. STAR is promoting discussions and capacity building through its work groups and networking with science providers. STAR remains a forum for GIT preparation for the SRS Biennial Review, with dedicated meetings occurring prior to the Management Board’s themed SRS quarterly review meetings.

Chesapeake Bay Program LiDAR Data Needs

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), through the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), has partnered with other agencies to increase lidar acquisition Chesapeake watershed during 2017.

- The USGS partnered with the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to collect new information for the central portion of PA (counties identified on figure 1), where there is a concentrated amount of agricultural lands. The lidar will help NRCS and Pennsylvania manage efforts

to implement conservation practices to improve water quality in local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. The USGS works closely with the Pennsylvania lidar work group, which is led by the Topographic and Geologic Survey, a Bureau of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to gather requirements and coordinate efforts for the Susquehanna Basin and other portions of the Commonwealth.

- Earlier in 2017 acquisition was started in the James River watershed and upper Potomac watershed areas in Virginia and West Virginia supported by 3DEP partner Federal Emergency Management Agency and NRCS. These acquisition and data processing activities are continuing into the 2018 leaf-off season.

Additionally, more discussion was conducted with NOAA on potential the collection of bathymetric Lidar. Representatives from NOAA's National Geodetic Survey Geosciences Research Division presented on topo-bathy LiDAR data collection, with a request to workgroup coordinators to identify any potential needs for this data.

Data Integrity

The workgroup performed a field audit of sampling procedures carried out by SRBC. The audit team comprised of Dave Brower (USGS Baltimore), Peter Tango and me. This audit was also meant to serve as a training for Nontidal water sampling procedures and was attended by members from PADEP.

Status and Trends Workgroup

The November Status & Trends meeting focused on some directional changes for the 2018 work plan. These changes were [discussed](#) in abstract, and then a draft 2018 work plan was sent to members for comment after the meeting, incorporating the discussion at the meeting. The workgroup plans to discuss this draft more at its December 12 meeting and expects to share a 2018 work plan with STAR in the new year.

Contact: Melissa Merritt; mmerritt@chesapeakebay.net

Communications Workgroup

The Communications Workgroup provides strategic planning and expert advice to support the communication needs of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners, and spur public action through consistent messaging, expanded media coverage, use of multimedia and online tools, comprehensive branding and promotion, outreach to stakeholders, and coordinated internal and external communications.

At its last meeting, the Communications Workgroup discussed the upcoming 2016-2017 Bay Barometer and the Citizen Stewardship Index release. Emily Trentacoste gave an example of the kind of storytelling jurisdictions can do with the emerging trends data that is available, and Bill Hayden (VADEQ) talked about communications efforts in Virginia.

On November 8, the Communications Office released the Bay Program's Citizen Stewardship Index. You can [read more](#) about it or take a closer look at [the results](#). The Communications Office will issue a press release on the status of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay on December 13. It will contain the updated Reducing Pollution and Water Quality Standards indicators.

Rachel Felver has been working with Rick Batiuk, Lucinda Power and other partnership members on creating a press plan and fact sheets communications products for the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIPs. A media backgrounder on the Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIPs will be sent to press and trade publications on December 7, and following the PSC meeting on December 19-20, there will be a press release about partnership decisions.

Caitlyn Johnstone is well into her meetings with the GITs about outreach needs. Next week, she will be having her last two meetings with the Healthy Watersheds and Stewardship GITs.

Caitlyn and our communications intern, Taylor Stark, have created a trade publication document of contacts for media outlets across industries and a document of communications contacts for local government entities. Outreach is currently working to reach out and develop contacts with local government groups.

The fish consumption advisory draft image, a joint project of the Diversity Workgroup and Toxic Contaminant Workgroup, was presented and received feedback at the Watershed Forum and the Festival del Rio. Caitlyn joined the Anacostia Watershed Society and Anacostia Riverkeepers to conduct an outreach event that included a fishing activity in conjunction with health and safety education.

The Bay Program surpassed 5,000 [Facebook](#) likes in November, and 10,000 [Twitter](#) followers in early December.

Contact: Joan Smedinghoff; jmedinghoff@chesapeakebay.net

Recent Meetings and Events

Nov. 3-5	Chesapeake Watershed Forum
Nov. 6-7	Invasive Catfish Task Force Catfish Symposium
Nov. 8	Habitat GIT Fall Meeting
Nov. 9-10	Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting
Nov 29-30	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
Dec. 4-5	Joint Modeling/WQGIT Meeting
Dec. 5-6	STAC Quarterly Meeting