

NEW CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT

- Set new goals and outcomes toward the year 2025
- Integrate Bay Program goals and Executive Order goals
- Improve coordination, integration, and collaboration among partners
- Set to be signed in Spring 2014
- Signatories:
 - Jurisdictions (PA, VA, DE, MD, NY, WV, DC)
 - EPA (representing federal agencies)
 - Chesapeake Bay Commission



AGREEMENT STRUCTURE

- Preamble, Vision, Mission

- Goals

- Sustainable Fisheries
- Vital Habitats
- Water Quality
- Healthy Watersheds
- Land Conservation
- Public Access
- Environmental Literacy

- Outcomes (SMART)

- Multiple under each goal

- Management Strategies

- Will be developed within 1 year of the initial signing;
- Signatories can choose to participate in each management strategy



FISHERIES IN THE AGREEMENT

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.

FISHERIES IN THE AGREEMENT

Sustainable Fisheries Outcomes

Blue Crab Abundance Outcome:

Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females and continue to refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

Blue Crab Management Outcome:

Improve the ability to manage for a stable and productive crab population and fishery by working with the industry, recreational crabbers, and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. Evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions that will provide stability for crabbing businesses and accountability of the harvest for each jurisdiction.

FISHERIES IN THE AGREEMENT

Sustainable Fisheries Outcomes

Oyster Outcome:

Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 to recover the benefits of fish habitat and water quality improvements that healthy oyster reefs provide.

Forage Fish Outcome:

By 2016, develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.

Fish Habitat Outcome:

Continue to identify and characterize critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and tributaries for important fish and shellfish and use existing and new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments to inform restoration and conservation efforts.

TIMELINE AND PUBLIC INPUT

December 2013 - Signatory (jurisdictions, EPA, and CBC) Review

January-February 2014 - Public Comment Period

May 2014 - Final Signed Agreement