



Chesapeake Bay Program

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Beyond 2025 Shallow Water Habitats Small Group: Listening Session

January 8th, 2024; 12:00pm-2:00pm ET

[Click here to join the Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

ID: 216 687 075 598; PASSCODE: 5brc3p; or call in (audio only): +1 202-991-0477

[Link to the meeting materials](#)

Background: The Chesapeake Bay Executive Council (EC) charged the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) with recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* leading up to and beyond 2025. With that charge, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 Steering Committee (B25SC) has created five "Small Groups" to form recommendations around cross-cutting, high-level topics, including Climate, Healthy Watersheds, Clean Water, People, and Shallow Water Habitats.

The Shallow Water Habitats Small Group (SWHSG) is hosting a listening session to hear shallow water habitat ideas and feedback from stakeholders, communities, and shallow water experts on issues and recommendations moving beyond 2025. The SWHSG has developed a vision and scope for the small team's recommendations:

Vision: Healthy and sustainable shallow water habitats that support resources, communities, and economies that are resilient to long-term changes in watershed conditions.

Scope: The Edges and Nearshore Waters of 3 ecological zones:

- Non-tidal Fresh
- Tidal Fresh
- Tidal Estuarine

Purpose: During this 2-hour Listening Session, the SWHSG leads will provide a brief summary of the Beyond 2025 effort to date, a summary of steps taken by the SWHSG, and then pose a series of guiding questions to facilitate the discussion and solicit feedback from participants.

Feedback will be facilitated through discussion and an interactive Jamboard. The following are guiding questions that we will be discussing during the meeting:

1. What do healthy and sustainable shallow water habitats look like to you?
2. Where should focus be given to maintain or improve shallow water habitats? For example, this could be geographic focus, modeling focus, people focus.
3. How would you go about getting to your vision of healthy and sustainable shallow water habitats? You can't do everything so think about the top two things you would focus on?
4. What sort of public or community engagement strategies would be most successful for connecting the public to shallow water habitats?
5. How can the bay program add value to new or ongoing work in shallow water habitats? (Examples could include coordination, policy, science support)



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Participants: This Listening Session will be open to all parties but will be geared specifically toward those with an interest in shallow water habitats of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Agenda:

- **12:00 PM:** Welcome and Introductions
- **12:10 PM:** Brief Summary of Beyond 2025 Effort to date and summary of steps taken by SWHSG
- **12:30 PM-2:00PM:** Guiding questions, open discussion and responses to questions posed.