

Chesapeake Bay Program
Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee
2012 Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Background:

STAC is focusing its efforts on understanding how multiple models could function in a regulatory environment, how market-based policies such as nutrient trading could bring momentum to restoration efforts, and how adaptive management strategies could offer the flexibility to achieve success given ever-changing information.

	STAC Recommendation	Status
Multiple Models	Request to EC: Support immediate efforts to test multiple models in the estuary and watershed.	<p>In April 2012, STAC held an expert workshop on <i>Using Multiple Models for Management in the Chesapeake Bay</i>. It reported its findings and recommendations to the Management Board at its November 14 meeting.</p> <p>In summary, STAC recommends a shallow water, multiple model comparison pilot project to demonstrate the potential use of multiple models in routine CBP modeling activities. The proposed cost for the shallow water multiple model effort outlined in the report ranges from \$300,000/year (3 shallow water model teams at \$100k each) to \$1.5 million (6 shallow water model teams at \$250k/year). The cost of the proposed multiple model effort in shallow water is high relative to the average CBP cost for the past 3 years of the COE 50/50 cost share model of the entire Bay which is about \$150,000/year.</p> <p>The practical application of the shallow water prototype to the CBP problem areas of Open Water and SAV-water has the potential to contribute to the 2017 Midpoint Assessment and will provide a real assessment of multiple models for management in the Chesapeake Bay Program. Once the Federal FY 2013 budget is decided, a decision can be made to fund multiple shallow water model study laid out along the lines in the workshop report. However, additional investments in modeling at this level would likely result in tradeoffs of decreased implementation funds.</p>