



Responding to the PSC Request to Improve the CBP Monitoring Networks:

CBP STAR Status update

Peter Tango, Breck Sullivan, Scott
Phillips, Denice Wardrop, Lee
McDonnell, Amy Goldfischer

STAR Meeting

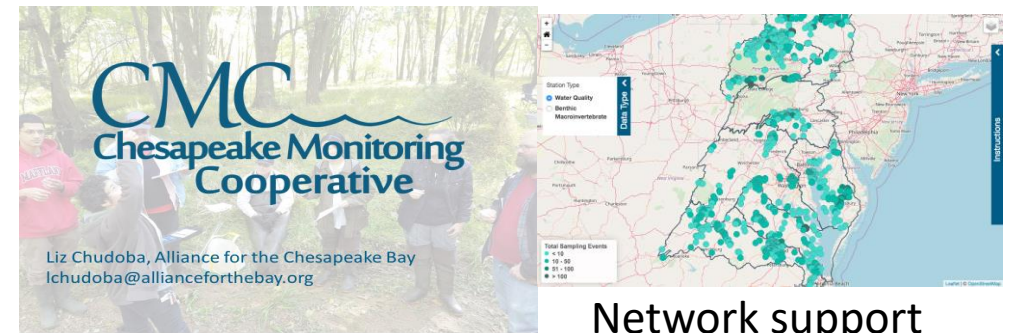
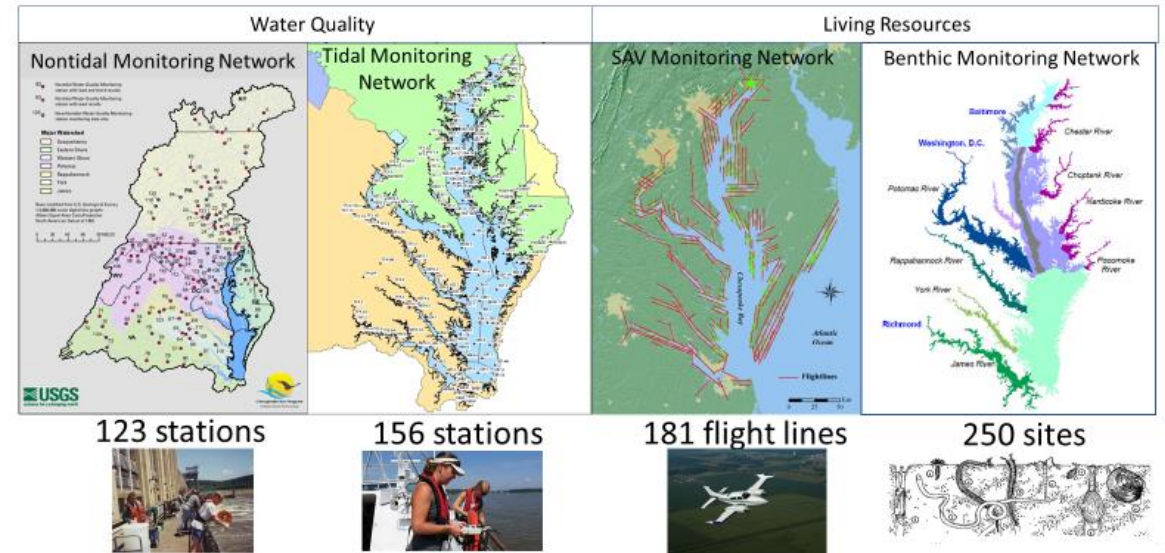
May 26, 2022



Recap: Interaction with Principal Staff Committee

- ✓ PSC request to enhance monitoring (March 2021)
- ✓ STAR-STAC leadership team conducted a CBP monitoring review (March 2021-February 2022)
- ✓ Draft report delivered and CBP community review (March-April, 2022)
- Response to comments (underway May-June 2022)
- Report finalized (June 2022)

CBP Partnership Monitoring Networks: Annual Monitoring



Major report review comments

- The majority of jurisdictions plus federal agency partners provided comments (Thank you! Really helpful!)



Major report review comments

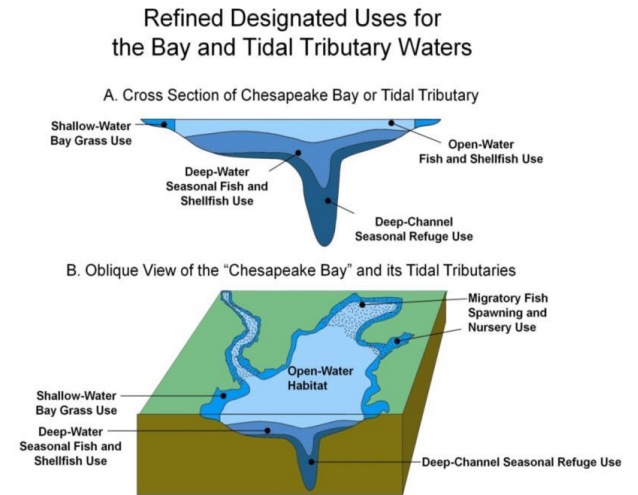
- Comment highlights
 - Better identify priorities
 - Provide more details on activities aligned with monitoring (such as data analysis, data management)
 - Implement recommendations and pay for monitoring



Better identify priorities

Initial priorities have been identified

- Nearterm priorities
 - Maintain existing monitoring networks
 - Address regulatory requirements:
 - CBP outcomes for Attainment of WQ standards
 - Monitoring for CBP outcomes that are behind schedule
- Extended priorities:
 - Expand support for watershed outcomes that don't currently have monitoring



Provide more details on activities that align with monitoring

The report provides an a la carte menu of choices to enhance monitoring



- Priority data collection needs were the focus of this review
- Data management, analysis and reporting were recognized as important, however, addressing these needs was not the emphasis of the review per the PSC request focus on the networks.
 - Highlight - these important elements are being included in the discussions of implementing any new monitoring and sustaining existing programming

From the PSC meeting: A meeting is being organized with State/DC representatives to work together with the investment menu (subset of line items shown from the report)



Tidal Water Quality \$

- Program maintenance
- Hypoxia network 8 arrays
- 4D water quality interpolator
- Nutrient limitation surveys



Nontidal Water Quality \$

- Program maintenance
- Conowingo Continuous monitoring
- River input continuous monitoring
- Small watershed studies



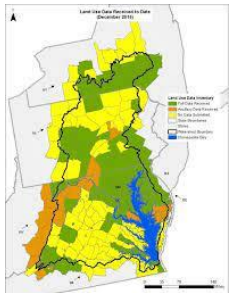
• Tidal SAV assessment \$

- AI satellite image interpretation
- Automated Polygon method development
- Sentinel site network
- Assessment calibration
- Pilot study of proposed satellite assessment on spring grasses



• Land Use Land Cover \$

- High resolution imagery



• Community Science \$

- Database enhancement for SAV
- SAV and nitrate field monitoring



* And there is more!

First read: EPA dollars



- At the May 17, 2022 PSC meeting, CBPO Science Director Lee McDonnell announced EPA investment of approximately \$1.5M towards monitoring maintenance, network developments and enhancements.
 - Details of EPA's plan for distribution of the funding across priorities identified in the report is not yet available.
- Today – EPA R3 Water Division has announced ~\$150K support for research and monitoring of plastic pollution.
 - EPA Trash Free Waters Team is coordinating with the Plastic Pollution Action Team
- *"The EPA Region 3 Water Division is continuing to support monitoring and research on the impacts of plastic pollution in partnership with the Plastic Pollution Action Team. In FY23, the WD is committing ~150k to support research and activities into monitoring surrounding plastic pollution"* Kelly Somers, EPA.



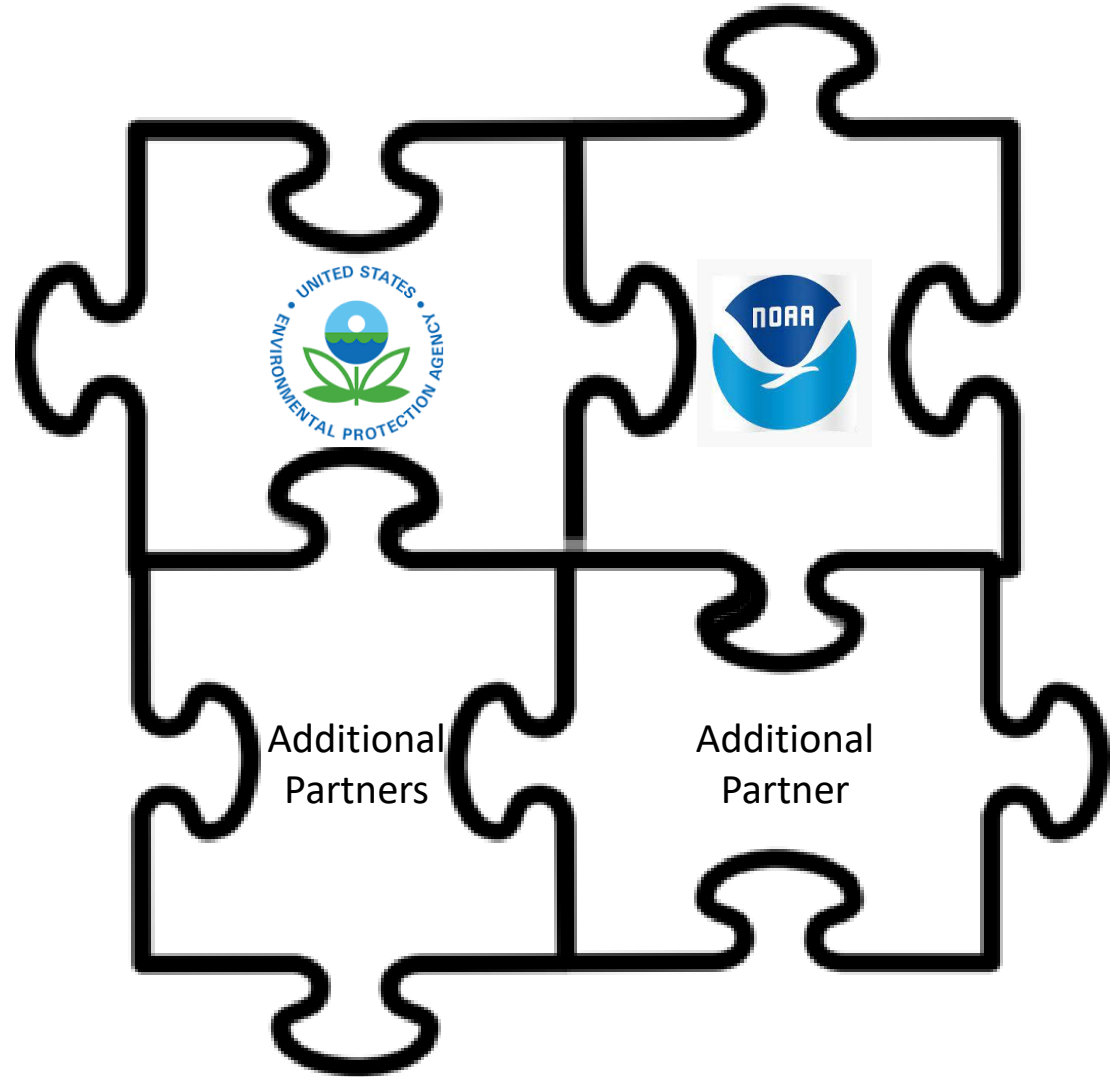
First read: EPA dollars

- It's fair to say that EPA's dollars alone are an important and major new set of investments into our core monitoring programs unlike any since 2011-12 (then, EPA \$2M into Nontidal Network Water Quality monitoring support)
- However, recognize that the priority items in need of support as expressed in the report total over \$5M
 - * EPA does not have the capacity on its own to address all the funding needs identified in the report *
- We should anticipate a mix of program elements where some will 1) see a gain in EPA support and 2) others remain at present EPA support levels



Implement recommendations and pay for monitoring

- Need a *multi-partner approach* to invest in gaps.
- Partners can identify which monitoring items they want to support
- Example: Hypoxia collaborative



Several partnerships are already developing for identified priority investments to fill gaps!



Satellite-based SAV assessment



Hypoxia network



Continuous water quality monitoring
at Conowingo Pool (Marietta)



Summary

- Thanks again for the ongoing support!!!
 - The response to colleague reviews, jurisdiction and institution comments on the report is nearly complete.
 - Final agency report review will occur
 - Then the report will be publicly available
- New investments are occurring!
- Partnerships are already developing to tackle needs identified in the report!
- Details about funding distribution from EPA are anticipated soon.
 - Results of EPA distributions and partnerships forming will affect our need for discussions about network changes (+ and -)
- We will keep you updated in the most timely manner we can to allow us the most time to act upon the status of monitoring funding investments.



Kick-off meeting: based on CBP needs assessment

Core Networks now. More networks to come.

