



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Toxic & Emerging Contaminants

Draft Management Strategy

September 9, 2026

Relationship Between Key Documents

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (through 2040)

Describes what we want to do

- Establishes and defines partners' commitment to shared goals, outcomes and targets
- States CBP's vision and principles

CBWA Strategic Plan (6 years)

Describes how we will do it

- Outlines the means for accomplishing each outcome and its targets
- Identifies challenges
- Defines management approaches and participating partners

Workplans (3 years)

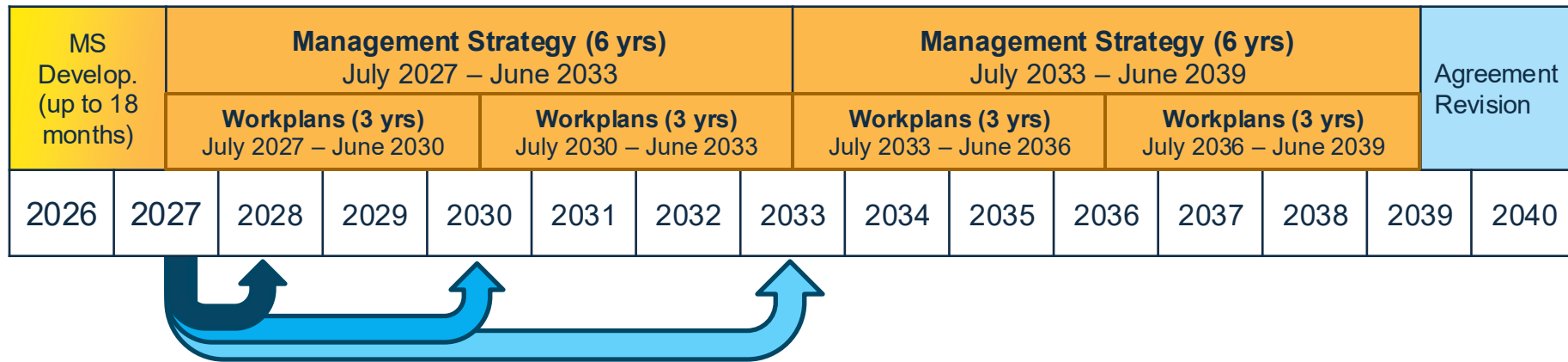
Describes shorter term work to make progress

- States specific actions partners will undertake to implement management strategies
- Identifies implementation partners, resources and deliverables

Attainment of goals, outcomes and targets

Management strategies for each Goal chapter will be contained within a single Strategic Plan

Accountability and Adaptive Management



- Annual Check-Ins** – extended PSC meetings that communicate progress, and address and prioritize implementation needs
- Triennial Reviews** – cross-program review & symposium to document successes and challenges and initiate new Workplans
- Strategy and Program Evaluation** – assess the current progress towards achieving the Goals and Outcomes of the Agreement, evaluate the efficacy of existing Management Strategies and identifies opportunities for improvement
- In 2040, the Strategy and Program Review will prompt revision to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Timeline



Toxic and Emerging Contaminants

Outcome & Target

Reduce the amount and effect of toxic contaminants, such as PCBs, plastics, mercury and PFAS, on the waters, lands, fisheries, wildlife and communities of the Chesapeake Bay watershed through an increased understanding of their impacts and mitigation options.

- Promote information sharing between researchers, program managers and policymakers on the lessons learned, best practices and most up-to-date science, policy and communications around the toxic contaminants impacting the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Baseline/Current Condition & Indicator

- Baseline highlights limited role for CBP regarding toxics mitigation and transition towards a value-added and strategic approach to disseminate information and connect researchers and practitioners
- Updated version of previous TCPD Indicator for the outcome, measuring progress from 2024 Integrated Reports
- No official Indicator for the Target, measuring progress based on presentations given, partners engaged and narrative success stories

Challenges

- Watershed-wide Status
- Sources Information Gap
- Fish Consumption Information Gap
- Toxic Mitigation Practices and Co-benefits
- Emerging Contaminants Information Gap
- Relative Prioritization
- Technical Network Connectivity
- Plastics Information Gap
- Plastics Monitoring Gap
- Plastics Resources Gap

Management Approaches

Consolidated down to three for TCW's scope:

- [2.2.1]: Share **information on the occurrence, sources and effects** of toxic contaminants, including emerging contaminants.
- [2.2.2]: Synthesize and share research on the **efficacy of mitigation practices** and communicate the toxic contaminant reduction **co-benefits** of nutrient and sediment-focused best management practices.
- [2.2.3]: **Strengthen collaborative connections** across the Chesapeake Bay Program and engage new partners and practitioners beyond CBWA signatories.

Plastics-Specific Management Approaches

*Not for TCW approval.
PPoW developed
separately

- [2.2.4]: Support developing and instituting a **plastics monitoring program** for the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- [2.2.5]: Continue to **research and disseminate microplastic pollution findings** to understand the threats of plastic pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its resources.
- [2.2.6]: Identify and implement **management solutions to reduce the occurrence** of plastic pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

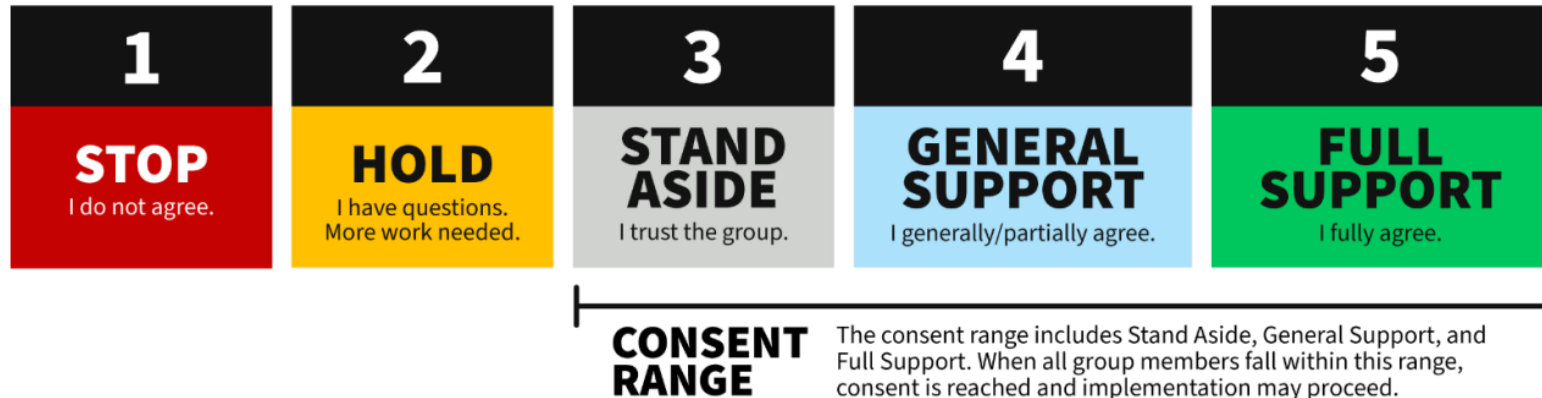
Next Steps

- TCW approval of TEC sub-chapter – today (Sept 9)!
- CWGT approval of Goal Management Strategy – Sept 29
- Final draft of Goal Management Strategy due – Oct 19
- PSC approval, public feedback period, etc. – Nov – January
- Iterative revisions to Management Strategy – February - June

Starting in October, we will also begin Workplan development! More details to come on this after the CWGT Sept 29th meeting.

Decision Requested

Support for the Toxic and Emerging Contaminants Outcome subchapter of the Clean Water Management Strategy for recommendation to the CWGT, excluding plastics-specific challenges and Management Approaches which are covered by PPOW.



October TCW Meeting Plan

- Workplan Development prep = homework time!
- Each TCW Member shares 1 existing or proposed Action that contributes to each Management Approach
 - 2.2.1: Report on status, extent, sources of T&EC
 - 2.2.2: Evaluate mitigation efficacy, nut./sed. BMP co-benefits
 - 2.2.3: Promote collaborative connections
- 5-10 minutes, 1-3 slides per Member
- Followed by group discussion on candidate Workplan Actions