

FALL QUARTERLY MEETING – March 15th, 2023

Chesapeake Bay Program



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

*Brooke Landry
Maryland DNR and
Chair, SAV Workgroup*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Vital Habitats*

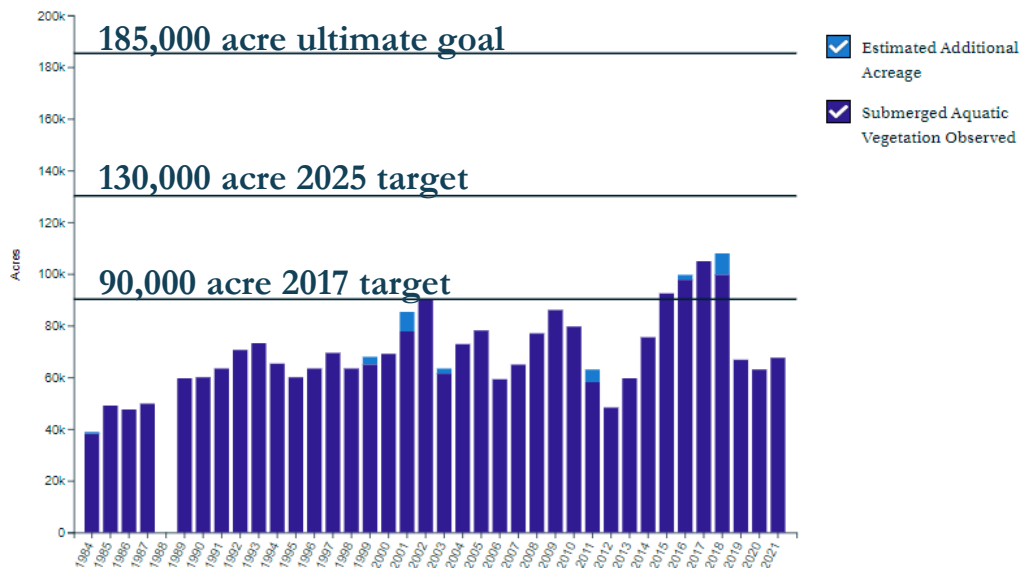
Outcome:

Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward this ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of 90,000 acres by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.



What is our Progress? (no update since Nov. meeting – 2022 #s aren't out yet)

Chesapeake Bay SAV Abundance 1984-2021



67,470 acres of SAV in 2021

- 52% of the 2025 target of 130,000 acres
- 36% of the ultimate 185,000-acre goal

The Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Outcome is off course. Gains from 2020 to 2021 are positive, indicating an on-course trajectory, but these gains don't yet offset the recent major declines of underwater grasses observed in 2019. Additional years of positive trajectory will help clarify whether this recent gain in 2021 is the start of a new positive trend toward higher levels of SAV across the Bay, but it is unlikely that the 2025 goal of 130,000 acres will be reached.

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/sav>

Note: All four Salinity Zones increased from 2020-2021.



What is our Progress? (no update since Nov. meeting – 2022 #s aren't out yet)

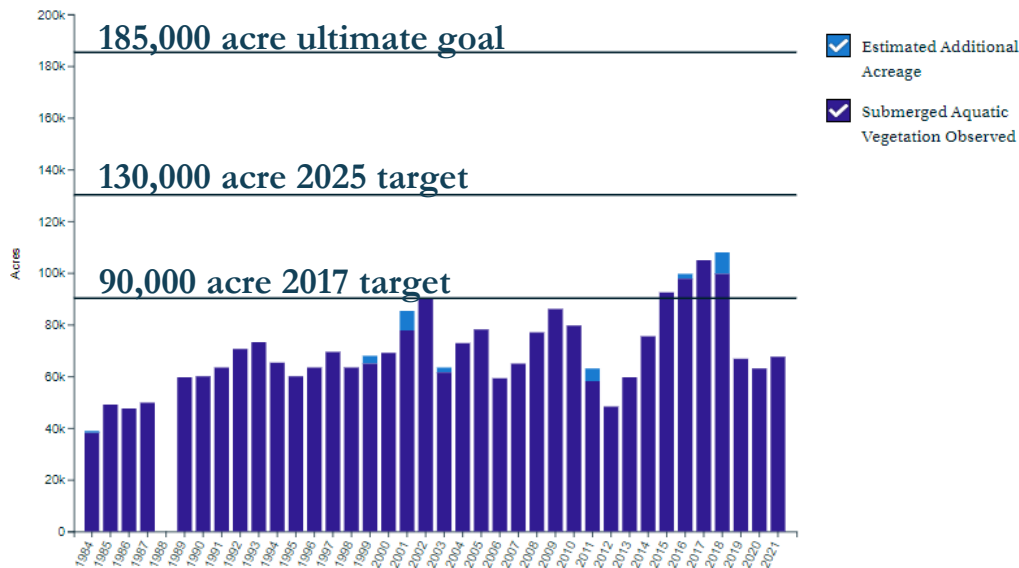
67,470 acres of SAV in 2021

- 52% of the 2025 target of 130,000 acres
- 36% of the ultimate 185,000-acre goal

BUT Wait! There's more!

Although only 28% of the Bay is fully mapped for 2022, there appears to be an **Increase in All Four Salinity Zones.** (this could, of course, change as more mapping progress is made, but for now, we maintain hope....)

Chesapeake Bay SAV Abundance 1984-2021



	Complete	Change
Tidal Fresh Zone	8%	+6%
Oligohaline Zone	25%	+5%
Mesohaline Zone	33%	+22%
Polyhaline Zone	46%	+29%
Chesapeake Bay	28%	+21%

CBP Strategy Review System

SAV Management Strategy and Logic and Action Table/2-Year Workplan

SRS process is starting again in October to begin developing the 2024-2025 Updated Management Strategy and SAV Workplan



Chesapeake Bay Program
Water Resource Strategy

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome Management Strategy

2015-2025, v.4



Water stargrass (*Heteranthera dubia*) in the clear waters of the upper Potomac River, Maryland on July 28th, 2015. (Photo by Brooke Landry/Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

I. Introduction


Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), or underwater grasses, provide significant benefits to aquatic life and serve critical functions in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Underwater grasses provide food, habitat and nursery grounds for a number of commercially and ecologically important finfish and shellfish, such as striped bass and blue crabs, and migratory waterfowl. They reduce erosion by slowing currents and softening waves, anchor bottom sediments and help keep the water clear by absorbing nutrients and trapping sediments. Through photosynthesis, underwater grasses act as a carbon sink by taking in carbon dioxide. This contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reduces the potential for climate change impacts. Likewise, underwater grasses also produce oxygen, which helps sustain other aquatic life. Increasing the abundance of underwater grasses in the Bay and its rivers will dramatically improve the entire Bay ecosystem.

1

BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM

Chesapeake Bay Program

Logic and Action Plan: Post-Quarterly Progress Meeting



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation – 2022-2023

Long-term Target: Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide; 130,000 acres by 2025
Two-year Target: To reach our 2025 goal of 130,000 acres, baywide SAV should increase by 16,000 acres per year. By 2023, we hope to achieve 98,000 acres of SAV, but a short-term target is not officially defined.

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?	What current efforts are addressing this factor?	What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?	What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?	What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?	How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?	What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?
Factor 1. Habitat Condition and Availability: SAV requires suitable water quality and clarity to recover and thrive as well as suitable shallow-water habitat in which to expand.	Effort 1.1 The Bay TMDL was established to limit the amount of N, P and TSS entering the Chesapeake Bay. Reductions in N, P and TSS improve water clarity, which allows SAV to recover.	Gap 1.1 Although SAV throughout the Bay has been shown to respond to improvements in water quality, it is also susceptible to degradation of water quality, particularly when impacted by multiple stressors, which we observed	Action 1.1a [Support WO GIT in their efforts to improve water quality through the Bay TMDL and achieve water clarity/SAV standards in areas designated for SAV use.]	Metric 1.1a Acres of SAV mapped (Bay-wide aerial survey)	Response 1.1a Further improvements in water clarity will greatly affect the ability of SAV populations in the Bay to gain or maintain resilience against climate stressors; benefits of improved water	

Updated March 9, 2022

Page 1 of 26

CBP Strategy Review System

SAV Management Strategy and Logic and Action Table/2-Year Workplan

Management Strategy

Factors Influencing Success:

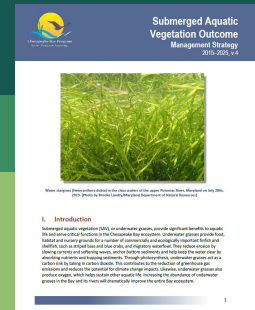
1. *Habitat Conditions and Availability*
2. *Protection of Existing and Recovering SAV*
3. *SAV Restoration Potential and Activity*
4. *SAV Research and Monitoring*
5. *Public Perception, Knowledge, and Engagement*

Current Efforts and Gaps:

1. *Habitat Conditions and Availability*
2. *Protection of Existing and Recovering SAV*
3. *SAV Restoration Potential and Activity*
4. *SAV Research and Monitoring*
5. *Public Perception, Knowledge, and Engagement*

Management Approaches:

1. *Support Efforts to Conserve and Restore Current and Future SAV Habitat and Habitat Conditions*
2. *Protect Existing and Recovering SAV*
3. *Restore SAV*
4. *Enhance SAV Research and Monitoring*
5. *Enhance Community Involvement, Education, and Outreach*



CBP Strategy Review System

SAV Management Strategy and Logic and Action Table/2-Year Workplan

Logic and Action Table

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
<i>What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>What current efforts are addressing this factor?</i>	<i>What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?</i>	<i>What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?</i>	<i>How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?</i>	<i>What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?</i>
Factor 2. Protection of Existing and Recovering SAV: SAV in the Bay, as well as the shallow-water habitat where SAV needs to recover, is subject to degradation from poor water quality but also from physical disturbances associated with dredging, harvesting, commercial fishing activities, boating, shoreline alteration, etc.	Effort 2.1 Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia all have regulations in place that protect existing SAV from harmful practices, including dredging and filling, nearshore construction and commercial fishing, etc. See also Effort 1.3 and associated Gaps and Actions.	Gap 2.1 Existing regulations may not be effective at protecting SAV as the resource recovers in the Chesapeake Bay. New threats and conflicts are emerging that may deem the current regulations ineffective, such as aquaculture, climate change impacts and harvesting. A review of all of the statutes, regulations and policies that affect SAV in the Chesapeake Bay was completed in 2019. The review	Action 2.1a [Work with state leadership in Maryland, Virginia and D.C. to review and implement appropriate recommendations from "Existing Chesapeake Bay Watershed Statutes and Regulations Affecting Submerged Aquatic Vegetation" a GIT-funded project report produced in 2019 by the Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) at the request of the CBP and SAV Workgroup.]	Metric 2.1a Recommendations reviewed and considered, regulatory updates made.	Response 2.1a Reviewing and making the recommended regulatory updates will take significant time but when completed, both existing and recovering SAV will be more effectively protected.	

CBP Strategy Review System

SAV Management Strategy and Logic and Action Table/2-Year Workplan

SAV Workplan/ACTIONS – 2022-2023					
Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 2: Protect existing and recovering SAV					
2.1a	Work with jurisdictional leadership in Maryland, Virginia and D.C. to review and implement appropriate recommendations from “Existing Chesapeake Bay Watershed Statutes and Regulations Affecting Submerged Aquatic Vegetation” a GIT-funded project report produced in 2019 by the CLA at the request of the CBP and SAV Workgroup.	a. Coordinate with jurisdictional leadership to initiate discussions with appropriate state representatives	SAV Workgroup, jurisdictional leadership	Chesapeake Bay watershed	2022
		b. Coordinate with appropriate jurisdictional representatives to review and discuss recommendations from CLA SAV Regulatory Report	SAV Workgroup, jurisdictional leadership	Chesapeake Bay watershed	2022
		c. Determine which recommendations for regulatory updates will be pursued and devise plan to do so.	SAV Workgroup, state leadership	Chesapeake Bay watershed	2023

✓ *We're on track to complete the majority of the Workplan Actions by end of 2023*

SAV Regulatory Review Meeting – Workplan Action 2.1a – March 7th, 2023

SAV Policy
Discussion
March 7, 2023

Existing Chesapeake Bay Watershed Statutes and Regulations Affecting Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



03/07/2023 – SAV POLICY MEETING

MEETING: SAV Policy Meeting

DATE/TIME: 03/07/2023, 1:00pm ET

PARTICIPANTS (17): Dede Lawal (CRC), Katlyn Fuentes (CRC), Chris Guy (USFWS), Gina Hunt (MDNR), Becky Golden (MDNR), Brooke Landry (MDNR), Robbie Callahan (USFWS), Jen Dietzen (DC DOEE), Tish Roberston (VA DEQ), Reese Cloyd (DC Fish & Wildlife), Heather Nelson (MDE), Sean Corson (NOAA), Matthew Jones (DE), Dave Goshorn (MDNR), Chris Spaur (USACE), Mark Hoffman (Chesapeake Bay Commission), Rachel Peabody (VMRC)

Meeting Objectives:

- Gather state and agency representatives that work in the policy and regulatory realm to discuss report recommendations.
- Review report and recommendations.
- Determine which recommendations are feasible and should be pursued, if any.
- Schedule follow-up meeting.

Meeting Overview:

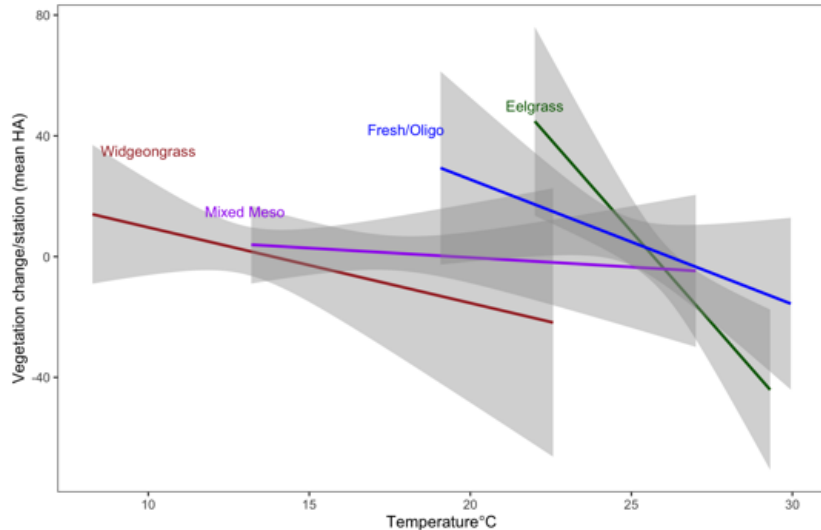
Several topics were flagged for further discussion, including:

- SAV definition consensus
- Maintenance dredging policy review
- Beneficial use guidelines

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/submerged-aquatic-vegetation-workgroup>



2021 GIT-Funded Project



Modeling Climate Impacts on SAV in Chesapeake Bay

- STAR/SAV Workgroup Collaboration
- Contracted to VIMS (Chris Patrick's team is lead) with sub-contract to Jon Lefcheck at SERC.
- Standby for Marc Hensel's final presentation for this project (10:15 AM)

This project is addressing the role of climate stressors on Chesapeake Bay SAV, including warming temperatures, rising sea levels, chronic low oxygen concentrations, and increased runoff driven by greater precipitation and more frequent, intense storm activity.



2023 GIT-Funded Project
Lead: SAV Workgroup

\$85,000
18 months

***Protecting Chesapeake Bay SAV Given Changing Hydrologic Conditions:
Priority SAV Area Identification and Solutions Development***

Project Objective

This project will identify high-priority SAV areas within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and determine which BMPs could be most effective in protecting those areas from loss during high-flow events/years using GIS spatial analysis/modeling and existing SAV, flow, land-use, and water quality data. With this information, steps can be taken to target high-priority SAV areas for implementation of BMPs and land management policies that will protect or restore those priority SAV habitats.



2023 GIT-Funded Project Lead: Comms Workgroup

Advancing Social Marketing Through Two Pilot Programs

Proposed Project Outcomes

This project will develop pilot programs for three existing community-based social marketing (CBSM) campaigns that have been developed over the past few years, SAV being one.

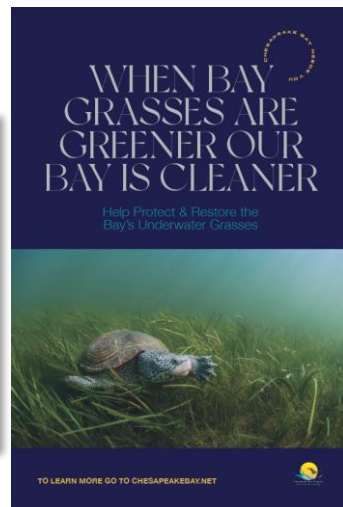
Behavior Change Training and SAV Pilot Implementation

sought to understand how shoreline property owners perceive and make decisions about SAV adjacent to their property. Background research was completed, including a survey of shoreline property owners and a literature review. The research determined that the behavior to focus on was to encourage homeowners not to disturb their SAV. Marketing materials were developed but the project did not include a strategy for implementation.



CHESAPEAKE BAY I PROTECT BAY GRASS BEDS.

TO LEARN MORE GO TO
CHESAPEAKEBAY.NET





Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring webpages are live on www.chesapeakebay.net

WHAT WE DO > PROGRAMS & PROJECTS > MONITORING

SAV Monitoring Program

The Chesapeake Bay Program takes an integrated, three-tiered approach to monitoring Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.



Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring: A 3-Tiered Hierarchical, Integrated and Coordinated Monitoring Approach

SAV Monitoring Program

SAV Monitoring Program

Tier I: Chesapeake Bay-wide Aerial Survey

Tier II: Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers Program

Tier III: SAV Sentinel Site Program

Programs & Projects

Modeling

Monitoring

Tier I: Chesapeake Bay-wide Aerial Survey

Since 1984, the Chesapeake Bay Program has worked with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to conduct an annual, Bay-wide aerial SAV survey. The data collected are used to report SAV acreage and density throughout the Bay and its tidal tributaries.



**TIER I
Aerial Survey**

SPECIFIC

1

WHO IS MONITORING?
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)

YEAR STARTED
1984

LOCATION
Bay-wide

PURPOSE?
Tracking progress towards SAV restoration goals

WHAT PARAMETERS ARE MONITORED?
SAV acreage and density

Tier II: Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers

Volunteer scientists observe and report SAV habitat characteristics (e.g., species present, Secchi depth, sediment type) at sites throughout the Bay and its tributaries. These data are useful for a broad-scale condition assessment and for identifying and quantifying cause-effect relationships.



**TIER II
SAV Watchers**

MORE SPECIFIC

WHO IS MONITORING?
Watershed monitoring groups and volunteers

YEAR STARTED
2019

LOCATION
Tributaries throughout the Chesapeake Bay

PURPOSE?
Ground-truthing aerial survey data | Broad scale condition assessments | Identifying and quantifying driver-response relationships

WHAT PARAMETERS ARE MONITORED?
SAV species composition and total density | Presence/absence of seeds, flowers, epiphytes and filamentous macroalgae | Indications of human impacts, water column and Secchi depth | Sediment type and shoreline type

Tier III: Chesapeake Bay SAV Sentinel Site Program

A detailed, long-term SAV data collection effort at several representative locations throughout the Bay and its tidal tributaries. These data help identify causal relationships by monitoring drivers of change, ecosystem responses, and ecological processes.



**TIER III
SAV Sentinel Site Program**

MOST SPECIFIC

WHO IS MONITORING?
Chesapeake Bay Program SAV workgroup and partners

YEAR STARTED
2022

LOCATION
~20 representative sites throughout the Bay

PURPOSE?
Identifying causal relationships by intensively monitoring ecological processes, drivers of change and ecosystem responses.

WHAT PARAMETERS ARE MONITORED?
Parameters measured in Tier 2 plus cover of each SAV species present macroalgae, canopy height, epiphyte loading, shoot density, indications of disease or lesions, indications of herbivory, biomass and water quality properties including temperature, pH, salinity, chlorophyll a, turbidity/total suspended solids and dissolved oxygen concentration.

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/programs/monitoring/sav-monitoring-program>



SAV Sentinel Site Program

Tier III: Chesapeake Bay SAV Sentinel Site Program

A detailed, long-term SAV data collection effort at several representative locations throughout the Bay and its tidal tributaries. These data help identify causal relationships by monitoring drivers of change, ecosystem responses, and ecological processes.

TIER III SAV Sentinel Site Program		
WHO IS MONITORING?	YEAR STARTED	LOCATION
Chesapeake Bay Program SAV workgroup and partners	2022	~20 resp the Bay
PURPOSE?		
Identifying causal relationships by intensively monitoring ecological and ecosystem responses.		
WHAT PARAMETERS ARE MONITORED?		
Parameters measured in Tier 2 plus cover of each SAV species present in epiphyte loading, shoot density, indications of disease or lesions, indicate water quality properties including temperature, pH, salinity, chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen concentration.		

Chesapeake Bay SAV Sentinel Site Monitoring Program

Protocol



A Chesapeake Bay Program SAV Workgroup Document

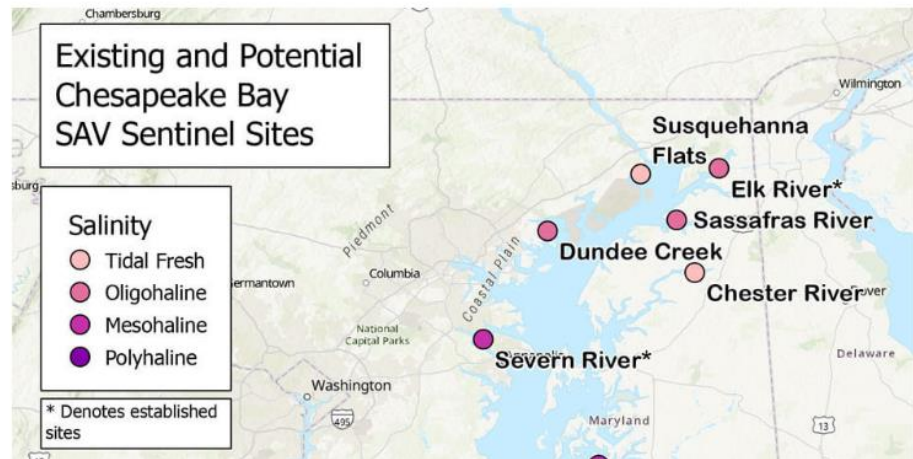
Who wants
to adopt a
site for
2023?

Tier III: SAV Sentinel Site Program

The SAV Sentinel Site Program is a monitoring effort conducted by Bay scientists

What is the Chesapeake Bay SAV Sentinel Site Program?

The Chesapeake Bay SAV Sentinel Site Program forms the third tier of the Chesapeake Bay SAV Monitoring effort. SAV sentinel sites are located in each of the Bay's four salinity zones (tidal fresh, oligohaline, mesohaline and polyhaline) and are monitored using a standardized, in-depth data collection protocol. These sentinel sites are a combination of existing, long-term sites and new sites where Bay scientists monitor changes in SAV habitat characteristics and resilience indicators. This program is coordinated by the Bay Program's [SAV Workgroup](#). If you are interested in adopting and managing an SAV Sentinel Site, contact the program coordinator at brooke.landry@maryland.gov.

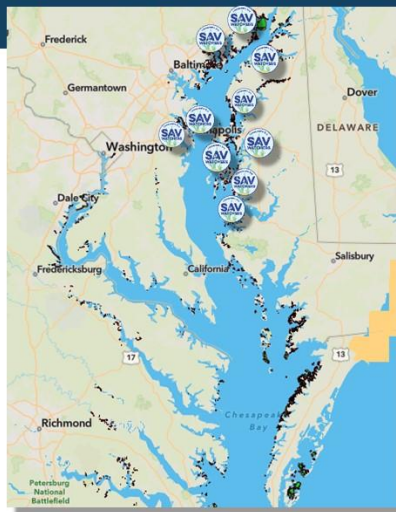




Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers Program



Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers – Tier 2 Participation



Havre de Grace
MARITIME MUSEUM
and Environmental Center



Severn River Association

America's Oldest River Group



Magothy River Association
Saving our river for future generations



Baltimore County Public Schools
Raising the bar. Closing gaps. Preparing for our future.



Chesapeake Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve
Maryland

Using Sound Science...Finding
Solutions...Promoting Wise Decisions

Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers

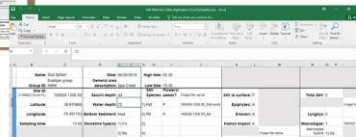


Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers is a program to provide volunteer scientists with an engaging and educational experience with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) while also generating useful data for Bay scientists and managers.

This is the first official SAV monitoring program for volunteer scientists developed by the Chesapeake Bay Program.

www.chesapeakebaysavwatchers.com

Standardized datasheet and digitization template



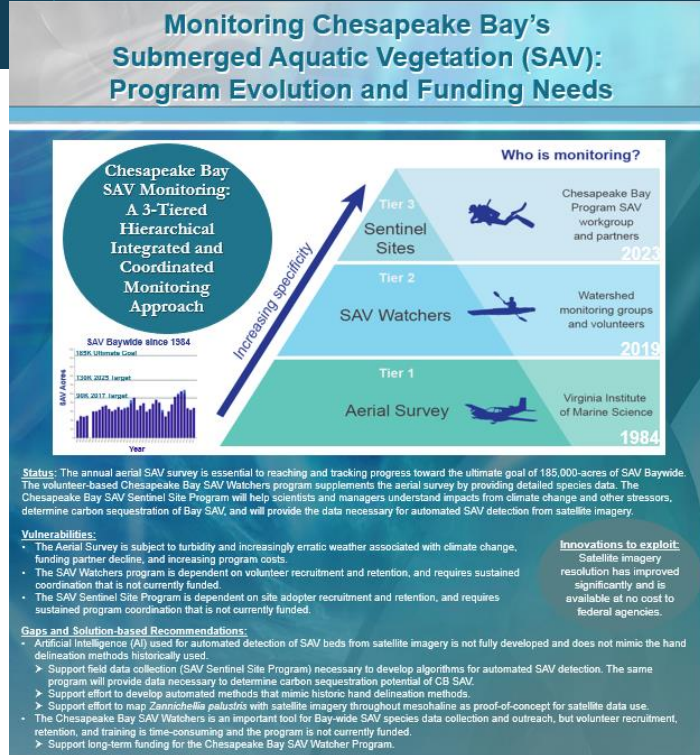
"Train the trainer" certification events offered each summer



\$ = Funded and RFP being developed



PSC Report and Recommendation Outcomes



Gaps and Solution-based Recommendations:

AI used for automated detection of SAV beds from satellite imagery is not fully developed and does not mimic the hand delineation methods historically used.

➤ Support field data collection (SAV Sentinel Site Program) necessary to develop algorithms for automated SAV detection. The same program will provide data necessary to determine carbon sequestration potential of CB SAV.

➤ \$ Support effort to develop automated methods that mimic historic hand delineation methods.

➤ \$ Support effort to map *Zannichellia palustris* with satellite imagery throughout mesohaline as proof-of-concept for satellite data use.

• The CB SAV Watchers is an important tool for Bay-wide SAV species data collection and outreach, but volunteer recruitment, retention, and training is time-consuming and the program is not currently funded.

➤ \$ Support long-term funding for the Chesapeake Bay SAV Watcher Program.

SAV Workgroup and STAC Workshops

2021-2022

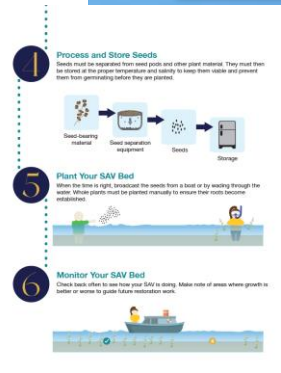
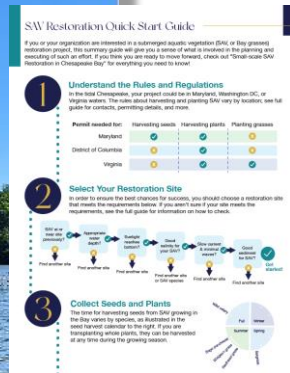
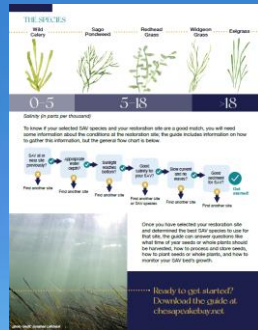
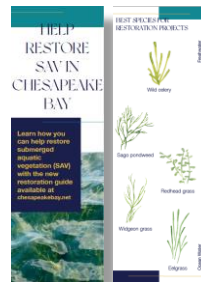
1. Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses
2. Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment including Water Quality Standards for Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity/SAV and Chlorophyll *a* Criteria
3. Evaluating a Systems Approach to Wetland Crediting

2023

Did not submit any proposals for the upcoming round of STAC workshops



SAV Restoration Guide and associated outreach materials



Small-scale SAV Restoration in Chesapeake Bay

A Guide to the Restoration of
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
(SAV) in Chesapeake Bay and
its Tidal Tributaries

2020 GIT-Funded Project

- Completed December 2021
- Contracted to Green Fin Studio (Dave Jasinski is lead) with SAV consultation by Dr. Cassie Gurbisz, SMCM.

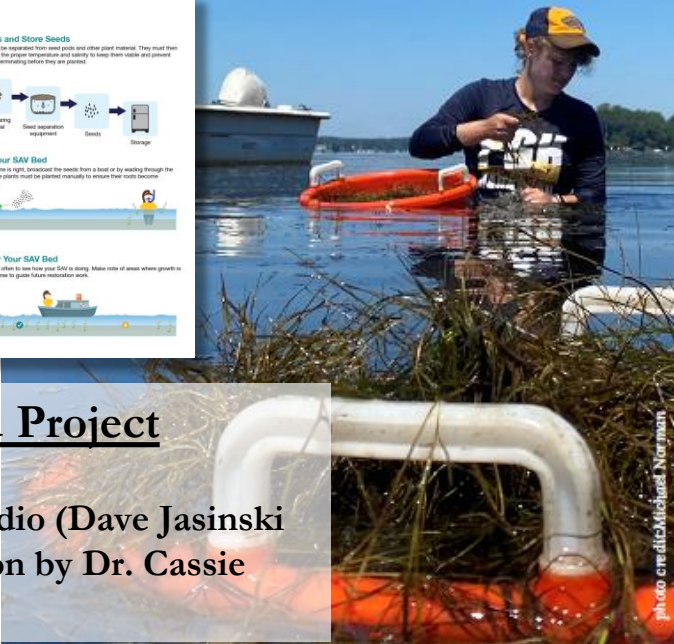


photo credit: Michael Norman



Science and Research Needs

<https://star.chesapeakebay.net/#>



Chesapeake Bay Program Science Needs Database

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Goals

Vital Habitats x

Primary Outcomes

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) x

Categories

Category Filter

Need

Need Filter

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Clear Filters

Goal	Primary Outcome	Category	Need	
Vital Habitats	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Literature Review, Research	Compare the ecosystem services of <i>Ruppia maritima</i> and <i>Zostera marina</i> and determine if a shift from Zm to Rm dominance in the polyhaline will impact fisheries such as blue crabs.	Detail
Vital Habitats	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)		Investigate impacts of climate change on freshwater SAV species	Detail
Vital Habitats	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Analysis, Modeling, Research, GIS	Determine the impact of the expanding aquaculture industry on our ability to reach segment-specific and Bay-wide SAV restoration targets.	Detail
Vital Habitats	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Analysis, GIS	Assess integrated impacts of shallow water uses (e.g. living shorelines, aquaculture, clamming, shoreline structures) on SAV habitat	Detail
Vital Habitats	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Analysis, Data Gathering, Modeling, Synthesis, GIS	Determine the habitat requirements for recovering SAV as opposed to established SAV beds.	Detail
Vital Habitats	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Analysis, Data Gathering	Assessment of future SAV habitat availability in relation to climate change, sea level rise, shoreline alteration, and nearshore development to determine if segment-specific and Bay-wide SAV restoration goals are feasible.	Detail

Role of SAV dominated by widgeonagrass grows back in the Broad River region of the Savannah but limited elsewhere.

Executive Summary
 SAV coverage in the Broad River grows back to 1980 and indicates that species diversity was higher then than it is now. At the coast of the Pamlico and upper SAV in the river was minimal, but increased over time. SAV coverage has since fluctuated in abundance, with the majority observed in Broad River. Although the Broad River widgeonagrass has maintained greater coverage than other river water quality conditions, some of the river flow composition are still varying in some, which is generally supporting a chronic nutrient problem and therefore reduced SAV cover. The 437-acre SAV restoration goal is attainable with continued efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the system.

SAV Acres and Density

Density 1-10% 11-20% 21-30% 31-40% 41-50% 51-60% 61-70% 71-80% 81-90% 91-100%

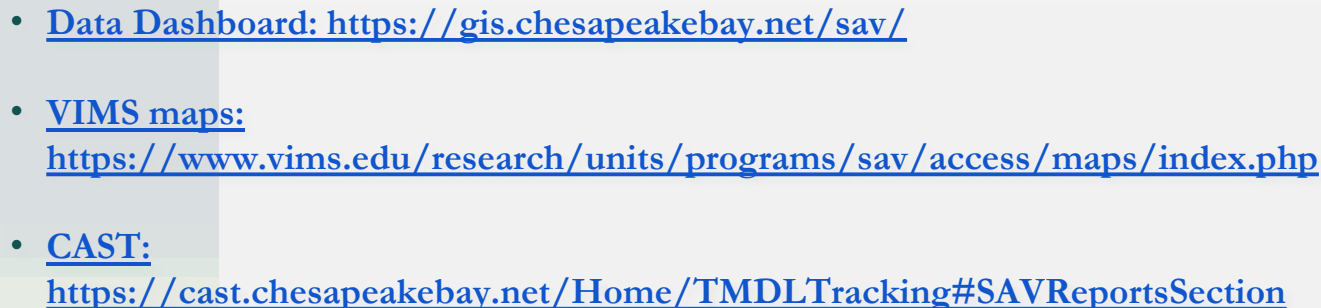
Goal: 437 acres

Fluctuating Change Over Time in the Savannah River

Acres

Key

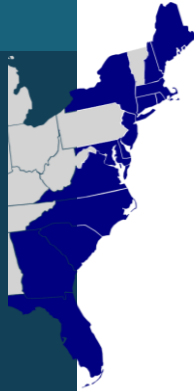
- High Number of SAV Species
- Low Number of SAV Species
- High Water Temp. 2008
- Low Water Temp. 2008
- Increased Dredge
- Widgeonagrass
- Emergent Zone
- Sediment on Potomac Seabed
- Hemlock Seedling 2002
- Shoal Sand Habitat
- Large Shallow



East Coast SAV Collaborative



Chesapeake Bay Program/Md DNR
U. of North Carolina Wilmington
Stockton University

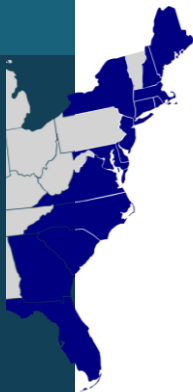


The goal for this collaborative is to bring together experts in SAV research and management from each of the U.S. East Coast states to share ideas and information, provide training and resources, and collaborate on efforts that bring actionable science to the forefront of our SAV management strategies.

East Coast SAV Collaborative



**Chesapeake Bay Program/Md DNR
U. of North Carolina Wilmington
Stockton University**



The goal for this collaborative is to bring together experts in SAV research and management from each of the U.S. East Coast states to share ideas and information, provide training and resources, and collaborate on efforts that bring actionable science to the forefront of our SAV management strategies.

First Activity of the Collaborative: Remote Sensing Workshop this summer in Annapolis, offered by Dick Zimmerman and Victoria Hill. Space is limited.

- Overview of availability of imagery for seagrass/freshwater grass mapping.
- Overview of our methodology, workflow and results.
- How to explore, order and download Planet imagery.
- How to visualize imagery in ArcGIS Pro (also include steps in QGIS).
- How to select training patches and run supervised classification of images in ArcGIS Pro and QGIS.
- How to calculate seagrass density and carbon from the imagery.
- How to generate seasonal and annual seagrass distribution maps from Planet imagery.
- Training on python code for processing, classifying and quantifying results.
- Best practices for comparing Planet imagery based maps to traditional aerial imagery.



Questions?