



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Fish Passage Outcome: 2024-2025 Workplan

Presented to the Management Board on December 14, 2023

FISH PASSAGE OUTCOME: Continually increase access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed's freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad, Hickory Shad, American Eel and Brook Trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.* (*In January 2020, the outcome was modified from the original language.)

LONG-TERM TARGET: Open an additional 1,000 miles by 2025. This original outcome and target has been exceeded through fish passage efforts completed by the work group. Since fish passage is still restricted in many watersheds by dams and road crossings, the workgroup will continue opening stream miles at the rate specified in the Bay Program agreement and bi-yearly work plans (132 miles of habitat every two years). This new outcome was approved in January 2020.

TWO-YEAR TARGET: **Open an additional 132 miles by 2025.**

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVES:

1. During the period 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles, with restoration success indicated by the presence of Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad, Hickory Shad, American Eel and/or Brook Trout.
 2. Document return of fish to opened stream reaches by establishing the presence or absence of target species at a select number of projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
 3. Use the Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool that was completed by the workgroup to implement high priority dam removal and fish passage projects.
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Action	Action Description	Performance Target(s)	Geographic Location	What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor? How will we use it?	How will we communicate results?	How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap?	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Expected Timeline for Completion
1	Continue fish passage activities in the Chesapeake Bay	Dam removal, fish passage, and culvert replacement projects to include planning, design and implementation of projects. Use the Chesapeake Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to identify key projects.	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Restore historical fish migration routes by opening habitat to passage	Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool will be used to determine upstream miles opened per project, and to track workgroup outcome.	CBP: Quarterly Progress Reports to Management Board; updates to CBP Fish Passage Webpage; emails/meetings with the workgroup.	Will support FPWG outcome to restore 132 miles of habitat every 2 years	Fish Passage Coordinators, Fish Passage Workgroup	Varies
2	Coordinate dam removal activities with the state dam safety programs	Establish or continue relationships with state dam safety programs. Have dam safety programs acknowledge dam removal as an option for end of utility and life cycle planning, or functionally obsolete dams. Use State dam safety programs to help inform dam owners of the benefits of removal.	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Increase number of dam owners willing to remove their dams	Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool will be used to determine upstream miles opened per project, and to track workgroup outcome.	CBP: Quarterly Progress Reports to Management Board; updates to CBP Fish Passage Webpage; emails/meetings with the workgroup.	Will support FPWG outcome to restore 132 miles of habitat every 2 years	Fish Passage Workgroup	Varies

3	Continue road/stream crossing activities (assessments, project development and project implementation) in the Chesapeake Bay	Coordinate with agencies responsible for maintaining and replacing road/stream culverts. Use the Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to identify key projects. Use the Recommendations for Aquatic Organism Passage at Maryland Road Stream Crossings document to design and implement "fish friendly culverts". Discuss expanding this document/procedures to other States.	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Restore historical fish migration routes by opening habitat to passage	Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool will be used to determine upstream miles opened per project, and to track workgroup outcome.	CBP: Quarterly Progress Reports to Management Board; emails/meetings with the workgroup; Any other audiences (e.g., public, states)?	Will support FPWG outcome to restore 132 miles of habitat every 2 years	Fish Passage Workgroup	Varies
4	Finalize Dam Removal Mitigation Crediting Guidance	Fish Passage Workgroup will continue working with the USACE on the draft mitigation calculator; Complete the final guidance document with calculator tool, and distribute the document to regulatory and dam removal practitioners for implementation	State of Maryland, then Bay wide	Restore historical fish migration routes by opening habitat to passage	Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool will be used to determine upstream miles opened per project, and to track workgroup outcome.	CBP: Quarterly Progress Reports to Management Board; emails/meetings with the workgroup; Any other audiences (e.g., public, states)?	Will support FPWG outcome to restore 132 miles of habitat every 2 years	Fish Passage Workgroup	2024

5	Consult with Chesapeake Bay Program Communications and Social Scientists to develop communications products and supportive policies to encourage dam removal.	Develop communications strategy to increase willingness of owners to remove dams including ecological benefits and financial incentives. Discuss supportive policies that may increase dam owner willingness to participate in dam removal activities.	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Increase number of dam owners willing to remove their dams	Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool will be used to determine upstream miles opened per project, and to track workgroup outcome.	CBP: Quarterly Progress Reports to Management Board; emails/meetings with the workgroup; Any other audiences (e.g., public, states)?	Will support FPWG outcome to restore 132 miles of habitat every 2 years	Fish Passage Workgroup	Ongoing
6	Conduct target species monitoring of select dam removals and fish passage structures, to include target species counts at technical fishways.	Documentation of target species upstream of dam removal and fish passage projects.	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, or American eel	TBD	CBP: Quarterly Progress Reports to Management Board; emails/meetings with the workgroup; Any other audiences (e.g., public, states)?	Will support FPWG outcome to restore 132 miles of habitat every 2 years	Fish Passage Workgroup	Ongoing