



Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV (underwater grasses) 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.

Why is this outcome important?

Underwater grasses provide significant benefits to aquatic life and serve critical functions in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Underwater grasses add oxygen to the water; improve water clarity by helping suspended sediment settle to the bottom; provide shelter for young striped bass, blue crabs and other species; and reduce shoreline erosion. Increasing the abundance of grasses in the Bay and its rivers will dramatically improve the entire Bay ecosystem.

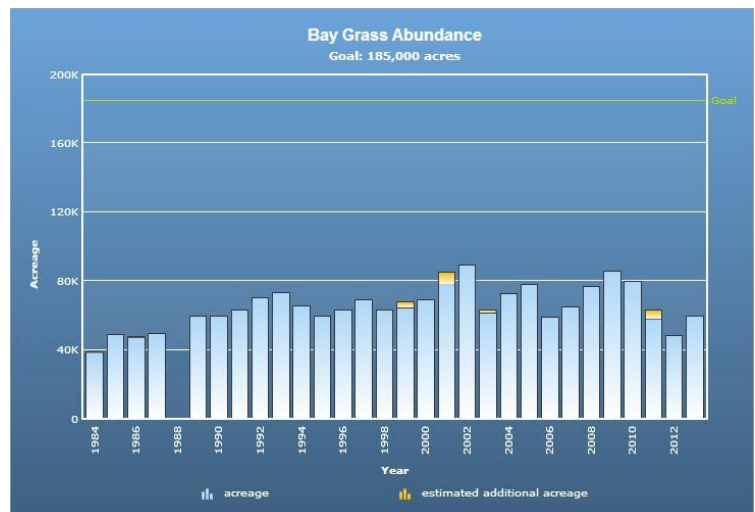
Current Conditions:

In 2013, there were an estimated 59,927 acres of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay, achieving 32 percent of the 185,000-acre goal.

How was the outcome derived?

Who came up with it?

This outcome was derived from the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Submerged Aquatic Vegetation \(SAV\) Workgroup](#) and is based on the acreage recorded in certain regions during certain high-growth years.



See how bay grasses are doing at chesapeakebay.net

What was the basis or baseline?

The baseline was generated from historical SAV abundance in the Chesapeake Bay.

For More:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/bay_grasses

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/fieldguide/categories/category/bay_grasses_sav

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/bay_grass_abundance_baywide

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/videos/clip/chesapeake_unscripted_baltimore_md