



**Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team Meeting**  
**11:00AM – 2:00PM May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
410 Severn Ave Annapolis, MD

**Conference Line** 1-866-299-3188 code 4102675731

**Adobe Connect** <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/star2/>

**Event webpage** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21548/>

**AGENDA**

**11:00 AM Welcome, Introduction, Updates, and Announcements – William Dennison (STAR Chair), Mark Bennett (STAR Vice Chair), Peter Tango (STAR Coordinator)**

STAR Leadership will give an introduction and request updates from the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) and STAR Workgroups.

- [Chesapeake Modeling Symposium – Annapolis, MD May 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)
- [Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration – New Orleans, Louisiana July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014](#)
- [Restore America's Estuaries 7<sup>th</sup> National Summit – Washington, D.C. November 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)
- [Chesapeake Watershed Forum – Shepherdstown, WV September 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)

**11:15 AM Communications Discussion – All**

STAR members will discuss communication ideas including upcoming reports, studies, and videos to recommend to the Communications Workgroup.

**11:30 AM UMCES Chesapeake Bay Report Card Release – Bill Dennison**

A report card is released each year providing an assessment of the previous year's health. Health is defined as progress of the seven indicators towards established scientifically derived ecological thresholds or goals.

**11:50 AM Customer Expectations for the CBP Monitoring Networks – Bill Dennison**

The purpose of the Customer Expectations portion of BASIN Phase II is to gain feedback on the usefulness of the products derived from the CBP monitoring networks. At the April STAR Meeting leadership provided an overview of the next steps. Bill Dennison will review the draft questionnaire for feedback.

**12:20 PM Break for seminar and lunch set up (lunch provided by IAN UMCES)**

**12:30 PM      Seminar and discussion**

**Science underpinning large-scale oyster restoration in the Choptank Complex –  
Stephanie Westby (NOAA CBO) and Howard Townsend (NOAA CBO)**

[Attachment](#)

The oyster goals in the soon-to-be-signed Chesapeake Bay Agreement and Executive Order 13508 call for large-scale, tributary-based oyster restoration. The first several tributaries selected for action are Harris Creek, the Tred Avon River, and Little Choptank River-- collectively called the 'Choptank Complex'. This talk will describe how benthic habitat characterization, oyster surveys, and public and scientific community input are being used to inform restoration site selection, and how post-restoration monitoring is being implemented to track progress against the bay-wide oyster restoration success criteria established by the Chesapeake Oyster Metrics workgroup. A long-term multi-agency study, led by NOAA, is also underway to quantify some oyster reef ecosystem services, including denitrification and fish utilization.

Stephanie Westby coordinates oyster activities and manages grants related to oyster restoration for the NOAA Restoration Center and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. Previously, Stephanie oversaw the oyster restoration program and served as the technical and policy lead for Maryland fisheries at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in environmental science and policy.

Howard Townsend leads the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office modeling team; the team's goal is to support holistic, ecosystem-based fisheries management by developing and implementing ecosystem models and other analytical tools. These tools help managers understand the trade-offs in ecosystem services under different management scenarios. Howard also provides administrative coordination of NCBO programs at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory. Prior to joining the office, he conducted statistical analysis for the health care industry. Howard has a Ph.D. in biology from Wake Forest University.

**1:30 AM      Envisioned Evolution of STAR – Peter Tango**

At the April STAR Meeting, STAR discussed answers to the role of STAR survey provided to all of the GITs. STAR Leadership used these responses to edit the "Evolution of STAR" document and will provide an overview of the changes made and request final feedback.

**2:00 PM      Adjourn**

**2:00 PM      STAR planning session (STAR Leadership, Staffers)**