Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership
Tools to Support Water Quality Trading

BayFAST (Chesapeake Bay Facility Assessment Scenario Tool)

For interested Bay jurisdictions, CBPO can expand BayFAST's current abilities to quantify the comparative nutrient and sediment reductions between two scenarios. This can be done in support of Bay jurisdiction's trading and offset programs. BayFAST is available over the internet and is kept up to date with the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership models. This capability is possible as soon as March 2016 upon request.

Currently, users may define parcel boundaries for any nonpoint source (urban, agricultural, natural sectors) and rapidly determine "what if" scenarios for varying best management practices. This existing capacity can be expanded to include a jurisdiction's defined baseline requirements, a checklist of any applicable eligibility requirements, and trading ratios. As such the pounds of reductions can be interpreted as salable credits. This expanded capacity is offered to interested jurisdictions.

Starting with the Phase 6 Watershed Model (end of 2017), jurisdictions will have the ability to incorporate the BayFAST engine into their own online interface/tools. The BayFAST engine would receive information from the jurisdiction's interface/tool and send back the calculated credits.

Small Scale Watersheds

The Phase 6 Watershed Model (end of 2017), will include the capacity to report results at very small watershed scales, corresponding to individual stream reaches roughly a few miles in length. If desired, this new capacity would allow BayFAST to quantify load reductions and/or credits with added sensitivity of the relative variability of the local terrain. The exact sensitives and how they are defined are yet to be finalized.

Note: This new capacity will not change in any way the use of much larger state-basins as the continued basis for TMDL allocations, WIPs and assessments.