

# **Being Accountable/Communicating Assessment Information to the Public in 2012**

## **Update to the Management Board April 2012**

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### **Purpose of This Briefing:**

- Update on “State of the Program” package to be prepared for 2012 Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) meeting;
- Update on indicators from the 2010 Bay Barometer that are changing or will no longer be used by GITs;
- Update on new indicators that GITs plan to develop for public reporting.

### **Background:**

- Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) are using “[How CBP Will Be Accountable and Communicate Assessment Information to the Public in 2012](#)” as guidance to determine which indicators will be used for public reporting in 2012. This document was presented to the Management Board (MB) in January 2012 and no changes were requested.

### **State of the Program Planning:**

- The focus for the EC meeting will be the “restoration progress” info.
- “Restoration Progress” to be a component of an overall “State of the Program” package for the June 2012 meeting of the EC. “GIT updates” and “Bay/Watershed Health” will also be components (along with other items the CBP Director wants to include in the package).
- “Restoration Progress” component:
  - Will feature “restoration effort” indicators.
  - GITs need to provide 2011 data for updating the indicators by April 16, 2012.
  - These measures of “accountability” will be a primary focus for the EC meeting
- “GIT Updates” component:
  - Will feature the same type of info (in narrative format) that has been provided via GIT updates to the MB (refer to the GIT Updates section of the “[Program Update](#)” for examples)
  - GITs need to provide new content, if any, by April 17<sup>th</sup>
- “Health” component:
  - This will not be “top billing” since this info will have already been released.
  - Will only discuss/list most current health indicators previously released to the public.  
For example:
    - 2011 SAV abundance info to be part of a CBP press release in March 2012
    - 2011 info to be released via the EcoCheck Bay Report Card in April 2012 (e.g. dissolved oxygen, clarity, benthos, phytoplankton)
    - 2010/2011 blue crab abundance info that was released last summer by NOAA
    - Brook trout and Black duck info released via the Executive Order Progress Report
    - Any other health indicators that have been updated and uploaded to the CBP website by mid-April 2012

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#### Update on Indicators:

##### *Restoration Effort Indicators:*

- The following restoration effort indicators from the 2010 Bay Barometer will be **updated** with 2011 data in time for the 2012 EC:
  - [Reducing Nitrogen Pollution](#)
  - [Reducing Phosphorus Pollution](#)
  - [Reducing Sediment Pollution](#)
- The following restoration effort indicators from the 2010 Bay Barometer will be **revised and updated in time** for the 2012 EC meeting:
  - [Bay Grasses Planted](#) – Tracking revised target
  - [Wetlands Restoration Efforts](#) - Tracking revised target
  - [Wetlands Enhancement and Rehabilitation](#) - Tracking revised target
  - [Re-Opening Fish Passage](#) - Tracking revised target
  - [Blue Crab Fishery Management](#) - Tracking revised targets
  - [Planting Forest Buffers](#) - Tracking revised target
- The following restoration effort indicators from the 2010 Bay Barometer will be **revised but not updated in time** for 2012 EC meeting:
  - [Preserving Lands](#) - Tracking revised goal/outcome
  - [Public Access Points to the Bay and Tributaries](#) – Tracking revised goal/outcome; accounting for efforts of all watershed states
  - [K-12 Education](#) – To be informed by outcomes of proposed STAC workshop
- The following restoration effort indicators from the 2010 Bay Barometer **will no longer be used**:
  - [Restoring Oyster Reefs](#) – new metrics developed; assessment data available 2013
  - [Developing Watershed Management Plans](#)
  - [Public Access Site Index](#)
  - [Citizen and Community Action: Bay Partner Communities](#)
- The following restoration effort indicators from the 2010 Bay Barometer **may no longer be used (TBD)**:
  - [Bay Gateways Designated](#)
  - [Water Trails in the Bay Watershed](#)
  - [Citizen and Community Action: Volunteers Participating in Restoration Activities](#)
- The following new restoration effort indicators have been/**will be developed**:
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades - Summary and by State; Proposed; Supplemental to the Reducing Pollution Indicators; available by 2012 EC meeting
  - Restore native oyster habitat/populations in 20 tributaries - new metrics developed; partial assessment data available by 2013 EC meeting
  - PK-12 grade environmental literacy metrics; Potential; Supplemental to the K-12 Education Indicator; by 2013 EC meeting

##### *Bay and Watershed Health Indicators*

- The following health indicators have been/will be **updated in 2012** w/ more current data:
  - [Bay Grass Abundance](#)

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- [Phytoplankton \(Index of Biotic Integrity\)](#)
- [Bottom Habitat \(Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity\)](#)
- [Dissolved Oxygen Standards Attainment](#)
- [Mid-Channel Water Clarity](#)
- [Chlorophyll a](#)
- [Chemical Contaminants](#)
- [Health of Freshwater Streams in Watershed](#)
- [Nitrogen in Rivers Entering the Bay: Long-Term Flow Adjusted Concentration Trends](#)
- [Phosphorus in Rivers Entering the Bay: Long-Term Flow Adjusted Concentration Trends](#)
- [Sediment in Rivers Entering the Bay: Long-Term Flow Adjusted Concentration Trends](#)
- The following health indicators will be **revised in 2012** and updated w/ more current data:
  - [Blue Crab Abundance](#) – tracking revised target
  - [Striped Bass Abundance \(Spawning Female Biomass\)](#) - Will report coastal stock assessment
  - [Juvenile Menhaden Abundance in Maryland](#) - Will report coastal stock assessment
  - [Nitrogen Yields and Short-Term Trends in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#) – revised maps
  - [Phosphorus Yields and Short-Term Trends in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#) – revised maps
  - [Sediment Yields and Short-Term Trends in Watershed Streams/Rivers](#) – revised maps
- The following health indicators **will no longer be used**:
  - [Native Oyster Abundance \(Biomass\)](#) - new metrics developed; assessment data available 2013
- The following health indicators **may no longer be used**:
  - [Phytoplankton \(Index of Biotic Integrity\)](#) - issues to be raised w/ STAR Tidal Workgroup
  - [Tidal Wetlands Abundance](#) – issues with tracking
  - [American Shad Returning to Chesapeake Bay](#) - TBD
- The following new health indicators have been/**will be developed**:
  - Restore naturally reproducing brook trout populations in headwater streams; working with STAR via Streams Workshop; by April 2012
  - potential new metric to assess combined WQ standards attainment in tidal water segments (for DO, SAV/Clarity and chlor a); by fall/winter 2012
  - Restore native oyster habitat/populations in 20 tributaries - new metrics developed; partial assessment data available by 2013 EC meeting

### ***Factors Impacting Health Indicators***

- The following “factors” indicators have been/will be **updated in 2012** w/ more current data:
  - [Nitrogen Loads and River Flow To the Chesapeake Bay](#)
  - [Phosphorus Loads and River Flow To the Chesapeake Bay](#)
  - [Sediment Loads and River Flow To the Chesapeake Bay](#)
  - [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Population](#)
  - [River Flow](#)

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- The following “factors” indicators will be **revised in 2012** and updated w/ more current data:
  - [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forest Cover](#) - source of data changing; historic time period to be reduced; moving to “watershed health” category

***For additional details, please refer to [Review of 2010 BB Indicators Compiled](#)***