## Social Science Action Team: Incorporating Social Science into the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

SCIENCE, TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT & REPORTING NOVEMBER 5, 2012 TEAM MEETING ANNAPOLIS, MD

## **Main Discussion Points for Today**

 Overview of Purpose & Scope, including Mission Statement and Membership

Areas of Focus

Short- and Long-Term Actions

Actions to Date

#### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Across the Watershed - Research Needs\***

#### Behavior-change research

- What drives decision-making; enhancing community engagement; understand local values and knowledge
- Economic research
  - Cost-benefits and cost-effectiveness estimates
- Research on the cultural landscape
  - Measuring (conflicting) expectations; social dynamics influencing community values
- Research to address communication barriers
  - Develop indicators to measure "success"; multiple definitions of "success"
- Research to understand institutional change
  - Dynamics of political environment and its impact on community

#### **BACKGROUND:**

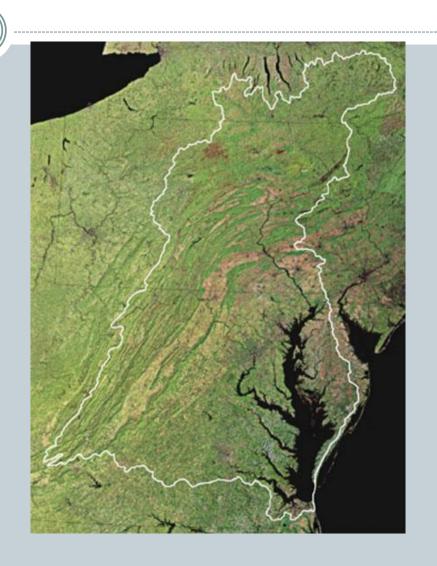
## **Constraints to Integrating Social Science\***

- Lack of access to tools and research
  - Lack of self-promotion and knowledge of how to use social science tools and access experts
- Institutional constraints
  - o Current thinking too traditional; first programs to be cut
- Barriers of scale
  - How to allow for bottom-up community involvement in restoration
- Communication
  - Competing language by managers and social scientists



## **Purpose of Action Team**

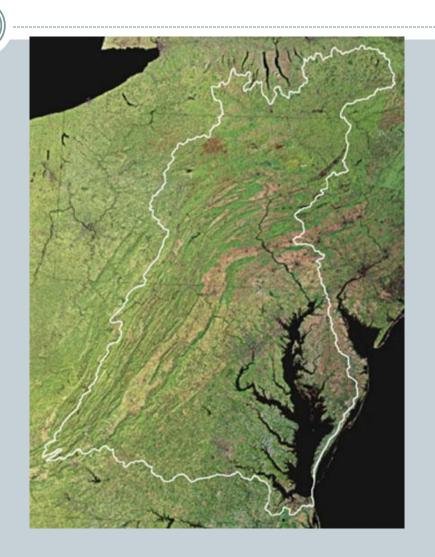
- Increase awareness of the social science disciplines
- Demonstrate value of social science to Bay Program Partnership
- Build off previous social science analyses - there's already a lot happening in the watershed!





## **Purpose of Action Team**

- Bridge the gap
   between natural and
   social sciences
- Integrate social science methods and research into the Bay Program's priorities and decision making framework

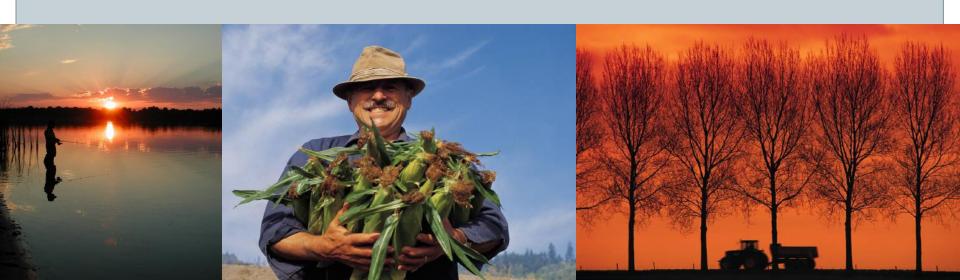




#### **Mission Statement**

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To identify, evaluate, and develop opportunities for applying social science methods and research findings into the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.





## **Scope & Duration of Action Team**



- Comprised of 10-12 Social Scientists representing the:
  - Bay Jurisdictions
  - Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- One year term
  - Utilizing an Adaptive Management Approach
    - Action Team to conduct self study throughout this period to identify key successes and areas for improvement
    - Based on self study, reevaluate key objectives and determine next steps at end of one-year period
    - Report back to Management Board on findings and recommendations for possible transition to more permanent inclusion in Bay Program structure

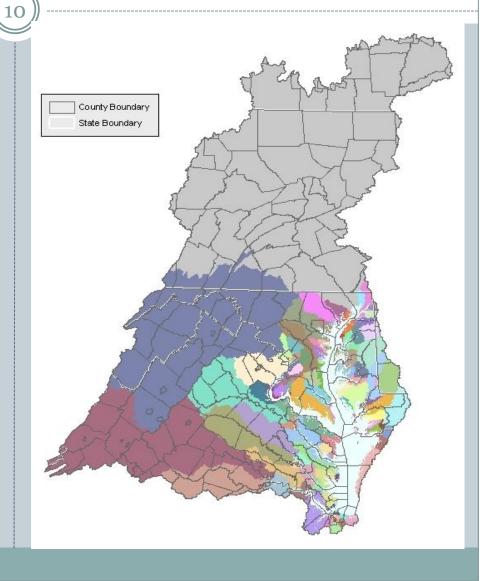
## **Overarching Areas of Focus**

- Identify opportunities within Bay Program that show how social science research can help achieve goals
- Demonstrate how social science has made a difference in the environmental field (e.g. changing behavior)
- Integrate social science research and findings into Bay Program



## **Short Term Actions (w/in Year 1)**

- Assess social science needs/current research in GITs
  - Articulate priorities,
    actions, desired outcomes
  - Identify overarching social science themes
  - Identify opportunities that benefit from tech assistance, and link with social science expertise





## **Short Term Actions (w/in Year 1)**



- Facilitate social science speaker series
  - Identify high profile case studies that demonstrate value of social science
  - Particularly, applied research in Chesapeake Bay that could assist with water quality improvements, habitat restoration, fisheries management, etc.
  - Connects research with Bay Program priorities
- Explore opportunities to access/acquire additional funding for implementing social science recommendations

#### **Actions to Date**



- Response to STAC's Social Science Workshop Report
- Presentation of Social Science Action Team to Management Board & Science and Technical Advisory Committee
- Solicitation of Action Team Members & Convening of Action Team
- Confirmation of Mission & Scope and Short Term Actions
- Initial Engagement with Goal Implementation Teams

## Longer Term Actions (Post-Year One)



- Synthesize existing and ongoing social science research and how it could be applied to Bay Program
  - Effectively utilizing social science methods and principles
- Initiate social science research effort in priority watersheds
- Develop social science online resource directory





# Thank you!

# **QUESTIONS?**

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