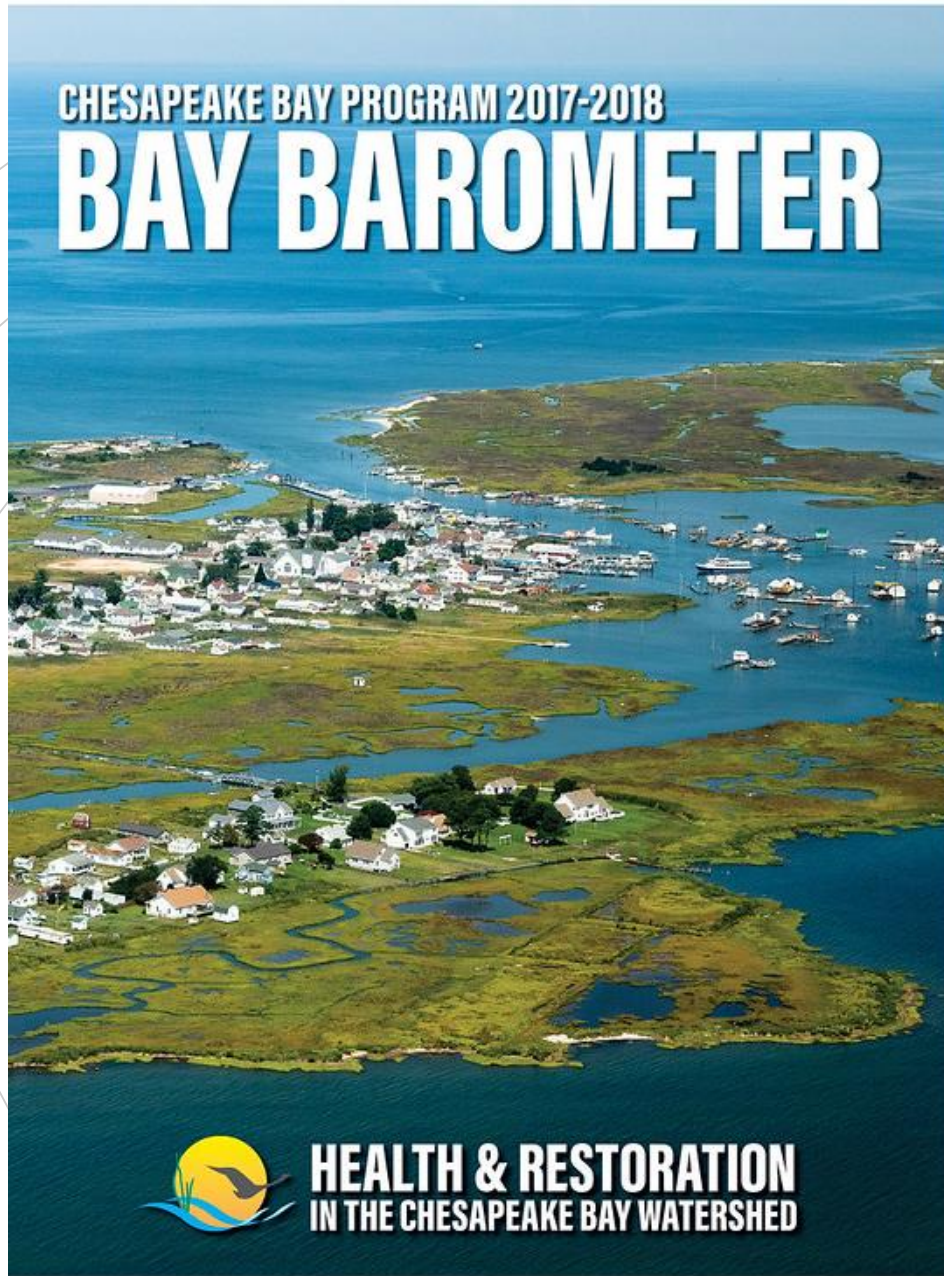


The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large, solid blue oval is centered on the page, containing the main text. A thick, dark gray curved line sweeps across the bottom left, partially overlapping the blue oval.

2018-19 Bay Barometer

Management Board

December 12, 2019



Quick recap....


Annual report on
watershed health and
restoration.

Retrospective summary of
previously published
indicators.



What's new this year?

We are changing things up a bit.

An aerial photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and green foliage. A blue speech bubble with a white border is positioned in the center-left of the image, containing white text.

Why are we
changing things
up?



Do not have any brand-new indicators.

- 2016: Diversity
- 2017: Stewardship
- 2018: Climate Monitoring & Assessment



Lack of updated indicators

- Only seven out of 19 indicators were updated in 2019.
- Three of the indicators that needed improvement in 2018 were not updated in 2019.
 - Forest Buffers
 - Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention
 - Wetlands

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of numerous oyster shells. The shells are light brown and tan in color, with a rough, textured surface. Some shells are open, revealing the dark interior. The shells are piled together, creating a dense, layered appearance.

Seven updated indicators

Blue crab abundance: Between 2018 and 2019, the abundance of adult female blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay increased 30 percent from 147 million to 194 million.

Blue crab management: An estimated 23 % of the female blue crab population was harvested in 2018. The blue crab stock is not depleted or overfished.

Oysters: Ten Chesapeake Bay tributaries have been selected for large scale oyster restoration and are in various stages of completion.

Seven updated indicators

Protected Lands: Nearly 1.36 million acres of land in the watershed have been permanently protected since 2010, achieving 68 % of the goal to protect an additional two million acres of land by 2025.

Public Access: Between 2010 and 2018, 176 public access sites opened across the watershed, achieving a 59 % achievement of the goal to add 300 new sites by 2025.





Seven updated indicators

RPI: As of 2018, the Phase 6 Watershed Model estimates that pollution-reducing practices are in place to achieve 39 % of nitrogen and 77 % of phosphorus reductions. Additionally, pollution controls put in place between 2009 and 2018 lowered nitrogen loads by 10 % and phosphorus loads by 13 %.

SAV: 91,559 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in 2018, although 22 % of the Bay was not mapped due to security restrictions, weather conditions and prolonged turbidity. Accounting for these unmapped portions, it is possible the Bay supported 108,960 acres in 2018.

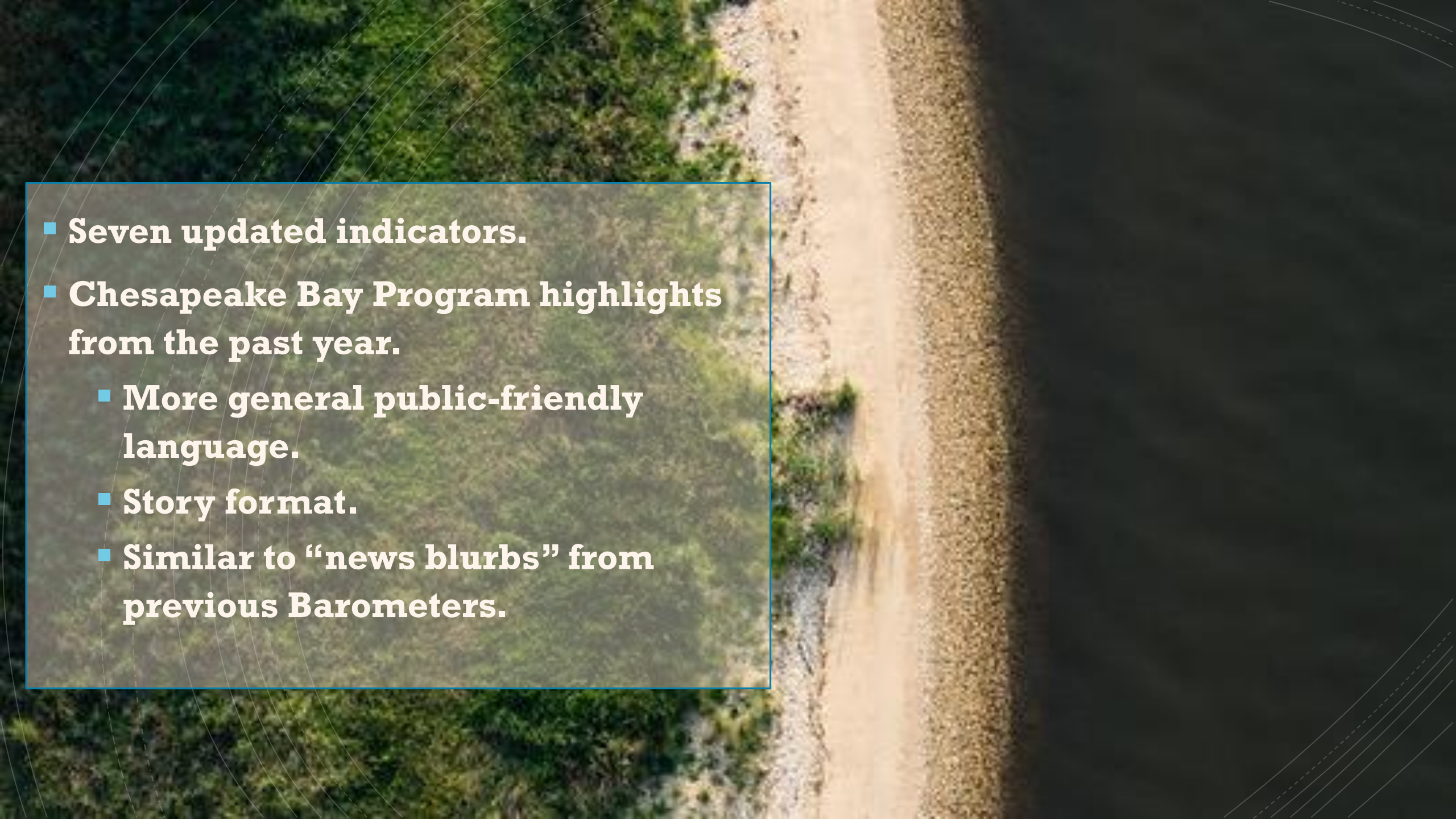
What do we know?

The Bay Barometer is primarily used to answer two questions.

Is the Bay healthy?

How has the Chesapeake Bay Program helped to restore the Bay over the past year?



- 
- An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a lush green field. The road is light brown and appears to be made of gravel or compacted earth. The surrounding vegetation is dense and green. The image is used as a background for a presentation slide.
- **Seven updated indicators.**
 - **Chesapeake Bay Program highlights from the past year.**
 - **More general public-friendly language.**
 - **Story format.**
 - **Similar to “news blurbs” from previous Barometers.**

A small bird with dark, patterned feathers and a reddish-brown head is perched on a thin, vertical, light-colored stick. The bird is facing left. The background is a dense, out-of-focus green field of tall grass or reeds. On the left side of the image, there are several concentric, thin, curved lines that sweep across the frame from the top left towards the bottom right.

Timeline

Goal is to send you content ONLY for review by December 20.

Will ask for feedback by January 10.

Tentative release date of mid-February.

Questions?

Rachel Felver
Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Director
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
rfelver@chesapeakebay.net
(410) 267-5740