CHESAPEAKE
WATERSHED
AGREEMENT

2 0 1 4

As amended, January 24, 2020

GOALS & OUTCOMES

VITAL HABITATS

Increasing needs for land and resources have resulted in fragmentation and degradation of many habitats across the watershed while also challenging the health of many Bay watershed species. Conserving healthy habitats and restoring the connectivity and function of degraded habitats is essential to the long-term resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem and the region's quality of life.

GOAL: Restore, enhance and protect a network of land and water habitats to support fish and wildlife, and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed.

Wetlands Outcome →

Continually increase access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed's freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.*

Black Duck →

By 2025, restore, enhance and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

Stream Health Outcome →

Continually improve stream health and function throughout the watershed. Improve health and function of ten percent of stream miles above the 2008 baseline for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Brook Trout →

Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an eight percent increase in occupied habitat by 2025.

*As amended, January 28, 2020 by the Principals' Staff Committee.

AFFIRMATION

As Chesapeake Bay Program Partners, we recognize the need to accelerate implementation of actions necessary to achieve the Goals and Outcomes outlined herein and realize our shared Vision of a healthy and vibrant Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As Chesapeake Bay Program Partners, we acknowledge that this Agreement is voluntary and subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This Agreement is not a contract or an assistance agreement. We also understand that this Agreement does not pre-empt, supersede or override any other law or regulation applicable to each signatory.

We, the undersigned members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, re-affirm our commitment to support the Goals of this Agreement and to work cooperatively in its implementation. We agree to work both independently and collaboratively toward the Goals and Outcomes of this Agreement and to implement specific Management Strategies to achieve them. Every citizen of this great watershed is invited to join with the Partnership, uniting as a region and embracing the actions that will lead to success.

Date: June 16, 2014

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission

For the State of Delaware

For the District of Columbia
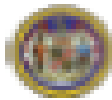
For the State of Maryland

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

For the State of New York

For the Commonwealth of Virginia

For the State of West Virginia

For the United States of America
on behalf of the Federal Government and the
Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Transportation

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Amendments to Goals and Outcomes

As discussed on page 3 of this Watershed Agreement, the signatory partners recognized that, "As the signatories identify new opportunities and concerns, Goals or Outcomes may be adopted or modified. Any changes or additions to Goals will be approved by the Executive Council. The Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) will approve changes or additions to Outcomes, although significant changes or additions will be raised to the Executive Council for approval. Proposed changes to Goals and Outcomes or the addition of new ones will be open for public input before being finalized."

On January 24, 2020, the PSC approved the following modifications to three *2014 Watershed Agreement* outcomes. The PSC agreed that final approval of these edits to the original outcomes by the Executive Council was <u>not</u> necessary:

- <u>Diversity</u>: "Identify ~~minority~~ stakeholder groups not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making or implementation of current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage these groups in the Partnership's efforts."

- <u>Fish Passage</u>: "Continually increase ~~available~~ access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed's freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening ~~1,000 additional stream miles~~ an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods."

- <u>Land Use Methods and Metrics</u>: "Continually improve our knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed. By ~~2016~~ December 2021, develop a watershed-wide methodology and local-level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with local governments, elected officials and stakeholders."