

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATES

November 2025

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Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC)
November 14, 2025

Agenda

- Bay Program Restructuring (Beyond 2025)
- Bay Program Achievements in 2025
- TMDL Implementation and Accountability Update (WIP Phase III+ and Near Term Milestones)
- Phase 7 Model Suite Timeline
- CAST Updates in 2025

Bay Program Restructuring (Beyond 2025)

- Revised Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement approved by Principal Staff Committee (PSC) on 10/28 (Final Draft) + 11/6 (Technical Edits)
 - Also approved Executive Council (EC) [Charge on Tribes as a Formal and Enduring Partner](#)
 - “In developing recommendations, the PSC shall direct research into governance matters, including.....**signature** on the [Bay Agreement].
 - Finalized Structure and Governance [Recommendations](#) approved
 - Finalize by July 1st, 2026
 - Double arrow between Advisory Committees and Program Leadership added
- EC will [meet 12/2](#) at the National Aquarium – there is a section open to the public
- New Director – Dan Coogan, [article on selection](#)

Bay Program 2025 Achievements

- Release of updated High Resolution Land Use/Land Cover data and **New!** Hyper Resolution Hydrography Data ([Blog](#))
- Oyster Progress ([Blog](#)) and Largest Oyster Restoration Ever ([Blog](#))
- Tree Planting Progress ([Blog](#))
- Public Access Site Target Exceeded ([Blog](#))
- Substantial Progress on Fish Passage ([Blog](#))



Oysters splash from Captain Wayne Goddard's boat, "The Poppa Francis," onto an oyster sanctuary on the Manokin River. (Photo by Charlie Nick/Chesapeake Bay Program)

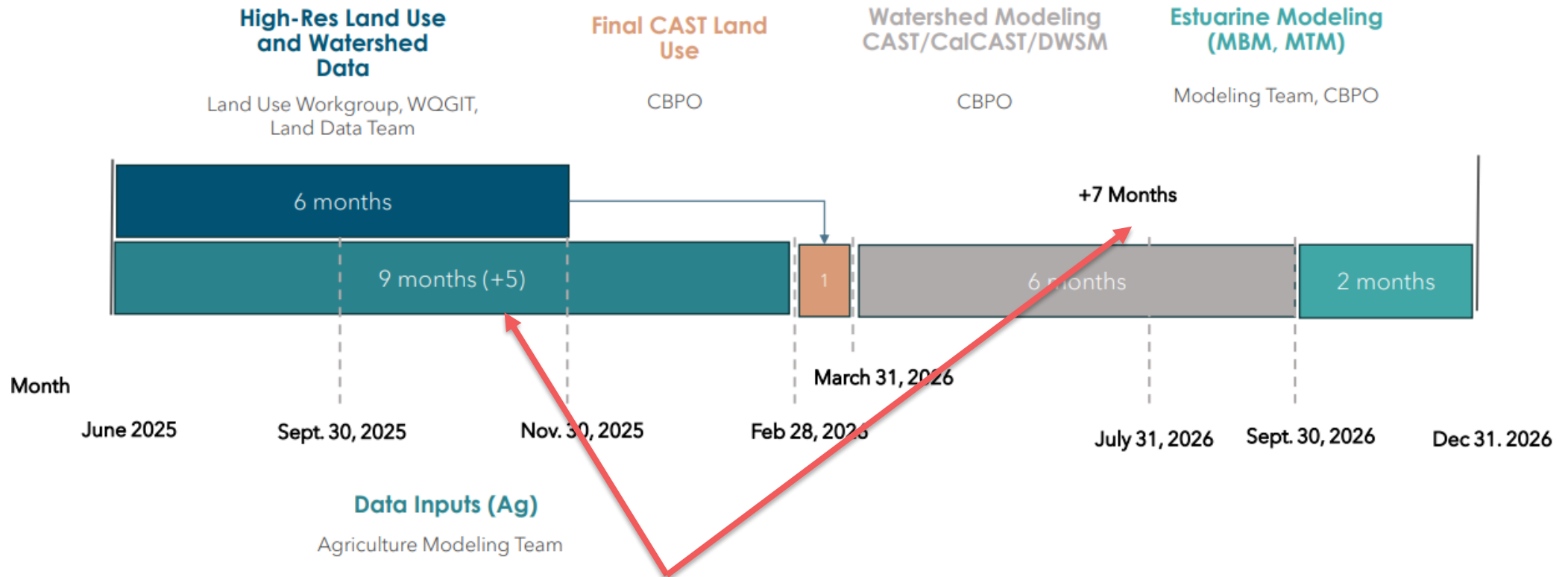
TMDL Implementation and Accountability Update

- Near Term Milestones (2026-2027)
 - Approved at October PSC [Meeting](#)
 - Milestone period remains two years, near-term is until new targets are established, likely in 2028
- Next Generation WIP (Phase III+)
 - Revised targets for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sediments by **end of 2030**, as per Revised Bay Agreement, based on Phase 7 Model Suite being finished in 2028
 - Tiered targets – how will they be implemented
 - New Phase or amending Phase III?

Phase 7 Model Suite Timeline

- Timeline been pushed back due to capacity issues at Bay Program Office
- Notable [items](#) coming up – 2026 will be the ‘Year of Review’
 - Inorganic Fertilizer
 - Broiler population, litter generation, and litter concentrations
 - Layer (poultry) Population Data and Application Concerns
- 2027 Testing
- **2028** Release Final Phase 7 Suite to all Users
- Phase 7 Model Development [Website](#)

PHASE 7 DEVELOPMENT



Source: Phase 7 Timeline Extension [Presentation](#) to PSC 8/20/25

CAST Updates in 2025

- Technical Updates
 - An update in March resulted in a slight reduction (<1%) in stormwater sector loads for 2019 to 2023. This affected prior years' data in any analyses between 12/6/24 - 3/13/25.
 - **All instances of the phrase "Climate Change" were updated to "Changing Environmental Conditions (CEC)."**
 - The official 2024 Progress scenario is now available on CAST. This scenario reflects best management practices (BMPs) that were implemented and functioning during the reporting year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.
 - The manure transport BMP logic now allows manure to be transported into areas where there are no animals and no crops. Previously, that manure was not counted in the area.

CAST Updates in 2025

- Technical Updates
 - The Invalid BMPs tab now includes functionality to make it easier for users to review and update invalid BMP records. This improvement streamlines data correction processes.
 - NEIEN/Open Node has been fully integrated into CAST. This integration supports more efficient data reporting.
 - A new cost report has been added, and costs have been removed from the Compare Scenarios tool.

CAST Updates in 2025

- Program Update
 - Devereux Consulting is no longer contracted to the Chesapeake Bay Program
 - Transition to a new service provider and resumption of full CAST activities may take months

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