

# CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES

July 2025

## Chesapeake Bay Program

### 2025 Pollution Deadline: Bay States Make Progress, but Fall Short of Some Goals

*Chesapeake Bay Magazine*

The Chesapeake Bay Program has released new numbers showing how the Bay watershed states have performed in their efforts to reduce key pollutants entering the Bay. The report reveals that the six Bay states (Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia), along with Washington D.C., continued to make progress between 2023 and 2024 in reducing the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment flowing into the Chesapeake.

### Chesapeake Bay Program model estimates lower amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution entering Chesapeake Bay

*Chesapeake Bay Program*

The Chesapeake Bay Program announced that the seven jurisdictions that make up the Chesapeake Bay watershed—Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia—continued to make progress between 2023 and 2024 in reducing the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

### For our treasured Chesapeake Bay, fight we must and fight we will

*The Bay Journal*

Pollution doesn't abide by state lines. Rising tides don't care who is in the White House. Climate change impacts red and blue states all the same. This philosophy has guided my approach to environmental policymaking over the last seven years. I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Maryland legislature and now in Congress, because all of us share a collective responsibility to protect and preserve our natural resources for generations to come.

### Chesapeake Bay Recognized as a Hope Spot for Nature, History, and Community

*Mission Blue*

The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States and the third largest in the world, has been officially designated a Mission Blue Hope Spot. Hope Spots are areas recognized for their exceptional ecological, cultural, and historical value, and this new designation celebrates the Chesapeake Bay's biodiversity, deep Indigenous heritage, and the broad coalition of community efforts driving its ongoing restoration.

### Chesapeake Bay's latest health slump tied to climate change, scientists say

*The Bay Journal*

The Chesapeake Bay's ecological health declined in 2024 as extreme heat, rainfall and drought wreaked havoc across the estuary's watershed, according to the latest annual report card from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Experts worry it may be a sign of things to come.

### Virginia's Pay-for-Outcomes program invites innovation for reducing water pollution

*The Bay Journal*

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality launched this type of effort recently, announcing

this spring \$19 million in grants that will go to nine projects as part of the agency's Pay-for-Outcomes pilot program — if they demonstrate results.

### [Chesapeake Conservancy selects new CEO](#)

*The Bay Journal*

The Chesapeake Conservancy, a watershed-wide land preservation group based in Annapolis, has named a former top executive as its new leader. Susan Shingledecker is set to take the reins Sept. 8.

### [USGS faces big cuts, endangering Chesapeake science](#)

*The Bay Journal*

Vital research into threats to the Chesapeake Bay from invasive blue catfish, PFAS contamination, climate change and land use is on the chopping block as the Trump administration aims to decimate if not eliminate ecological studies done by the U.S. Geological Survey.

### [A new take on Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals: What's in, what's out?](#)

*The Bay Journal*

The 18-page proposed revision to the 2014 Bay Agreement puts forward modest changes. Mostly, it calls for continued progress toward meeting water-quality goals and making the region a more habitable place for humans and wildlife alike.

### [New AI-supported, high-resolution Chesapeake Bay Watershed stream maps reveal additional waterways and will help prioritize restoration projects](#)

*UMBC Stories*

A dataset unveiled today more than doubles the documented stream miles in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, elevating the total from approximately 100,000 to over 200,000 miles.

### [Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater](#)

### [21M gallons of partially treated sewage seep into Patapsco River from Baltimore water treatment plant](#)

*Baltimore Banner*

Anne Arundel County health officials warned against swimming and urged using caution if fishing in the Patapsco River after 21 million gallons of sewage from Baltimore City recently overflowed into it.

### [Cleanup underway after 2,000-gallon diesel spill in Baltimore Harbor](#)

*The Washington Post*

More than 100 personnel worked to clean up Baltimore Harbor after 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into the harbor Wednesday following what officials said was an accidental overfill of diesel tanks that supply power for backup generators at Johns Hopkins facilities in East Baltimore.

### [The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative celebrates 10 years of successes](#)

*The Chesapeake Bay Program*

Working with volunteers, local governments and nonprofits, the CMC has established a framework and set of monitoring protocols and procedures that allow data collected by various groups to paint a clearer picture of the watershed's health. Data from across the region is entered into a centralized data hub with numerous resources that can be used by decision makers to protect rivers and streams across the watershed.

### [Dead elephants and feral sea lions: how poisonous algal blooms harm the planet](#)

*The Guardian*

As the Earth heats up, the amount of algae in our waterways is rapidly increasing, transforming the color of lakes and killing entire ecosystems.

### [Is Baltimore's harbor really clean enough for swimming? Environmentalists disagree.](#)

*Baltimore Banner*

Optimists such as leaders in City Hall and with Waterfront Partnership, the downtown booster group that organizes Harbor Splash, beckon residents into the water and argue Baltimore is nearing its goal of a harbor clean enough for swimming. Others such as the harbor's waterkeeper strike a more cautious chord, declining to endorse or disavow public swims while stressing that anyone who jumps in should understand the hazards.

### [Protect Your Dogs' Health: Harmful Algae Mats Can Pose Danger to Pets](#)

*Maryland DNR*

As summer has begun, Maryland Department of Natural Resources scientists caution the public to be vigilant about freshwater algae mats that can sometimes be a health hazard for dogs and other animals.

### [Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought](#)

#### [Overview of COG's Drought Plan and History](#)

*MWCOG*

This document, updated in April, provides an overview of COG's Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan and the CAO's role during times of drought.

#### [ICPRB's Water Supply Outlook for July](#)

*ICPRB*

June's average Potomac Basin precipitation was 1.6 inches above normal as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, with a long-term (12-month) cumulative excess of 0.4 inches.

#### [COG lifts regional Drought Watch](#)

*MWCOG*

The Drought Coordination Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has lifted the regional Drought Watch put into effect on July 29, 2024, which means the region has returned to the normal stage of the Regional Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan. The late spring rains and cooler temperatures contributed to improved water supplies.

#### [News Release: New Research Explores the Impacts of Hot Drought in the Potomac River Basin](#)

*ICPRB*

A recently published article by Dr. Cherie Schultz and colleagues at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's (ICPRB) Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) looks at how warmer conditions may impact the water supply of the nation's capital, especially in the face of increased variability in precipitation.

#### [COG's Water Supply and Drought Report for June](#)

*MWCOG*

As part of the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan, COG

issues monthly drought reports from May- October. Precipitation, groundwater, and streamflow levels are reviewed as well as recent forecasts for the region.

#### [Droughts will be 35% more costly by 2035, warns latest OECD report](#)

*Smart Water Magazine*

The progressive intensification of droughts is steadily increasing their social, economic and ecological costs. According to the Global Drought Outlook, published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the economic impacts of these extreme weather events are expected to increase by at least 35% by 2035, compared to current levels.

#### **PFAS**

#### [New Report Reveals Pesticide Damage to Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)

*MD Pesticide Education Network*

The report found that there is an interesting trend in new pesticides that are fluorinated agrochemicals and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) pesticides—some 66 pesticides where PFAS is the active ingredient. These active ingredients are extremely persistent, highly mobile in the environment, and bioaccumulate in crops, fish, wildlife, and ultimately, in humans.

#### [As an oncologist, here's what I wish people knew about endocrine disruptors](#)

*The Washington Post*

There are over 1,000 types of these chemicals, according to some estimates, and we are exposed to them daily: They can be found everywhere from your nonstick pan and canned foods to your shampoo and hair dye. But how worried should you be about them? And are they really linked to cancer?

#### [Navigating PFAS Contamination: Insights from the USGS Potomac River Watershed Study](#)

*USGS*

The Potomac River is a major watershed in the eastern United States that serves as a crucial water supply for millions of people. USGS researchers conducted a comprehensive investigation to identify the contributions of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plant effluent to the levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Potomac River.

#### [Firefighting foams contain toxic PFAS. Could soybeans be the answer?](#)

*Grist*

The search to find a PFAS-free firefighting foam is relatively new, as a growing body of research illuminates the harmful impact that these chemicals have on humans and the environment. Soybean farmers have presented their crop as a surprising solution to this problem.

#### **Climate and Energy**

#### [New NoVa Flood Map unifies rain gauge data across Northern Virginia](#)

*The Washington Post*

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) is making it easier to share rain data and learn about flood patterns with the launch of the NoVa Flood Map rain gauge platform.

#### [Many coastal communities are flooding more than we thought, researchers find](#)

*ALXnow*

Fast-rising seas have forced some coastal communities to endure flooding far more frequently than

previously thought, and much more often than federal tide gauges would suggest, according to a new findings from researchers in North Carolina.

#### [New data suggests increased flooding risks for D.C. region's roads and transit systems](#)

*FFXNow*

The D.C. region's roads and other transportation infrastructure is more at risk from future flooding than previously thought, a new analysis found.

#### **Food, Forestry and Agriculture**

#### [The Chesapeake Bay balancing act: Keeping farms productive while reducing polluted runoff](#)

*The Bay Journal*

It was mid-June, and the corn planted a couple months earlier now stood a foot high. That was about to change. Peak growing season was arriving, and the plants would soon gain an inch or more each day. "In a normal year," said Andrew Lefever, a Penn State agriculture doctoral student, "it will go from knee high to over your head in three weeks." Provided, of course, the stalks have enough nutrients to fuel their growth.

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

FARM: [FARM Policy Annual Forum](#) June 10<sup>th</sup>

CBPC: [July 18<sup>th</sup>](#)

#### [Hooffs Run Dedication Day](#) June 7<sup>th</sup>

Join AlexRenew as they celebrate the completion of the Hooffs Run Interceptor, the rejuvenation of Hooffs Run, and the reopening of the African American Heritage Park.

#### **COG Staff Contacts**

Sushanth Gupta: [sgupta@mwkog.org](mailto:sgupta@mwkog.org)

Caitlin Bolton: [cbolton@mwkog.org](mailto:cbolton@mwkog.org)

Katie Dyer: [kdyer@mwkog.org](mailto:kdyer@mwkog.org)

Christine Howard, [cdhoward@mwkog.org](mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org)

Lindsay Smith (Food and Agriculture), [lsmith@mwkog.org](mailto:lsmith@mwkog.org)