



Chesapeake Bay Program, DE, MD, PA, MD, VA, WV and the District of Columbia

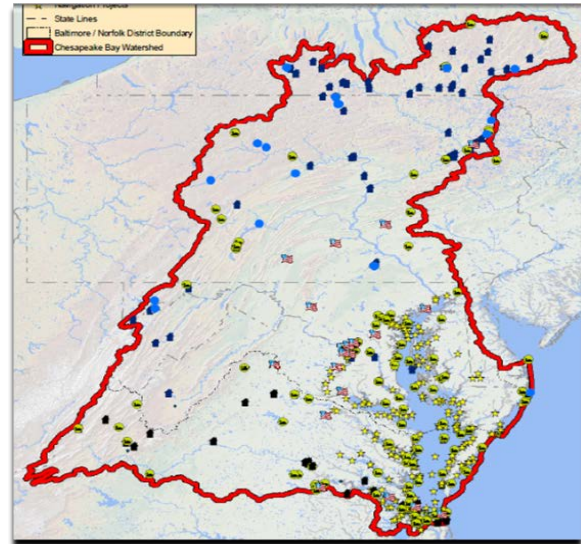
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015

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AUTHORIZATION: USACE is authorized to study, design and construct specific projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay. Many projects and programs support Executive Order 13508, Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration and the new 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals and supporting management strategies.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Multiple ecosystem restoration, regulatory, and design-build and technical analysis/support to Bay installations.

CONTRIBUTION TO CHESAPEAKE BAY: The Chesapeake Bay watershed is an Ecosystem of National Significance. USACE Baltimore District boundaries encompass the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed, thereby increasing the importance and criticality of the role USACE plays through its partnerships and the benefits of the project work that is undertaken to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



USACE projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed

PROJECT PHASE: Special Program Initiative, continuous throughout the year.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: The elevated status of a watershed with National Significance increases the importance and visibility of the watershed to Congressional representatives from six Bay states and the District of Columbia.

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Bay States (DE, MD, PA, MD, VA, WV) and the District of Columbia; Non-government Organizations; the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

BACKGROUND: The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is a regional partnership, led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and authorized under the Clean Water Act, Section 110. Since the signing of the historic 1983 Chesapeake Bay Agreement, USACE involvement in the CBP and long-term execution of EO actions has heightened as a result of the agency's unique capability to plan, design and construct projects on a massive scale. USACE involvement in the CBP consists of three parts: 1) coordination, 2) regulatory/technical support, and 3) planning, design and construction. The three parts work in tandem to demonstrate USACE capabilities in support of the CBP restoration efforts.

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Execution of USACE commitments to the CBP are highly visible, require extensive stakeholder coordination, and most likely would not be able to be completed by any other Federal or State agency. Considering the new 2014 Bay Agreement goals are broader than the existing EO goals, USACE has applied additional resources in its leadership role under the Climate resiliency goal.

STATUS: USACE involvement is strategic, supporting USACE mission areas and its growing partnerships, aligning with our civil works and military programs. Coordination between NAB and NAO, as well as the Institute for Water Resources and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, is improving with continuous communication and shared technical input to supporting CBP programmatic documents. All funding is needed to successfully continue our USACE role in the CBP.

<u>BUDGET (\$):</u>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<u>Special Investigations</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>		\$ 250,000
Federal Cost Estimate		250,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate		0
 <u>Federal Funds Data</u>		
Allocations thru FY 2013 ¹		250,000
Allocation for FY 2014		200,000
President Budget FY 2015 ²		200,000
Allocation for FY 2015		TBD

NOTES:

¹ The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works program and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a Program Budget Press Book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

² The final FY 2015 allocation amounts will be made available upon final approval pursuant to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act's continuing funding requirements .

SCHEDULE:

FY 2014 Completed Work:

- 1. Chesapeake Bay Native Oyster Recovery** – In Baltimore District, completed reef substrate construction (23 acres) in Harris Creek. Completed supplemental EA for shallow reef sites (6-9 feet) in Harris Creek. Development of the Tred Avon River tributary plan continued. Awarded substrate construction contract in August 2014 to Argo Systems, LLC, for Harris Creek (57 acres) and Tred Avon River (24 acres). In Norfolk District, completed design for rehabilitation of existing reefs in the Great Wicomico. Completed a decision document amendment for work in the Piankatank River, and NEPA was initiated. Development of a tributary plan for the Lafayette River continued.
- 2. Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan-** In 2013, USACE began the reconnaissance study to determine federal interest in continuing the cost-shared feasibility studies. USACE also identified a willing non-federal cost sharing partner.

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3. **Restore Island Habitats in the Chesapeake Bay** - Poplar Island is the Nation's premier island habitat restoration site. In 2014, USACE continued grading and developing wetland cells 3A and 3C and installed tidal inlet structure for these cells to allow natural tidal flow into the wetlands a few months prior to the cells being planted. USACE began design for wetland Cell 5 A/B, which will have a 4-acre vegetated habitat island constructed to provide additional valuable habitat for various bird species. Poplar Island field trips for students and the general public. This ongoing outreach plays an important role in educating regional stakeholders.
4. **Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment** - The draft assessment report was prepared to include developing consensus on the assessment's conclusions and recommendations. The assessment report also underwent numerous reviews including external review from the Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, and quality control and policy compliance reviews.
5. **Anacostia Restoration Plan** - In 2010, released the Anacostia Restoration Plan, which identified over 3,000 projects for implementation. Continue feasibility studies with Montgomery and Prince George's counties to analyze areas identified in the Anacostia Restoration Plan as being of potential interest for federal construction. The studies will address the issues of stream restoration, fish passage, wetland restoration and other habitat restoration.
6. **Conserve Land and Increase Public Access** - Maintain water quality, habitat, and sustainable recreational areas, which helps expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new federal, state and local parks, refuges, reserves, trails, and partner sites.
7. **Climate Change** – In 2014, the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS) also produced an Environmental and Cultural Resources Conditions Report, dated October 2014, which is currently available on the study's webpage www.nad.usace.army.mil/compstudy. This report provides a summary, by state, of the existing conditions, habitat and resource impacts as a result of Hurricane Sandy, and the future without action conditions of those resources, considering sea level and climate change.
8. **Strengthen Science** - Provide on-going support to science that supports ecosystem-based adaptive management, to more effectively prioritize, implement, monitor, and evaluate the actions and policies needed, and to identify new threats to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. USACE identified key members of staff to participate in the CBP Goal Implementation Teams for water quality, habitat and fisheries.

Regulatory and Enforcement - In 2014, USACE coordinated and participated in a workshop offered by the Conservation Fund in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Markets Team (EMT), led by USDA in coordination with EPA, DOI, and USACE. This workshop was held 29-30 Oct 2014. There were 60-75 attendees at this training; including mitigation SMEs from all USACE Division level regulatory districts (except NAE). The purpose of this workshop was to expand awareness of opportunities and promote coordination for a market-based approach to conservation in CB watershed. USACE also initiated the approval of this Regional General Permit-1 demonstrates good stewardship for the environment, supports economic opportunities for commercial shellfish aquaculture, and is a result of close collaboration and partnership among the Federal agencies and the State of Maryland. USACE approved 4 additional private commercial mitigation banks, a single-user mitigation bank, and an in-lieu fee program site in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Collectively, the sites total 1,183 acres.

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FY 2015 Scheduled Work:

- 1. Native Oyster Implementation** - In Baltimore District, complete the tributary plan and supplementary EA for shallow water sites in the Tred Avon River, planning for design and construction of the next Tred Avon River substrate contract, and continue program coordination and monitoring. In Norfolk District, adaptive management of reefs constructed in the Great Wicomico River, development of a tributary plan for the Lafayette River, completion of PED for the first phase of construction in the Piankatank River), and construction of approximately 30 acres in the Piankatank River.
- 2. Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan** - Prepare a Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan to identify alternatives and recommend technical solutions and implementation strategies across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- 3. Restore Habitats in the Bay** - Planning to complete planting of the Cell 3A wetland cells at Poplar Island. Begin design for wetland Cell 5 A/B, which will have a 4-acre vegetated habitat island constructed to provide additional valuable habitat for various bird species.
- 4. Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment** - Obtain public comment on the draft assessment report and finalize the report.
- 5. Anacostia Restoration Plan** - Continue feasibility studies with Montgomery and Prince George's counties to analyze areas identified in the Anacostia Restoration Plan as being of potential interest for federal construction. The studies will address the issues of stream restoration, fish passage, wetland restoration and other habitat restoration.
- 6. Chesapeake Bay Shoreline Management Plan** - In 2011, released the Chesapeake Bay Shoreline Management Guide, which identifies priority locations for restoration and/or stabilization in order to reduce sediment input to the Bay and assists with meeting the Bay TMDL for sediment. Scoping Phase II to include detailed analyses of cliff shoreline in Calvert County and elsewhere; and shallow water updates to the Chesapeake Bay model, which are critical to achieving the next model runs for the Chesapeake Bay model re-runs.

For more information regarding the Chesapeake Bay Program please contact Ms. Heather Cisar, USACE Baltimore District Chesapeake Bay Coordinator POC (410)-962-2911, or email Heather.r.cisar@usace.army.mil