



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES July 2023

Chesapeake Bay Program

[In Settlement, EPA Agrees to Stricter Pollution Controls in Chesapeake Bay](#)

Courthouse News Service

EPA formalized an environmental protection agreement to ensure Pennsylvania does their part to clean up the Bay, addressing a Trump-era lawsuit brought by states.

[Submerged aquatic vegetation, a critical blue crab habitat, bounces back in the Chesapeake Bay](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Program

The Bay's underwater grasses continues to recover from a crash in 2019.

[Chesapeake's Underwater Grasses Expanded Twelve Percent in 2022 but Remain Far from Goal](#)

Bay Journal

Virginia Institute of Marine Science documented a twelve percent increase, and MD DNR measured a [six percent increase](#) in submerged aquatic vegetation.

[Latest Chesapeake Bay Report Gives Watershed a 'C' Grade](#)

The Washington Informer (Washington, D.C.)

[Chesapeake Bay gets a 'C' grade, region's rivers marked lower](#)

Maryland Matters

[Chesapeake Bay's Dead Zone Predicted to Be Thirty-three Percent Smaller Than Long-term Average](#)

The BayNet

Researchers from the Chesapeake Bay Program, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, University of Michigan, and U.S. Geological Survey announced today that they are predicting the 2023 dead zone to be significantly smaller than the long-term average taken between 1985 and 2022.

[UMD Invents Battery Made from Crab Shells](#)

Chesapeake Bay Magazine

Eating crabs is a beloved part of our Chesapeake Bay culture, and a crab feast always ends with a massive pile of shells headed for the trash. Researchers at the University of Maryland have invented a surprising use for the zinc-based crab shell: a battery that's strong enough to power light bulbs, cheaper and safer than other options.

[Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week \(CBAW\) 2023 is a Success](#)

Eight COG members and the states of Maryland and Virginia released CBAW proclamations, and seventy-five organizations celebrated the Bay on social media.

[CBF Forms Oyster Gardening Partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is partnering with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to launch a new [oyster gardening](#) program for sixth graders at YMCA Camp Letts in Edgewater this fall.

[Should New Chesapeake Cleanup Goals Have a Greater Dose of Reality?](#)

The Bay Journal

[Penny Gross Awarded by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#)

The Bay Journal

Supervisor Gross is a recipient of the Fran Flanigan award in special recognition for leadership and dedication to cleaner rivers and streams of the Chesapeake Bay.

[Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater](#)

[Historic Anacostia Swimming Event Postponed After Sewage Overflow](#)

The Anacostia swim is being rescheduled for September after a period of frequent rainfall caused slight sewage overflows. The combined sewer overflow (CSO) tunnel construction in DC is slated to wrap up this summer. Once completed it is expected to capture ninety-eight percent of overflows.

[See What It's Like to Dig a Tunnel 100 Feet Below the City](#)

The Washington Post

Deep underground, a construction crew is hard at work. They are digging a two-mile-long tunnel to help keep millions of gallons of raw sewage out of nearby waterways. And they have a lot of help: a massive drill named “Hazel” that weighs 380 tons — heavier than two commercial airplanes.

[DC Water Releases \\$1.5B Plan to Replace All Lead Pipe Lines by 2030](#)

WTOP News

DC Water [has released a new plan](#) to replace lead pipelines by 2030, including an increase in the cost for the plan to \$1.5 billion.

[Maryland DNR Warns of Dangerous Algae Mats Spotted in Montgomery County](#)

WUSA

The algae were detected in the Potomac River in the area from Edwards Ferry to Great Falls, officials said. Here's how to keep pets safe.

[NPS Wants to Spend \\$11.8 Million on Park Upgrades East of the Anacostia River](#)

Dcist

The National Park Service is requesting \$11.8 million to upgrade D.C. parks east of the Anacostia River. The funding would help chip away at a \$405 million maintenance backlog in National Capital Parks–East.

[Turning Poop into Power in Montgomery County](#)

WTOP News

The county and WSSC Water have reached a five-year agreement aimed at capturing methane gas during the wastewater treatment process and turning it into fuel called “Renewable Natural Gas” that will then be used to power the county’s Ride On bus fleet.

[Debate Resumes on Conowingo Dam Pollution Problems](#)

The Bay Journal

Six months after a federal appeals court [vacated Constellation Energy Corp.’s license](#) to generate hydropower at the dam on the lower Susquehanna River, the Maryland Department of the Environment has called a parley with representatives of the company and of the environmental groups that successfully challenged the license.

[Historic Black Beaches Get Boost Thanks To \\$50K Federal Grant](#)

Chesapeake Bay Magazine

[Ride on the River: The Anacostia \[VIDEO\]](#)

Waterloop

During a ride on the river with Trey Sherard, Anacostia Riverkeeper, he talks about the challenges of environmental racism, toxic sediment, and gentrification, as well as progress on sewer overflows, stormwater controls, and community engagement.

[Falls Church High School Student Paints Storm Drains to Address Trash](#)

Annandale Patch

Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

[Potomac Conservancy Gives the Potomac River a “B” Grade](#)

Potomac Conservancy

The grade of a B is a slight improvement over the previous B-. The Potomac Conservancy points to the goal of a swimmable Potomac and to climate change and deforestation as two challenges.

PFAS:

[New Study Estimates 'Forever Chemicals' May Be Found in 45 Percent of U.S. Tap Water](#)

The Hill

“Forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, refers to a group of thousands of substances that linger in the human body and nature; they bioaccumulate instead of breaking down. Exposure to PFAS, which stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, has been linked to health problems including kidney and testicular cancer, thyroid disease, and high cholesterol.

[3M Reaches \\$10.3 Billion Settlement Over Contamination of Water Systems](#)

NPR

Chemical manufacturer 3M Co. will pay at least \$10.3 billion to settle lawsuits over contamination of many U.S. public drinking water systems with potentially harmful compounds used in firefighting foam and a host of consumer products, the company said Thursday.

[Dick's Sporting Goods Bans PFAS in its Clothing and Other Textiles](#)

Environmental Health News

Dick's Sporting Goods, one of the largest sporting goods retailers in the country with more than 850 stores, will rid its own-brand clothes, shoes, and other textiles of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

Drought:

[Is DC Still in a Drought? Yes and No.](#)

DCist

[COG's Regional Drought and Water Supply Status](#)

July 2023 Report

[ICPRB's Water Supply Status and Outlook](#)

July 2023 Report

[Front Royal lifts voluntary water conservation](#)

The River 95.3

Front Royal [reports](#) the lifting of the voluntary water conservation effort and thanks the community for their help.

[Maryland Department of the Environment Encourages Water Conservation with Drought Watch for Portions of the State](#)

MD DNR

Watch Issued for Western Maryland and Portions of Central Maryland; No Mandatory Water Use Restrictions in Place but Voluntary Reductions Encouraged

[Navy Weapons Tests Pollute Potomac River, Lawsuit Says](#)

DCist

The Potomac Riverkeepers and NRDC allege that the Navy is in violation of the Clean Water Act for its weapons testing, fifty miles south of DC in Dahlgren.

Climate and Energy

[Extreme Floods are Happening Way More Often Than Federal Data Would Suggest, Analysis Shows](#)
CNN

A critical federal analysis of extreme rainfall is vastly underestimating the chances of flood events, with grave implications for everything from new roads and bridges to the rising cost of flood insurance, according to a [new analysis](#).

[Mid-Atlantic Regional Climate Impacts Summary and Outlook: Spring 2023](#)

The MARISA Team a NOAA Mid-Atlantic RISA Team

[Weather Warning Inequity: Lack of Data Collection Stations Imperils Vulnerable People](#)

Scientific American

Early warning about impending weather disasters is almost impossible across large, low-income regions of the world.

[The Meteorologist Telling Congress about Climate Change](#)

Politico (Arlington, VA)

Food and Agriculture

[Maryland Ag Secretary Tours Catocin Mountain Orchard](#)

Frederick News Post

Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks visited Catocin Mountain Orchard near Thurmont on Monday as part of a broader initiative to tour farms across the state and gather feedback and concerns from local farmers.

[How Three Retailers are Impacted by the End of SNAP Emergency Allotments](#)

Grocery Dive

After temporary pandemic-related [boosts to SNAP benefits](#) ended earlier this year, investors have been asking grocery executives how the reduction in food assistance has impacted their bottom lines.

[What Cuts to the Food Safety Net Mean for People's Lives](#)

Civil Eats

This spring, the pandemic-era increases to benefits offered through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ended in most states, substantially reducing the monthly dollar amounts many food-insecure households receive to buy food. Together with [inflated food costs](#), the end of the emergency allotments—and revised [work requirements](#) for SNAP—has meant that many people across the U.S. are struggling to put food on the table.

[Farmers wary of how current drought conditions will affect operations](#)

Frederick News-Post

All of Frederick County is currently experiencing a state of drought, with about a third of the county experiencing severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor

[Linking Soils and Water](#)

Frederick News-Post

Organic matter in soil holds more moisture than mineral counterparts, playing an important role especially in times of drought.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- CBPC 2023 Meeting Dates:
September 15 (Annual Forum)
November 17
- FARM Meeting
August 11

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