



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) AND OTHER WATER RESOURCES UPDATES July 2019

Updates on key CBP and Water Resources activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG's members and the RWQM Work Program.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Bay TMDL – Phase III WIPs & Other Updates

EPA Evaluates Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)

EPA released its evaluations of the states and District of Columbia's Phase III WIPs and concluded that most lack important details about adequate funding, programs, and regulations needed to achieve nitrogen and phosphorus reduction goals established by the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load. Although EPA noted that progress has been made, many plans fell short of achieving stormwater and agricultural goals. Plans from Pennsylvania and New York failed to meet their goals by significant margins. Final Phase III WIPs are due in August 2019.

[View the detailed evaluations for the Bay jurisdictions](#)

<https://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl/epa-evaluates-draft-phase-iii-watershed-implementation-plans>

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/states_latest_bay_cleanup_plans_found_lacking_by_epa

Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Blue Crabs

Experts Predict Largest Chesapeake Bay Dead Zone in Decades

As a result of the heavy 2018 rains and nutrient pollution, aquatic ecologists are predicting the fourth largest dead zone in the last twenty years. For more information on the 2019 hypoxia forecast:

<http://scavia.seas.umich.edu/hypoxia-forecasts/>

Eyes on the Bay:

<http://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/index.cfm>

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/experts_predict_largest_dead_zone_in_decades

Could Aeration Help the Bay's Dead Zones?

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/proposal_to_aerate_bay_breath_of_fresh_air_or_pipe_dream

Bay's Blue Crab Population is Sustainable, Thanks to Management Practices

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/pressrelease/2019_blue_crab_advisory_report_released

Blue Crabs 101

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/field-guide/entry/blue_crab

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/howtotips/article/how_to_pick_a_crab

Local Water Quality

D.C. got a month's worth of rain in one hour on Monday, July 8th rivaling the record for all-time rainiest hour. [Anacostia, Potomac And Rock Creek Heavily Polluted After Record Rains](#)

Conowingo

[Debate over the Conowingo's Effect on Bay Water Quality Continues: Is the Pollution from the Dam or Upstream of the Dam?](https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/environment/bs-md-conowingo-pollutants-rainfall-chesapeake-20190706-story.html)
<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/environment/bs-md-conowingo-pollutants-rainfall-chesapeake-20190706-story.html>

State Legislative Updates

[Virginia Makes its Largest Investment in Agricultural Cost-Share Program](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/july/headline-841447-en.html)
Gov. Northam announced a \$73 M investment in its VA Agricultural Best Management Practices cost-share Program to help farmers protect water and soil health.
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/july/headline-841447-en.html>

OTHER WATER RESOURCES

Drinking Water

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

- The COG region is currently free of drought.
- Potomac streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation levels are above normal level, and local reservoirs are full.
- There is a [below normal probability of releases](#) from the metropolitan Washington area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2019 summer and fall seasons.
- In [Maryland](#) (MDE) and [Virginia](#) (VADEQ) all COG regions are under a normal status.

The July update will include information regarding the record flooding event on Monday, July 8th.

Stormwater

[Urban Forestry Credits for MS4 Programs](#)

- COG sponsored a workshop June 25 on how urban tree planning programs can receive credit for mitigating stormwater impacts under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and state permitting programs. The workshop was attended by local government stormwater managers and urban foresters.
- For more information: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/06/25/regional-tree-planting-stormwater-credit-potential-forestry-tree-canopy/>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Water Resources Technical Committee – September 13

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee – September 20

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