



## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES July 2021

### Chesapeake Bay Program

[2020 Bay Report Cards](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week Summary of 2021 Outreach](#)

[The Chesapeake Bay is Closter Than Ever to Becoming a National Recreation Area](#)

[As an Anacostia Tributary is Restored, D.C. Residents Reap the Benefits](#)

### Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

Regional Drought and Water Supply Status – July 2021

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on July 15 indicates that the COG region is currently free of drought, although our region received below normal amounts of precipitation during this past month. Potomac stream flows are near median levels, and local reservoirs remain full. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should remain drought free over the next three months. For additional information please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>

[Virginia Changes Testing Procedures for Fresh Water Swimming Spots](#)

### Food and Agriculture

BIPOC Farmers Webinar

On Monday, September 20, at 10 AM, the Chairs of the Food and Agriculture Regional Member Ad Hoc Committee (FARM) and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC), invite you to a special joint meeting on land access for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) farmers. During this virtual meeting, speakers will provide an overview of federal and state policy efforts to address racial discrimination and disproportionate rates of agricultural land loss in BIPOC communities. A short reading list will be provided ahead of the meeting.

Food for the People Spotlights Those Working for a More Equitable Food System.

<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/521621/food-for-the-people-anacostia-community-museum/>

Fairfax County schools open their gardens to hungry families, *The Washington*

Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/07/12/fairfax-food-insecurity-gardens/>

The new face of hunger: Hispanic, employed, but still struggling to feed the family, *The Washington Post* (Links to Capital Area Food Bank's 2021 Hunger Report):

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/06/27/foodbank-report-2021/>

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

- September 10 WRTC meeting
- September 17 CBPC Meeting (Annual Forum)
- September 20 FARM/CBPC BIPOC Farmers Webinar
- November 19 CBPC meeting

## COG Staff Contacts

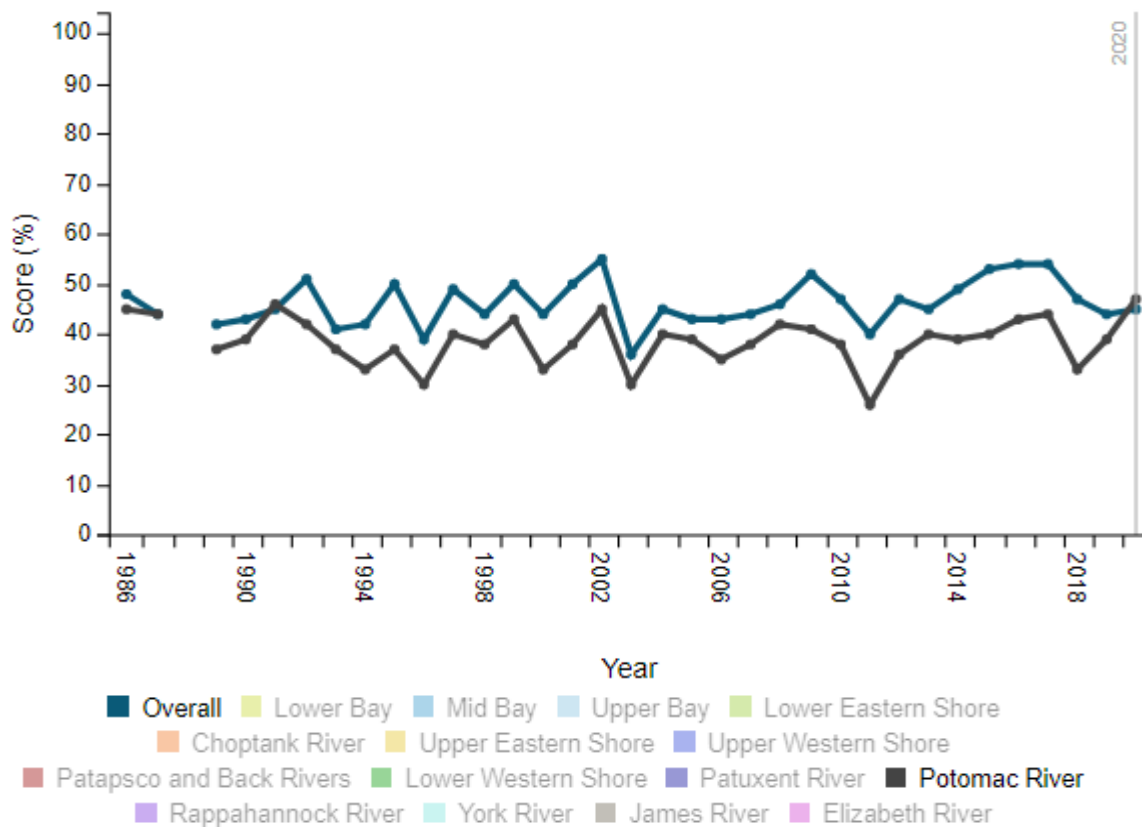
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## 2020 Bay report cards paint mixed picture

Annual report cards grading the progress of the Bay restoration effort paint a mixed picture.

The overall health of the Bay itself received a C grade in the annual report card for 2020 recently issued by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). The UMCES report card is based on 16 separate indicators including the specific water quality metrics used by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL as well as social indicators such as stewardship, walkability, and heat vulnerability. Separate grades are issued for the mainstem of the Bay itself as well as different sections of the Bay's major tributaries.

## TRENDS | Overall



The graph compares the overall score for the health of the Potomac River (shown in black) to that for the entire Bay (dark blue)

Researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) graded the overall health of the Bay itself as a C based on a score of 45 percent, which is a very slight improvement from a C-score in 2019.

The UMCES report card provides scores for a variety of indicators for the Bay itself and its major tributaries, separated into scores for the water body itself and its surrounding watershed. The overall Chesapeake Bay watershed received a 64%, with minor fluctuations in its individual components compared to 2019.

Full details are available at: [Chesapeake Bay | EcoHealth Report Cards \(ecoreportcard.org\)](https://ecoreportcard.org)

In January, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation issued its “State of the Bay” report assessing conditions in 2020. That report uses 13 indicators, many of which, but not all, are the same as those used by UMCES.

# STATE of the BAY

## 2020 HEALTH INDEX: 32 D+

-1 from 2018

	Indicator	2020 Score	Change From 2018	Grade
<b>POLLUTION</b>	Nitrogen	17	+5	F
	Phosphorus	27	+8	D
	Dissolved Oxygen	44	+2	C
	Water Clarity	17	+1	F
	Toxics	28	0	D
<b>HABITAT</b>	Forested Buffers	56	-1	B
	Wetlands	42	0	C
	Underwater Grasses	22	-3	D-
	Resource Lands	33	0	D+
<b>FISHERIES</b>	Rockfish	49	-17	C+
	Oysters	12	+2	F
	Blue Crabs	60	+5	B+
	Shad	7	-3	F

CBF gave the Bay restoration effort an overall grade of D+ based on a score of 32, a decline of one point from the 2019 score. Foundation staff noted that this slight decline was due to declines in the Bay's striped bass populations; other indicators were the same or showed slight improvements.

Full details are available at: [2020 State of the Bay Report - Chesapeake Bay Foundation \(cbf.org\)](https://www.cbf.org/2020-State-of-the-Bay-Report)

## Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week Outreach

June 5 - 13, 2021

This summary was put together by the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Press Release (June 2, 2021): [Celebrate all of the recreational opportunities the Chesapeake Bay watershed offers](#)

Blog: [12 things to do during Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)

### **MEDIA**

- MyMCMedia - [5 THINGS TO KNOW TODAY, JUNE 4, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY](#)
- MyChesCo - [Montgomery County Announces a Video Challenge to Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)
- Bay Journal - [To know nature is to love it – and to pitch in to care for it](#)
- AskHRgreen.org - [2021 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)
- MWCOCG - [Announcements](#)
- Greenbelt News Review - [Council Agenda](#)
- What's Up Magazine - [Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)
- NNKGreen.org - [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)
- Southern Maryland Chronicle - [Celebrate all of the recreational opportunities the Chesapeake Bay watershed offers](#)
  - DailyAdvent - [Celebrate all of the recreational opportunities the Chesapeake Bay watershed offers](#)
- WTKR-TV Coastal Virginia: [List of Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week activities](#)
- Travel Zoo - [How to Reach 'Peake' Vacation Mode in Maryland](#)
- Waterkeepers Chesapeake - [The Restoration of the Bay Starts with Local Streams & Communities](#)
- [Port City Wire – You Can Help Protect the Chesapeake Bay](#)

### **STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- State of Maryland
  - DNR - [Secretary's Message – June 2021](#)
    - TheBayNet.com - [DNR Secretary's Message – June 2021](#)
    - [Southern Maryland Chronicle – MD DNR Secretary: Celebrate the Bay Watershed](#)
- Montgomery County, Maryland
  - Montgomery County - [Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Announces a Video Challenge to Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)
  - MD DEP [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week 2021](#)
  - My Green Montgomery - [Join in the Celebration – Únete a la Celebración](#)
  - Tree Montgomery - [link to video challenge](#)
  - [Montgomery County, MD Newsletter](#)
  - Maryland Association of Counties - [Montgomery Launching Video Challenge to Celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#)
- City of Alexandria, Virginia

- [Join Us In Observing Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and Clean the Bay Day!](#)
- Fairfax, Virginia
  - Fairfax Democratic Committee - [Calendar](#)

## NEWSLETTERS

- Montgomery County, MD
- Diversity Workgroup
- UMCES

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Sharing content
  - US EPA Mid-Atlantic
  - VA DCR
  - VA DEQ
  - PA DEP
  - MD MDE
  - Montgomery County MD DEP
  - MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education Program
  - MD Association of Counties
  - Arlington Department of Environmental Services
  - Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services
  - Takoma Park MD
  - Prince George's County DOE
  - Northern Virginia Regional Commission
  - Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
  - NPS Chesapeake Bay
  - NOAA Habitat
  - Chesapeake Conservancy
  - COG
  - CBF
  - Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
  - Forever Maryland Foundation
  - Choose Clean Water
  - Waterkeepers Chesapeake
  - Loudoun Water
  - Enjoy the Anacostia
  - Dolphin Watch UMCES
  - US Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore
  - Rock Creek Conservancy
  - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
  - Willet Branch Park
  - Audubon Naturalist Society
  - Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
  - Virginia Sea Grant
  - Maryland Sea Grant
  - University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

- University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Sustainable UMD
- Integration & Application Network
- Virginia Conservation Network
- Bethesda Green
- Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
- Alexandria Renew
- WSSC Water
- Crittenden-Eclipse Nature Center
- Kent School MD
- Beemats Floating Wetlands
- Ecospaces LLC
- MyChesCo.com
- SRBC

**SURVEY FOR PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS ABOUT CBAW—WHAT WORKED; WHAT TO DO DIFFERENTLY:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvexauPDzMg5EH3mhaHaRDkNktHXDuN5bx6wt2vwQWzcjDYA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvexauPDzMg5EH3mhaHaRDkNktHXDuN5bx6wt2vwQWzcjDYA/viewform?usp=sf_link)