



## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES May 2023

### **Chesapeake Bay Program**

#### **[Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is June 3-11](#)**

*ChesapeakeBay.net*

From a sample [proclamation](#) to social media posts the Bay Program is providing resources intended to help you promote the Bay and your local watershed. The Bay Awareness Week webpage has a calendar of events and will have social media posts, photos, and a press release added.

#### **[Six Key Programs That Monitor the Health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)**

*ChesapeakeBay.net*

It takes a wealth of monitoring data to protect the lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Monitoring helps us detect changes that take place over time, improve our understanding of the environment, and provide support for policy changes that will benefit the Bay. At the Chesapeake Bay Program, we coordinate a system of monitoring networks that track everything from water temperature and pollution loads to changes in the region's geography.

#### **[New Bay Program Report Offers a Roadmap for Combating Rising Water Temperatures](#)**

*Chesapeakebay.net*

Planting trees and conserving forests is critical for preventing rising water temperatures. The average temperature of the water is increasing across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, placing pressure on an already vulnerable ecosystem. While the changes might seem minor from a human perspective—a 1.2-degree Celsius increase from 1960 to 2010— even the smallest shifts in temperature can cause a waterway to become uninhabitable for certain species and make our pollution reduction and habitat management practices less effective.

#### **[Leadership Change Made to EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office](#)**

*The Bay Journal*

Dr. Kandis Boyd, who had been director of the Chesapeake Bay Program for eleven months has left the position to become senior advisor to Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz. Dave Campbell is stepping in as acting director.

#### **[EPA Agrees to Step Up Enforcement of Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts in Pennsylvania](#)**

*Richmond Times*

The U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) has promised to step up enforcement in Pennsylvania of [Chesapeake Bay](#) cleanup rules that the state has been flouting and that the agency let slip during the Trump administration.

### [Settlement Proposed for Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Lawsuit](#)

*The Bay Journal*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would further increase oversight over farms, stormwater systems, and wastewater treatment plants in Pennsylvania under terms of a proposed settlement to a 2020 lawsuit against the agency.

### [Bay scientists evaluate reasons for the blue crab's population decrease](#)

*ChesapeakeBay.net*

Invasive fish, disease, warming waters, and more are seen as threats to blue crabs

In recent years, the number of [blue crabs](#) in the Chesapeake Bay has decreased. This trend has scientists, resource managers, watermen and people who enjoy eating blue crabs concerned—and eager to learn more about the situation.

### [Over 31,000 miles of fish passage opened in the Chesapeake since 1988](#)

*ChesapeakeBay.net*

Shad, herring, striped bass, and more benefit from fish passage projects

### [1st Recorded Shark Bite May Have Been on St. Mary's River, Not In New York](#)

*Chesapeake Bay Magazine*

In August of 1640, an English-born laborer stepped off from the sandy shoreline of one of Maryland's tidal rivers—and into the maw of history. He had only just begun wading in when a “huge fish” sunk its jaws into his thigh and tore away a giant chunk of flesh.

### [Chesapeake Bay Eagle Population Has Recovered. But Now There's Competition for Territory](#)

*WTOP News*

The Chesapeake Bay's bald eagle population has seen an unexpected spike in growth over the past few decades, going from nearly endangered, with just 60 breeding pairs, to about 3,000.

### [New research out of Virginia Tech shows that sections of the Chesapeake Bay are sinking at rapid rates](#)

*WUSA9*

The region most at risk, the Naval Station Norfolk, home to the largest naval base in the world with a dense population of more than 1.7 million people.

## **Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater**

### **[The District of Columbia Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan](#)**

*Engage DC*

The DC Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan is a two-year restoration planning project for the Anacostia River Corridor 500-year floodplain within the District of Columbia.

### **[Anacostia Festival](#)**

*May 20, 2023, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

The 11th Street Bridge Park and the National Park Service present the ninth annual Anacostia River Festival, a premier event of the 2023 National Cherry Blossom Festival. Join us at this FREE family-friendly event as we celebrate Breaking New Ground: 100 Years of Innovation at Anacostia Park on May 20, 2023.

### **[Promoting COG's CEC \*Safety of Tap\* and \*Water Infrastructure\* Videos](#)**

In celebration of Drinking Water Week (May 7-13) the Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) boosted this [Safety of Tap video](#) on Facebook, and for Infrastructure Week beginning May 15, the CEC will be boosting this [Water Infrastructure video](#) showcasing our region's water infrastructure investments.

### **[EPA Calls for Greater EJ Focus in New Plastics Pollution Prevention Strategy](#)**

*Waste Dive*

A new draft strategy from the U.S. EPA calls for numerous plastic pollution reduction measures, including ones meant to align collection, recycling, and composting with environmental justice efforts.

### **[Earth Day Clean up Lessons](#)**

*Washington Post Opinion*

## **Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought**

### **[PFAS in the Potomac River Basin](#)**

*Potomac DWSPP (Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership)*

As the science and regulatory landscapes around PFAS are quickly changing, government agencies and water utilities are closely tracking the situation. Recently, ICPRB worked with members of the [Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership](#) (DWSPP) to develop an interactive map featuring PFAS sampling locations in the basin. The webpage, [PFAS in the Potomac Basin](#), includes a review of federal regulations and the regulatory status of PFAS in each state in the basin—Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The map is not comprehensive, but a starting point for tracking monitoring in the region. It will be updated as more data is gathered.

## [City Council Endorses Regulations to Rid 'Forever Chemicals' From Alexandria's Drinking Water](#)

*ALXNow*

Alexandria's drinking water has an "actionable" level of Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), and the City Council just endorsed a plan to help clean it up.

## ['A community problem': County's future water demands expected to cost up to \\$100 million](#)

*Herald Mail Media*

How will Washington County and the city of Hagerstown make sure there is enough of [water] as the county grows?

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

*May 2023 Report*

## **Climate and Energy**

### [This year so far has been D.C.'s warmest on record](#)

*Washington Post*

The region has seen temperatures running from about 5 to 6 degrees above normal. History suggests it could last.

### [Planting Trees Help Our Forest Weather Climate Change](#)

*The Bay Journal*

Our forests have always endured natural stresses and disturbances like fires, storms, drought, insects, and pathogens – not to mention human-caused disturbances like deforestation, fragmentation, and invasive species. The impacts of climate change in the Bay region will certainly exacerbate these stresses and alter the composition of our forests in various ways.

### [Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network Unveils County Level Tree Data](#)

There are tree Cover Factsheets by County.

## **Food and Agriculture**

### [Chesapeake Bay Clean-up Faces Difficult Trade-offs with Agriculture](#)

*Bay Journal*

This is the first article in a series that will examine the clash between water quality goals and economic drivers.

### [Is a Climate-Smart 2023 Farm Bill Even Possible](#)

*Civil Eats*

Although it seems like everyone in D.C. is buzzing about a “climate farm bill,” some of the most impactful changes, including crop diversification and shifting diets from meat toward plants, are barely on the negotiating table.

### [The Rush for Solar Farms Could Make It Harder for Young Farmers to Access Land](#)

*Civil Eats*

Millions of acres of solar panels are needed to reach renewable energy goals. With established farmers being offered big bucks to turn ag into energy, will the next generation of farmers face another hurdle and be priced out?

### [Casey Trees Sets Tree Planting Record](#)

*The Hill Rag*

April is the best gardening month of the year. Cherry blossoms, daffodils, tulips, and so much more pop up after the colder months of winter. It is the perfect time to plant seeds and start up plants you can enjoy all summer long.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- CBPC 2023 Meeting Dates:  
July 21  
September 15 (Annual Forum)  
November 17
- FARM Meeting – June 9

### **COG Staff Contacts**

Heidi Bonnaffon, [hbonnaffon@mwkog.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org)  
Christine Howard, [cdhoward@mwkog.org](mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org)  
Lindsay Smith (Food and Agriculture), [lsmith@mwkog.org](mailto:lsmith@mwkog.org)