

# POTOMAC WATER QUALITY TRENDS WORKSHOP

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## INTRODUCTION

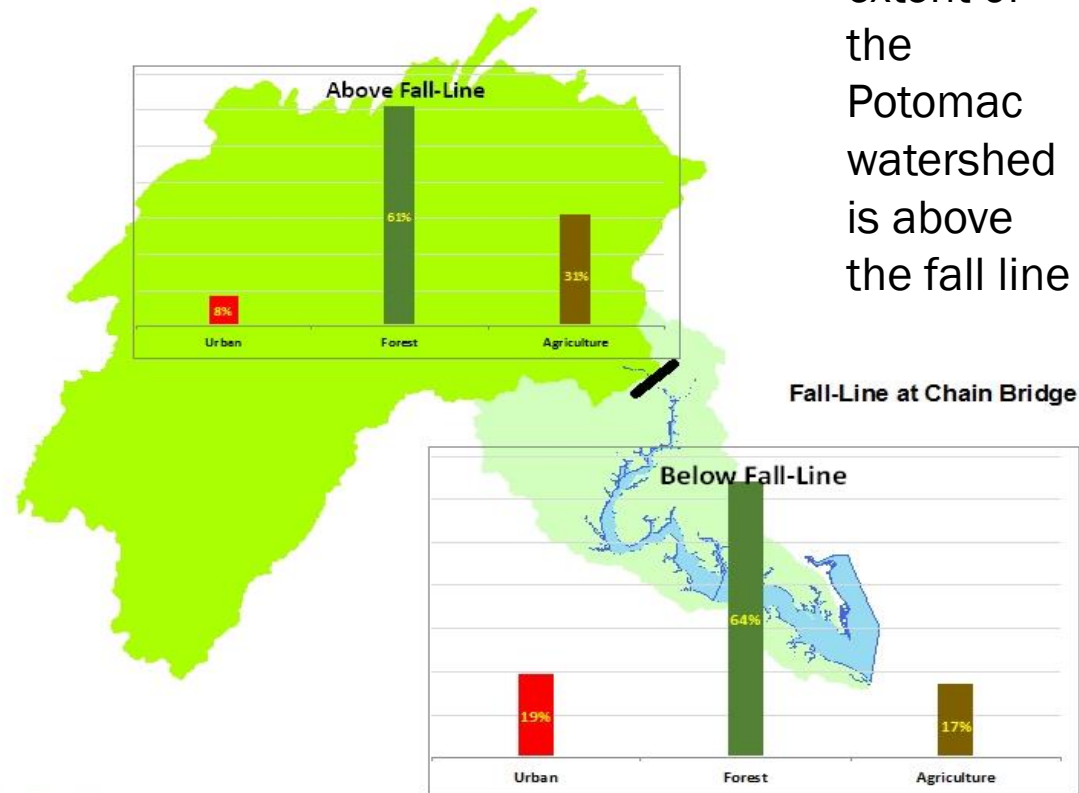
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# Potomac Watershed

Landuse Above and Below Fall-Line  
data derived from version 5.3.2  
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

About 90%  
of the total  
extent of  
the  
Potomac  
watershed  
is above  
the fall line



# Potomac Estuary Water Quality Drivers

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- Fall-line loads

today's focus

- Wastewater discharges BFL

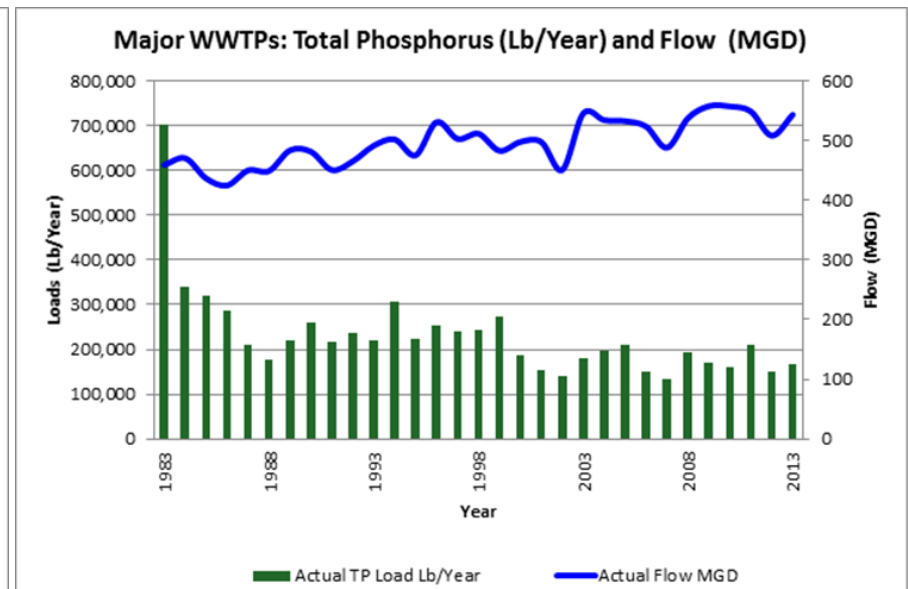
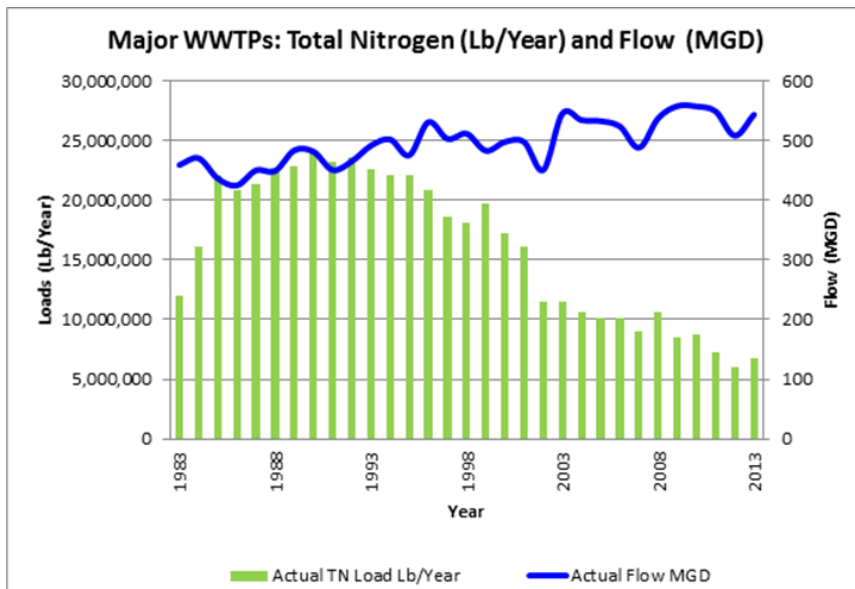
- Significant declines since 1985 in TN, TP

- Nonpoint source loads BFL

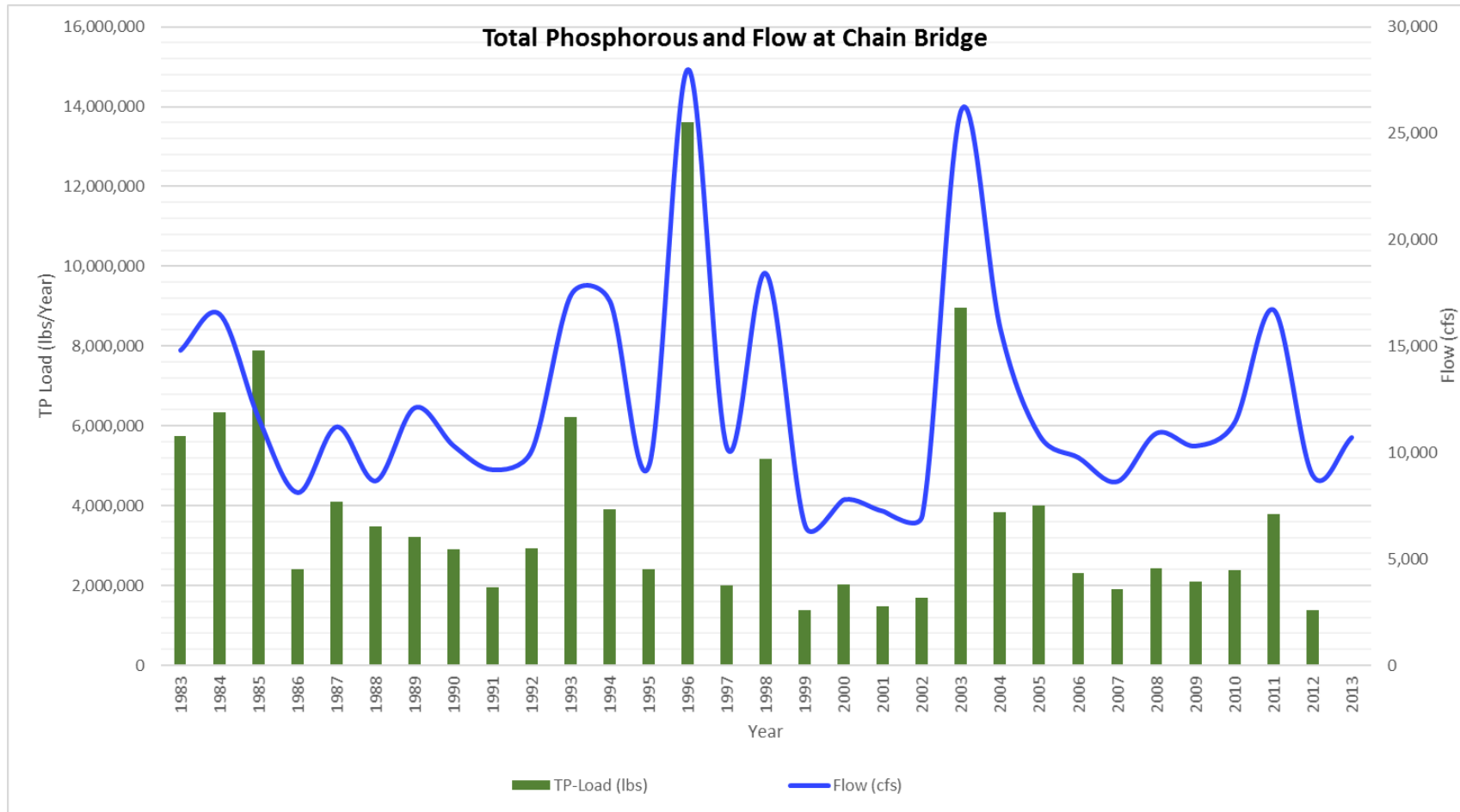
- Only partial monitoring available, loads estimated by modeling

# Wastewater Discharges

For COG Region as a whole, almost all BFL



# Finding the Signal in the Noise



Graph created using OWML Chain Bridge data portal at [mwcog.owml.vt.edu](http://mwcog.owml.vt.edu)

# What Others Have to Say

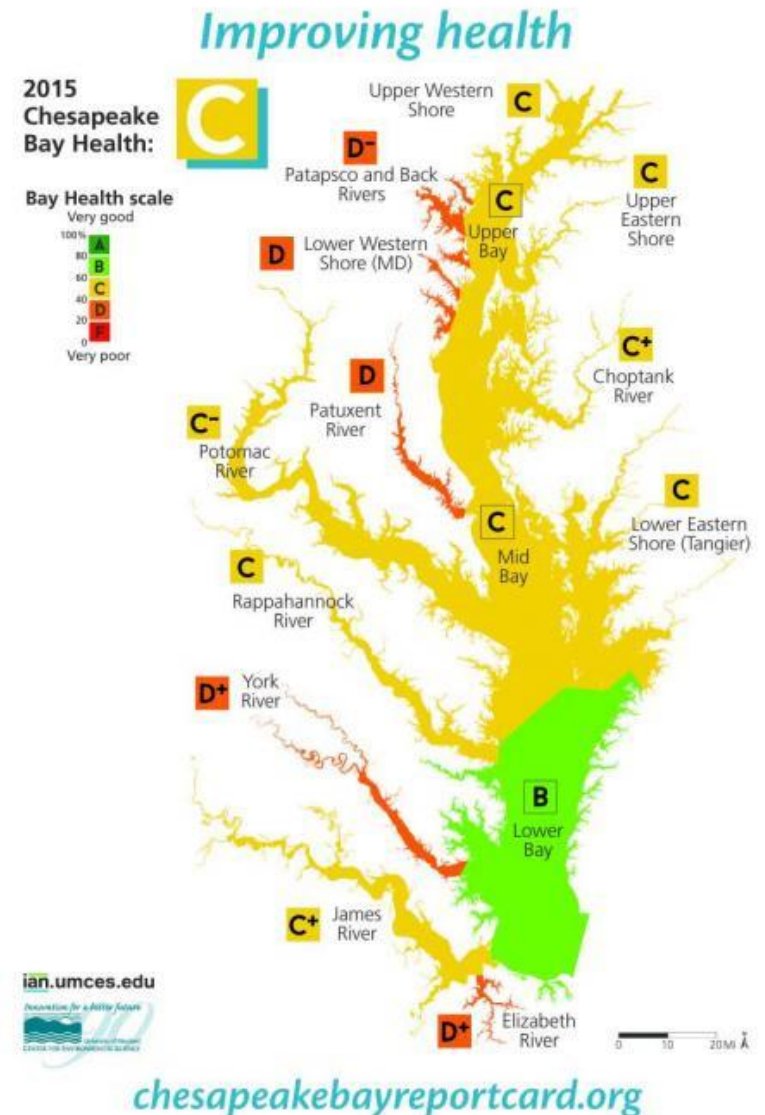
## The Potomac Conservancy's *State of the Nation's River*

- 2016 B-
- 2015 C-
- 2013 C
- 2011 D

## The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

### *State of the Bay – Potomac River*

- 2015 C-
- 2014 D+
- 2013 C-
- 2012 D+
- 2011 D



# Goals for the Workshop

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- Examine water quality trend data for the Potomac watershed above the fall line from two different sources
  - USGS dataset
  - OWML dataset
- Understand how management decisions, such as wastewater treatment plant upgrades and BMP implementation, are affecting water quality trends in the watershed
- Assess regional benefits of OWML Chain Bridge monitoring program - to be discussed at future event