



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

## **Maryland Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan**

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2018 Spring Regional Meetings

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## **Outline**

- **Why a Phase III WIP?**
- **Maryland's Progress to Date**
- **Phase III WIP Development: Building on Past Success**



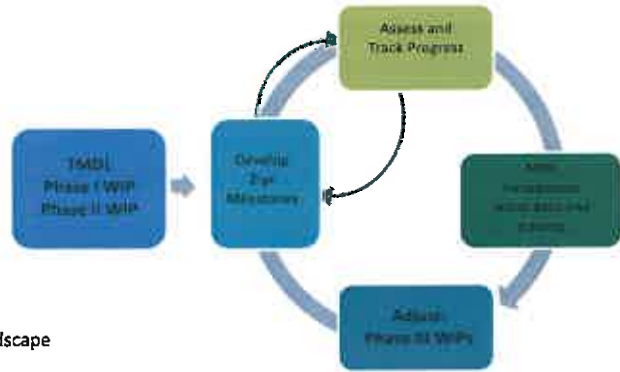
# Why a Revised Cleanup Plan?

## • Bay Restoration

- Continuous Improvement Process
- 2010 TMDL/Phase I WIP
- 2012 Phase II WIP

## • 2017 Mid Point Assessment

- Evaluation of Progress
- Update Decision Tools
  - Better information
  - Land cover
  - Conowingo, Climate Change, Changes in the Landscape
  - Updated BMPs



## • Revise/Adjust WIPs: Roadmaps 2019-2025

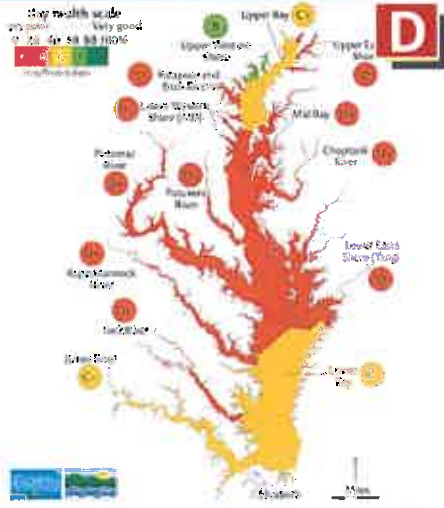
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# Overall Health of the Chesapeake Bay Continues to Improve

2016 State of the Bay report presented some great news—the Bay is improving!

2007



2016



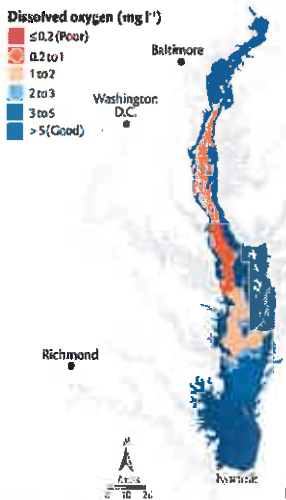
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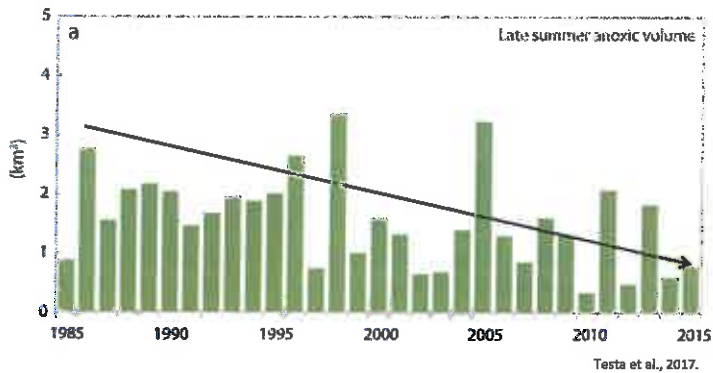
## The Bay's Dead Zone is Shrinking...

The summer dead zone in the Bay has been shrinking in volume.

Summer Dead Zone



Late summer dead zone volume



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## Living Resources are Recovering

The living resources important to the health of the Bay and to Maryland's economy are responding to the improved water quality

### Bay Grasses



Submerged aquatic vegetation recovery is linked to nutrient reductions.

### Blue Crabs



Blue crab populations respond to fisheries management, habitat restoration, and SAV recovery.

### Oysters

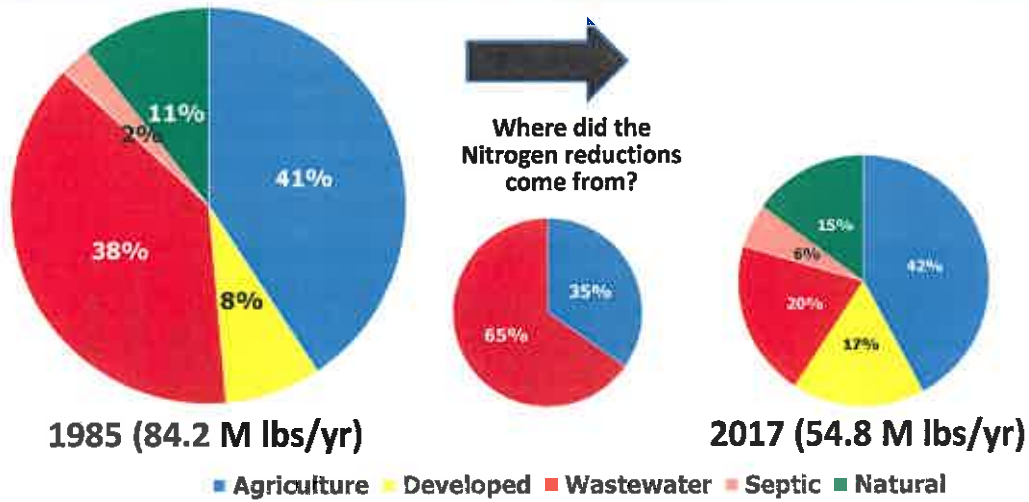


Harris Creek, MD is the first fully restored oyster reef in Chesapeake Bay.



## Maryland Nitrogen Loads (1985 – 2017)

Maryland has made the most progress in reducing nitrogen since 1985 compared to the other 6 Bay jurisdictions



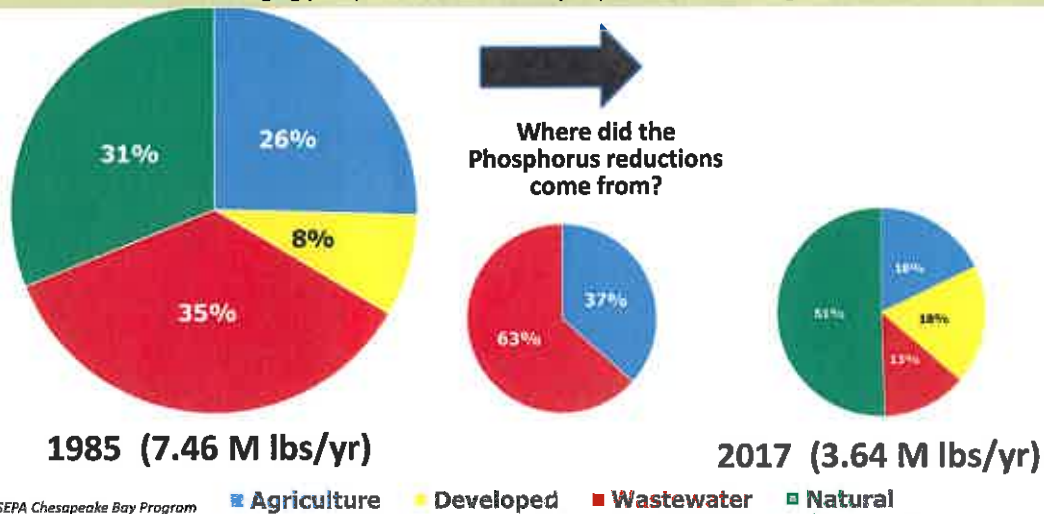
Source: USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program

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## Maryland Phosphorus Loads (1985 – 2017)

While Maryland has almost met its 2025 phosphorus reduction goals, managing phosphorus is still critically important for restoring local waters



Source: USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program

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**Phase III WIP Themes**

Markets & Financing	Stormwater	Wastewater	Agriculture	WIP Initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean Water Commerce</li> <li>Nutrient Trading</li> <li>Pay for performance</li> <li>Targeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Phase I MS4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance</li> <li>Next permit restoration requirement</li> <li>More science &amp; better accounting</li> </ul> <p><b>Phase II MS4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracking &amp; Accounting</li> <li>Funding restoration</li> </ul>	<p><b>WWTPs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patapsco 2019</li> <li>O &amp; M grants</li> <li>Nutrient trading</li> <li>Water reuse</li> </ul> <p><b>Septic systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connections</li> <li>Septic Stewardship</li> <li>Co-benefits</li> </ul>	<p>Evaluate current Plan and Milestones with new tools</p> <p>Continue PMT implementation</p> <p>Soil health</p> <p>Co-benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conowingo WIP</li> <li>Climate Resiliency and Adaptation</li> <li>Aligning for Growth</li> <li>Crediting Conservation</li> </ul>

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**Phase III WIP Themes**

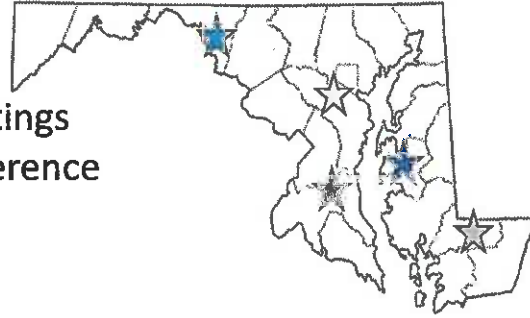
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## Planned Engagement Activities

- **June 2018:** Five regional meetings
- **Summer 2018:** Webinars
- **August/Sept 2018:** MDA-SCD Meetings
- **August 2018:** MACo Summer Conference
- **Fall 2018**
  - Local meetings by sector
  - Regional meetings
- **March 2019:** Public Review and Comment on Draft Phase III WIP
- **June 2019:** Final Phase III WIP



For more information:

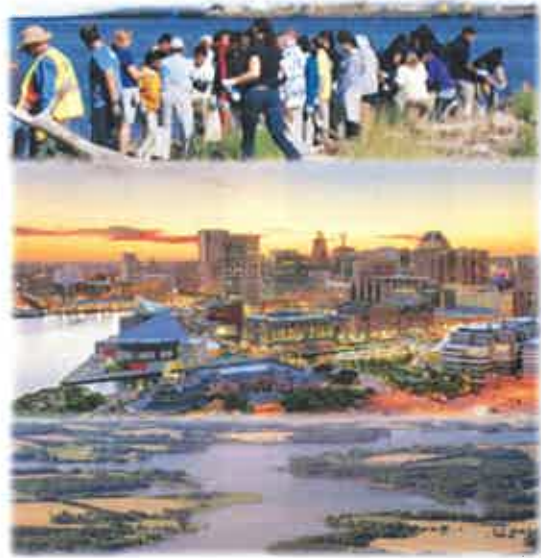
[bit.ly/MDP3WIP](http://bit.ly/MDP3WIP)

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## Summary

- **Our hard work is paying off:**
  - Nutrient Reductions
  - Living Resources are recovering
  - Local Co - Benefits
- **We still have work to do:**
  - Work together to design the Phase III WIP
  - Work together to reach our 2025 Goals
- **Safeguarding the Future:**
  - Planning for 2025 and beyond: meet cap and maintain it
- **Everybody has a role in Bay cleanup**



### Questions?

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