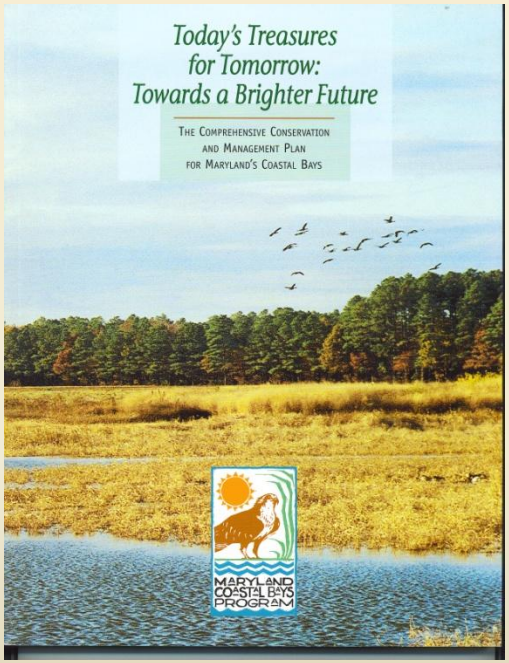
Maryland Coastal Bays Program Management planning for 2014 & beyond



Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (2000 -2014)

- 15 year scientifically based management plan

- In 1999, the “forgotten bays” had very little protection or investigation. Today a great deal more is known and STAC can assist with management decisions by steering policy makers & the public towards ecosystem improvement and protection.

- **STAC’s task is to take those research findings and direct our future efforts towards implementing & measuring the effective change.**

Some of the many accomplishments include

- Tidal & non tidal water monitoring coordination (Report Cards)
- Ecosystem Assessment (2004) Shifting Sands (2009)
- Support for Critical Area designation & protections
- Establishment of fishery management plans
- Estuarine indicators & Quantifiable goals → add terrestrial & social indicators; develop milestones
- Identified scientific gaps → resulted in studies w/ recommendations

A short list of those studies & recommendations that will form the basis of the 2014 CCMP update.

- Maryland Shore Erosion Task Force
- Water Resources Element for Worcester County Comp Plan
- Public Drainage Associations Task Force
- Shoreline inventory & Coastal Atlas/Shorelines Online
- Coastal Bays Clam & Blue Crab Fishery Management Plans
- Coastal Bays Forestry Strategy/MD Forest Assessment & Strategy
- DNR Wildlife Diversity Conservation Plan
- Groundwater nutrient concentrations
- Navigation & Dredging Master Plan for the Coastal Bays
- Aquatic Sensitive Areas
- Green Infrastructure/Blue Infrastructure
- Maryland Vulnerability to Climate Change

Example update

- FW 1.7 Improve water quality in dead-end canals.

  - Solution: Investigate options for enhancements/retrofits (2000)

1. Dead End Canal Workshop recommendations (2003)
   - Determine jurisdictions of canal maintenance
   - Investigate potential for tax district for maintenance
   - Educate local marine contractors on BMPs and sloping recommendations to promote flushing
   - Coordinate efforts with the Navigation & Dredging Group
   - Reduce imperviousness around canals

2. Ocean City Canal Management Plan (2010)
   - See http://www.oceancitymd.gov/engineering/workplan.pdf

3. 2014 & beyond – **move from investigate to implement**, encourage Ocean Pines to develop similar plan, monitor water quality, drive resources to leverage local efforts

   a. Have the above recommendations been sufficiently addressed already?
   b. Have these studies and/or policies been superseded by newer state/local efforts?

Principle Investigators & Technical Experts are needed for updating the CCMP and Science Agenda

WATER QUALITY SECTION

Wastewater: septics and WWTPs
Groundwater quality & protection
Agricultural efforts: cover crops, buffer strips, conservation efforts, sustainability, etc.
Stormwater management & retrofits
Atmospheric deposition
TMDL & Watershed Improvement Plan/Nutrient Reduction Plans –NEW

FISH & WILDLIFE SECTION

Fishery management plans- clams, blue crabs,
Forest inventory, management and stewardship
Terrestrial living resources
Tidal & non-tidal wetlands: tracking, mitigation, enhancement, restoration
Invasive/Exotic & Threatened & Endangered species monitoring

RECREATION & NAVIGATION SECTION

Dredge spoil placement and management/island restoration
Canal maintenance
Clean Marina participation

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC SECTION

Environmental literacy
Public Perception & Social Indicators (recycling rates, volunteer efforts, declines in violations,etc)
Public Access to parks and waterways
Community sustainability, planning, ecosystem valuation
Climate change –NEW

To do:

- Each CCMP Section is ~30 pages long (FW is double, need more terrestrial information)

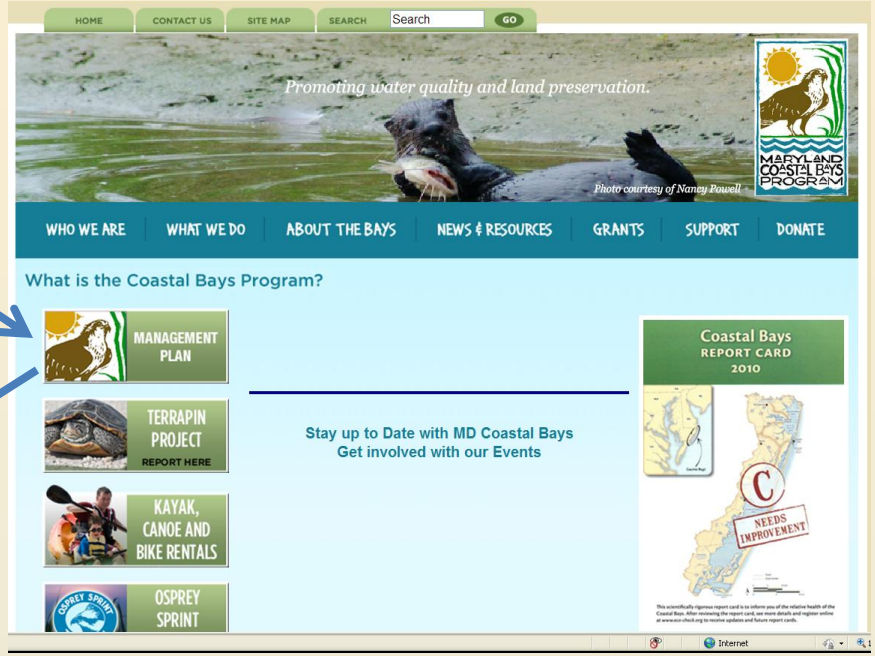
- Task for reviewers
  - Are any studies with recommendations missing?
  - Assist with identifying co-editors
  - Determine which recommendations will we keep to work on in the future
  - Minor language edits (ex. investigate vs. implement)
  - What are the new policies & emerging issues to be included in the management plan & science agenda?

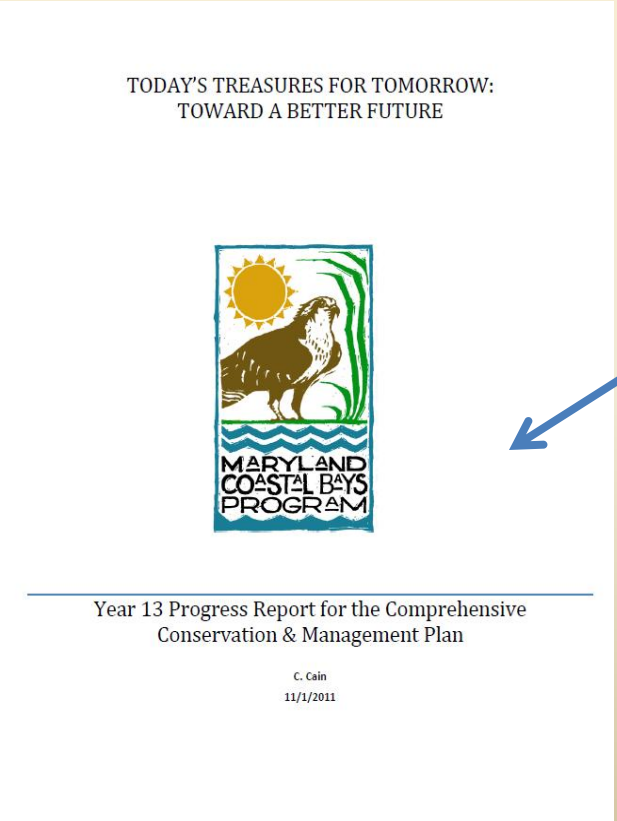
Section Chairs needed

Section	1999 CCMP Section Chair	2014 update Section Chair
Water Quality	Dave Goshorn (DNR)	
Fish & Wildlife	Bruce Nichols (NRCS)	
Recreation & Navigation	Carl Zimmerman (NPS)	
Community & Economic Development	Erin Fitzsimmons (citizen)	

For more information

- Visit www.mdcoastalbays.org
- Click on Management Plan





TODAY'S TREASURES FOR TOMORROW:
TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE

MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

Year 13 Progress Report for the Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan

C. Cain
11/1/2011

The 13 year progress report shows we have accomplished ~80% of our goals since 2000.
Use the information to inform your colleagues, support your proposals & leverage resources.
The Program is only successful because of the on-going collaboration between science & management.