

Request for STAC Formation of an Expert Sediment Advisory Team

Issue

The Chesapeake Bay Program has developed a refined simulation of sediment processes in tidal shallow waters to assess management actions necessary to achieve the states' clarity/SAV water quality standards and to develop, for the first time, management strategies aimed at fully achieving all the states' water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay. The Nutrient Subcommittee's Sediment Workgroup and Modeling Subcommittee request STAC's assistance in convening of an expert sediment advisory team. The team will provide guidance on the application of the CBP models in evaluation of the established sediment cap load allocations and supporting management strategies directed towards removal of the water clarity/SAV impairments in the Chesapeake Bay.

Background

The Chesapeake Bay Program is faced with management decisions in a region of the Bay that we are just beginning to understand. The states' water clarity/SAV water quality standards are applicable only in a narrow ribbon of shallow water along the shoreline, usually a meter or less in depth, and never more than two meters deep. While previously much of the monitoring and science of the Chesapeake was directed towards the deeper, open waters of the Bay, more recently, the shallow water region has started to be explored with shallow water monitoring and detailed studies of shore erosions, resuspension, and other key shallow water processes. Another key process anticipated to be important in shallow water regions is the water clarity ecosystem services provided by filter feeders.

STAC has led the way in the Chesapeake Bay Program in providing committed and knowledgeable scientists who are willing and able to make a contribution to public policy in the continued Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is now entering the TMDL arena, with new rules and tactics of policy debate particular to TMDLs. STAC technical and scientific support, to inform the debate and pending far reaching policy and load allocation decisions, would make a significant contribution.

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The Nutrient Subcommittee's Sediment Workgroup and Modeling Subcommittee request STAC's assistance in identifying a limited number of recognized experts from the Bay region with expertise on the sediment allocation issues we are facing in the watershed and within the shallow-water regions of the Bay. We'll need scientific colleagues with expertise in shoreline erosion, shallow water resuspension, sediment transport modeling, ecosystem effects of filter feeders as well as knowledge of the fate and transport of sediment in the watershed including legacy sediments and stream restoration