



Chesapeake Bay Program
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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January 18, 2012

Nick DiPasquale
Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program
US Environmental Protection Agency
410 Severn Ave., Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403

Dear Mr. DiPasquale,

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) requests the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) appoint NOAA scientist, and current NCBO Senior Science Advisory, Dr. Michael Ford, for a vacant STAC federal agency appointment position. STAC's role in serving the Chesapeake Bay Program requires careful consideration of potential members. STAC thoroughly reviews and discusses Committee expertise needs in order to recommend federal agency experts who can best provide scientific and technical advice. However, as stated in STAC's bylaws, federal appointment seats are ultimately filled by the Director of the CBP.

STAC believes Dr. Ford is well suited to provide a connection to regional scientists investigating living resources issues imperative to the successful restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Since 2008, Dr. Ford has worked directly with the Chief Scientist of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In this role Dr. Ford had identified opportunities to promote science across multiple disciplines including oceanography, ecosystem science, satellite remote sensing, and genomics. Additionally, over the past six months, NCBO's emphasis on coordinating regional scientific efforts has been greatly expanded by Dr. Ford's leadership. Dr. Ford has fostered strong partnerships between academics and state and federal agencies resulting in substantial collaboration between NOAA and the scientific community. This expanded collaboration has been greatly appreciated by STAC, and has replaced a period of limited NOAA-regional science community interaction.

Beyond his contributions to NCBO over recent months, Dr. Ford's career has included research into a variety of ecosystem issues directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration. Throughout his career, Dr. Ford has studied: jellyfish dynamics and their effects on marine ecosystems; interactions between fishes and gelatinous zooplankton in the marine food web; the use of groundbreaking video and image analysis techniques to study marine life forms; and the use of satellite remote sensing instrumentation in the marine ecosystem. Dr. Ford's experience using remote sensing and image capturing technology in a marine ecosystem would represent a uniquely new expertise on STAC.

For the above reasons, STAC would welcome Dr. Ford as a federal agency appointee. Thank you for considering this recommendation. The federal agency appointees serve a critical role on STAC, and we are continuously appreciative of their expertise and contributions to the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Pyke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher R. Pyke,

Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee