



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
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<http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/>

May 30, 2014

RE: STAC Oyster Nutrient Reduction Potential

Nicholas DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, MD 21403

Cc: Management Board; CBP GITs and Workgroups, STAR

Dear Mr. DiPasquale,

Please see the attached STAC *Oyster Nutrient Reduction Potential* Factsheet. This factsheet provides a summary of findings from the STAC review ([http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/307\\_Luckenbach2013.pdf](http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/307_Luckenbach2013.pdf)) entitled "Evaluation of the Use of Shellfish as a Method of Nutrient Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay," as well as other relevant information on the potential use of shellfish as a method of nutrient reduction in the Chesapeake Bay.

The intended audience of this factsheet is the CBP staff and partner representatives in the CBP GITs, workgroups, STAR, and other entities. There appears to be repeated discussions of oysters as a nutrient reduction BMP to meet the load reductions within the bay-wide TMDL and although STAC has provided a review and recommendations of the current and near-term limitations of oysters in nutrient reduction, it appears that the report has not reached all of the possible interested parties within the partnership.

STAC believes the factsheet appropriately summarizes the issues related to the nutrient reduction potential from oysters, and the need for additional information related to practices or conditions that lead to enhanced denitrification. Although enhanced denitrification has been observed in association with oyster reefs, the effect has been highly variable and it is currently not possible to provide reliable rates for inclusion in the TMDL implementation process without direct measurements on individual reefs.

We will attempt to distribute the factsheet to all CBP partner representatives through the CRC Career Development staffers, but if you believe additional individuals, organizations, or agencies should receive this material, please let us know. Direct any questions you may have about the larger report, its recommendations, and the factsheet to Natalie Gardner, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Coordinator, and review lead Dr. Mark Luckenbach of VIMS.

On behalf of the entire STAC, thank you again for considering these findings, and we look forward to working with you closely on this in the future.

Sincerely,

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