



September 8, 2014

Dr. Kirk Havens, Chair
CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
645 Contees Wharf Road
P.O. Box 28
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

Dear Dr. Havens:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to STAC's review panel report entitled, "Evaluation of the Use of Shellfish as a Method of Nutrient Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay".

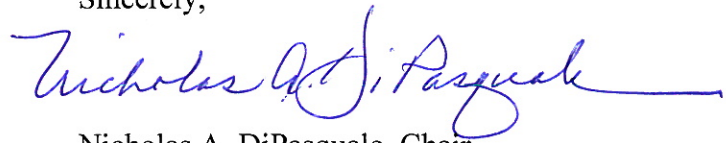
The report was reviewed by the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) on August 7, 2014 for possible implementation as an approved BMP in the Chesapeake Bay Program modeling suite. The WTWG is appreciative of the work that went into this review and did not raise any concerns over the technical merit. As you know, however, in order for this practice to be given credit for reducing nutrients or sediment under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), it would be required to be reviewed and meet the protocols established by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT).

Based on the established BMP approval procedures, the partnership has decided not to implement this BMP within the CBP modeling suite at this time. However, the WQGIT supported the WTWG's recommendation that crediting oyster aquaculture as a BMP should be addressed through the expert panel process. The Oyster Recovery Partnership has expressed interest in coordinating such a panel and they are currently developing a proposal to be reviewed by the partnership. Given the cross-sector implications of establishing an oyster aquaculture BMP, the WQGIT, the Habitat GIT, and the Fisheries GIT will be particularly engaged in the convening, review, and approval stages. The expert panel will benefit greatly from the work that went into this report and would likely employ some of the same participants.

Please extend my thanks to the review steering committee and external reviewers for the time and effort involved in the thoughtful production of this report. We appreciate the role of STAC

in serving as an independent review body in improving our overall management of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

Sincerely,



Nicholas A. DiPasquale, Chair
Management Board

cc: Management Board
Goal Implementation Team Chairs