



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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[www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)

To: Nick DiPasquale  
Director, Chesapeake Bay Program  
CC: Federal Office Directors  
From: Lisa Wainger  
Chair, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee  
Date: November 5, 2015  
Re: Federal Agency Appointment to STAC

Dear Director DiPasquale,

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) requests the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) appoint Dr. Mark Monaco, Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA's) Center for Coastal Monitoring & Assessment, for a vacant STAC federal agency appointment position. STAC's role in serving the CBP requires careful consideration of potential members. As stated in STAC's bylaws, federal appointment seats are filled by the Director of the CBP. STAC thoroughly reviews and discusses Committee expertise needs in order to recommend federal agency experts who can best provide scientific and technical advice.

Dr. Monaco currently serves as Director of the Center for Coastal Monitoring and Research within the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). Dr. Monaco has worked for NOAA since 1984 and leads and manages sixty federal and contract staff that conduct research, monitoring, and assessments on the distribution and quality of habitats and the ecology of living marine resources to support marine spatial planning along the Nation's coastlines. The Center's research portfolio also focuses on local, regional, and national monitoring of coastal contamination and the forecasting of harmful algal blooms. Monaco's current research interests are focused on coral reef ecosystem ecology, the mapping of coastal habitats, defining marine protected area boundaries, and evaluating the efficacy of spatial management actions.

In addition, Dr. Monaco has a history of conducting and leading science in the Chesapeake Bay including contaminant monitoring and assessments as part of NOAA's National Status and Trends Monitoring Program and development of food-web ecosystem models for mid-Atlantic estuaries including the Chesapeake Bay. Monaco currently leads a team of NCCOS scientists conducting an ecological assessment of the NOAA Habitat Focus Area for the Choptank River Complex. This work includes field data collections out of NCCOS's Cooperative Oxford Laboratory (COL) on the biological and water quality characteristics of Chesapeake Bay tributaries surrounded by watersheds with differing land-use practices. Dr. Monaco will continue to advance NOAA research at COL as he manages multiple NCCOS science branches that address Chesapeake science.

As you may know, at STAC's September 2015 Effectiveness Retreat, members and guests agreed that additional attention on the needs of living resources would be beneficial in communicating benefits of Bay restoration activities and ensuring that water quality restoration goals are aligned with living resource needs. For this reason, STAC can benefit from Dr. Monaco's expertise as it seeks to better support the work of STAR and the GITs. Further, in light of his professional accomplishments, STAC believes that Dr. Monaco's expertise would greatly enhance the Committee's ability to offer advice concerning many aspects of future restoration efforts.

STAC has generally been well served by the federal appointees in the past. On behalf of STAC, I want to thank you for your attention to these appointments. We appreciate the quality of past appointments and hope you will continue to send us members with both the interest and the time to devote to our activities in the future. We also request expediency in the appointment process so that STAC can move forward with a full membership and continue to provide expert scientific and technical support to the Chesapeake Bay Program

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,

Lisa Wainger,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Wainger', with a stylized, cursive script.

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