

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape with a complex network of rivers and streams. The terrain is hilly and forested, with some areas appearing more brownish, possibly due to soil or vegetation. A large river system flows from the upper right towards the bottom right, where it empties into a dark bay or estuary. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed environment.

Explaining what the #@%^^& is Happening with Water Clarity in the Bay

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Why are we witnessing declining trends or no trends in water clarity against the backdrop of decades of BMP implementation and dramatic reductions in wastewater and atmospheric deposition loads?

What has happened in the past decade that has lead to the widespread increases in water clarity particularly in the mainstem Bay?

**Can we quantitatively connect the
dots to tell the upland→stream→
river→Bay→clarity story?**

Tidal shoreline→clarity story?

Resuspension→clarity story?

Can we forge strong, quantifiable relationships between long term SAV distribution and abundance trends and observed trends in water clarity at the local, regional and baywide scale?

Are we ready to tell Bay and watershed management that they need to re-think the relationships between sediment loads, nutrient loads and water clarity?

Should we be taking a different path towards reducing the real “sources” contributing to reduced water clarity conditions?



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