Green Rip-Rap STAC Workshop: Assessing the Water Quality, Habitat, and Social Benefits of Green Riprap

Sponsored by: Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

## **Shoreline Hardening in the Chesapeake Bay**





The most recent shoreline inventory from VIMS reports that 15% of Chesapeake Bay shoreline is hardened – 7.6% of shoreline hardened specifically by riprap.

## **Shoreline Hardening in the Chesapeake Bay**





#### **Detrimental Effects**

- Loss of marsh habitat
- Deflection of wave energy, increasing the erosion potential to adjacent property
- Increase water temperature
- No vegetation to trap sediment and filter nutrients

## **Green Riprap: a way to retrofit riprap shorelines**



**Green Riprap**: integrating marsh vegetation into riprap shorelines

#### **Benefits:**

- Easy and low-cost way to restore some fringe marsh ecological functioning
- Aesthetic change back to a more natural look

Green Riprap is a way to retrofit hardened shorelines and is not a replacement for other shoreline restoration techniques like living shorelines.

















## How did this idea come about?



## **Magothy River (Cypress Creek)**





# **Anne Arundel County Rivers**

















