



Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
STAC Topical Meeting | Virtual
February 20th, 2026

Integration of Social Science in Other Programs

[Meeting Webpage](#) | [RSVP link](#)

Friday, February 20th

9:00 am **Meeting Introduction – STAC Chair Bill Dennison (UMCES)**
Welcome and brief introduction of STAC and STAC Leadership.

9:05 am **Setting the Stage – SSWG Co-Leads Christine Kirchoff (Penn State) and Ellen Kohl (UMBC)**
The [Social Science Workgroup](#) (SSWG) Co-Leads Christine Kirchoff (Penn State) and Ellen Kohl (UMBC) will have a short framing conversation on what “integrating social science” can mean in restoration and management contexts (alongside natural and physical science) to support more actionable, durable decisions. They’ll outline what participants will learn throughout the panels (real-world examples, decision context, and tradeoffs) and how STAC will use today’s discussion in follow-up synthesis and recommendations.

9:20 am **Expert Panel 1: Sister Programs – Facilitated by Lara Fowler (Penn State)**
Speakers from regional programs will share practical examples of how social science has been incorporated into restoration planning, priority-setting, stakeholder engagement, and decision support. Panelists will highlight what changed, what it took to make it work (structure, roles, funding), and lessons learned.

Panelists:

- Puget Sound – David Trimbach (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – Xoco Shinbrot (Delta Stewardship Council)
- Western Lake Erie Basin – Michelle Selzer (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Expert Panel 2: Aspirational Co-Production – Facilitated by Lara Fowler (Penn State)
Speakers will share concrete co-production examples—how partners worked together to shape questions, methods, interpretation, and use of results—showing what social science contributed beyond “communications” or “behavior change.” The emphasis is on what was done, why it mattered, and what was difficult.

Panelists:

- [NERRS Science Collaborative](#) – Julia Wondolleck (University of Michigan)
- [Shrimp Futures](#) – Carissa Gervasi (University of Miami)
- [Maryland Oyster Futures](#) – Taylor Goelz (Aspen Institute)

10:10 am **Break**

10:20 am **Panel Q&A – Facilitated by Lara Fowler (Penn State)**

10:50 am **Breakout Groups**
Participants will meet in small groups to reflect on the insights shared by panelists and brainstorm ways to apply these understandings to STAC.

Groups will focus on:

- What stood out?
- What are you still confused about or want to learn more about?
- What could we apply for STAC?

11:20 am Breakout Group Report-out & Synthesis

11:35 am Facilitated Plenary Discussion – *Facilitated by Lara Fowler (Penn State)*
Full-group discussion to refine takeaways and identify priority next steps.

11:55 am Meeting Wrap-Up

12:00 pm Topical Meeting Adjourns