



# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the lead federal agency for balanced use and protection of coastal and ocean resources. NOAA's mission is:

*To understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social and environmental needs.*

To administer that mission on a regional level, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) provides science, service, and stewardship to support the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. NCBO represents NOAA in the mid-Atlantic region.

## What Does the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Do?

Congress formally established NCBO in 1992 to provide technical assistance and coordinate with federal, state, and local government agencies; support the Chesapeake Bay Program; coordinate NOAA activities in the region; and ensure sound science is conducted and communicated.

NCBO accomplishes these goals by providing applied science, management assistance, and stewardship through the following activities:

### **Fisheries Science and Management**

Expanding the understanding of fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay to ensure a balanced and healthy ecosystem.

### **Habitat Restoration**

Restoring oysters, shorelines, wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and migratory fish passages.

### **Integrated Coastal Observations**

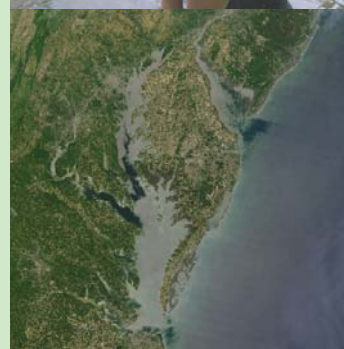
Making the connection between air, land, and water to help understand, protect, and restore the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

### **Education**

Providing hands-on watershed education to students, teachers, and the public to foster stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay.

### Core capabilities:

- Ecosystem science
- Coastal and living resource management
- Environmental literacy



## How Is NCBO Involved?

Since 1984, NOAA has been a partner in the Chesapeake Bay Program, a watershed restoration partnership. NCBO works to accomplish important commitments of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement (the latest, most comprehensive plan for Bay restoration), and provides leadership for four priority commitments:

- **Ecosystem-based management:** Revise and implement existing fisheries management plans to incorporate ecological, social and economic considerations, ecosystem-based fisheries management and ecosystem approaches.
- **Oysters:** Achieve, at a minimum, a tenfold increase in native oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV):** Accelerate protection and restoration of SAV beds in areas of critical importance to the Bay's living resources.
- **Education:** Provide a meaningful Bay or stream outdoor experience for every school student in the watershed before their high school graduation.

In addition, NCBO provides support for many critical Chesapeake Bay restoration and science needs, including funding for fisheries and non-native oyster research, accomplishing habitat characterization and mapping efforts, researching the effects on the Bay ecosystem of derelict fishing gear, and supporting development of observations capabilities and educational materials as part of the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System.

## NCBO Is in Your Neighborhood

### Maryland

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403  
410-267-5660

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office  
Cooperative Oxford Laboratory  
904 South Morris Street  
Oxford, Maryland 21654  
410-226-5193

### Virginia

NOAA at Nauticus  
1 Waterside Drive  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510  
757-627-3823

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
P.O. Box 1346  
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062  
804-684-7382

### *NCBO Mission*

*Focusing NOAA's capabilities in science, service, and stewardship to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.*

