

What's Next for the Chesapeake Bay?

VA Environmental Assembly 2008



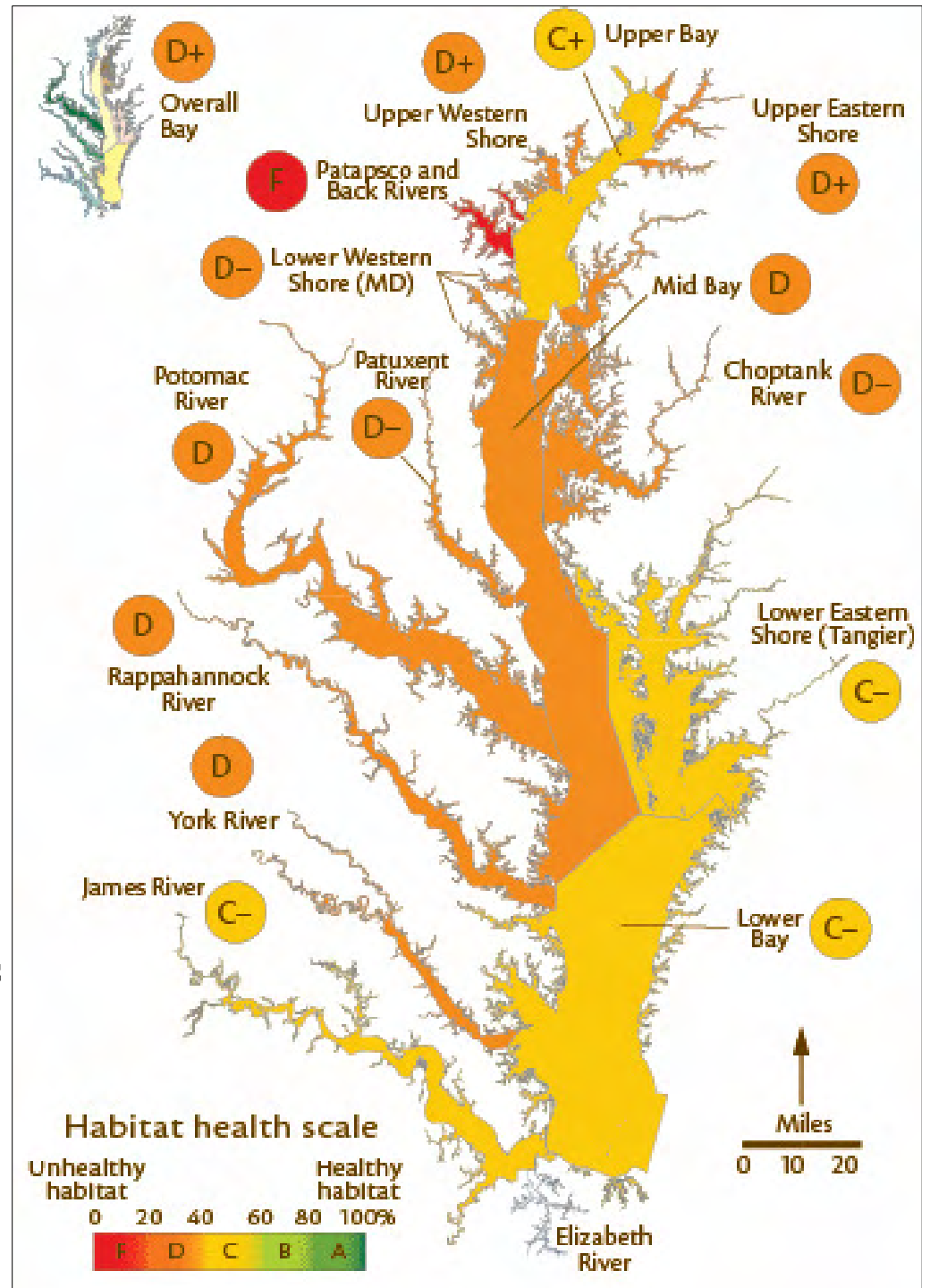
or...

35 Years of Bay Clean-Up Effort

What Needs to Change?

2006 Bay Habitat Health Report Card Overall Bay: D+

- Measure of overall Bay habitat health:
 - water quality
 - habitat
 - supporting food web
- Univ. of Maryland Center of Environmental Science publishes the report card for the partnership



Hello, Neighbor!





The 2010 Bay TMDL

EPA's Position on the Bay TMDL

- 6 components of reasonable assurance and implementation framework:
 1. Revise tributary strategies to identify controls needed to meet TMDL allocations*
 2. Evaluate existing programmatic, funding, and technical capacity to fully implement tributary strategy*
 3. Identify gaps in current programs and local capacity to achieve the needed controls*
 4. Commit to systematically fill gaps/build program capacity – agree to meet specific, iterative, short-term (1-2 year) milestones – demonstrate increased implementation and/or pollutant reductions
 5. Commit to track/monitor/assess progress at set times – adaptive management
 6. Accept contingency requirements if milestones are not met

* Similar to previous tributary strategy efforts

Proposed PSC/EC Recommendation for Discussion

➤ Adopt EPA's TMDL/Reasonable Assurance Framework

- ✓ All 6 States and DC are "In" the TMDL
- ✓ Differing Scale of Allocations for Tidal vs. Non-Tidal
- ✓ Revise Trib Strats
- ✓ ID Existing Capacity
- ✓ ID Gaps
- ✓ Commit to Gap Filling
- ✓ Develop Short-Term Milestones
- ✓ Track/Monitor/Assess progress at set times
- ✓ Accept Contingency Requirements

➤ Set New Clean-Up Deadline at 2020

- ✓ 2020 deadline based on modeling info
- ✓ More distant deadline based on monitoring info

➤ Set Milestones at 2-Year Intervals

- ✓ Meshes with budget cycles and 303(d) list cycle

➤ Agree to Need for Contingency Requirements

- ✓ Refine specific contingency requirements by 2009 EC
- ✓ Contingency requirements could vary by jurisdiction

Take Home

- **Dedicated Funding for Clean-Up**
- **Political Will**
- **Increase Legislative Priority**
- **“Investment” vs. “Spending”**
- **Manage Growth/Development**
 - **Sub-Cabinet, Local Allocations**
- **Lack of “Requirements” & Repercussions**
- **Consensus?**
- **Lawsuits**
- **Reauthorize CWA?**



Photo by Russ Mader