



# **The Chesapeake Bay TMDL**

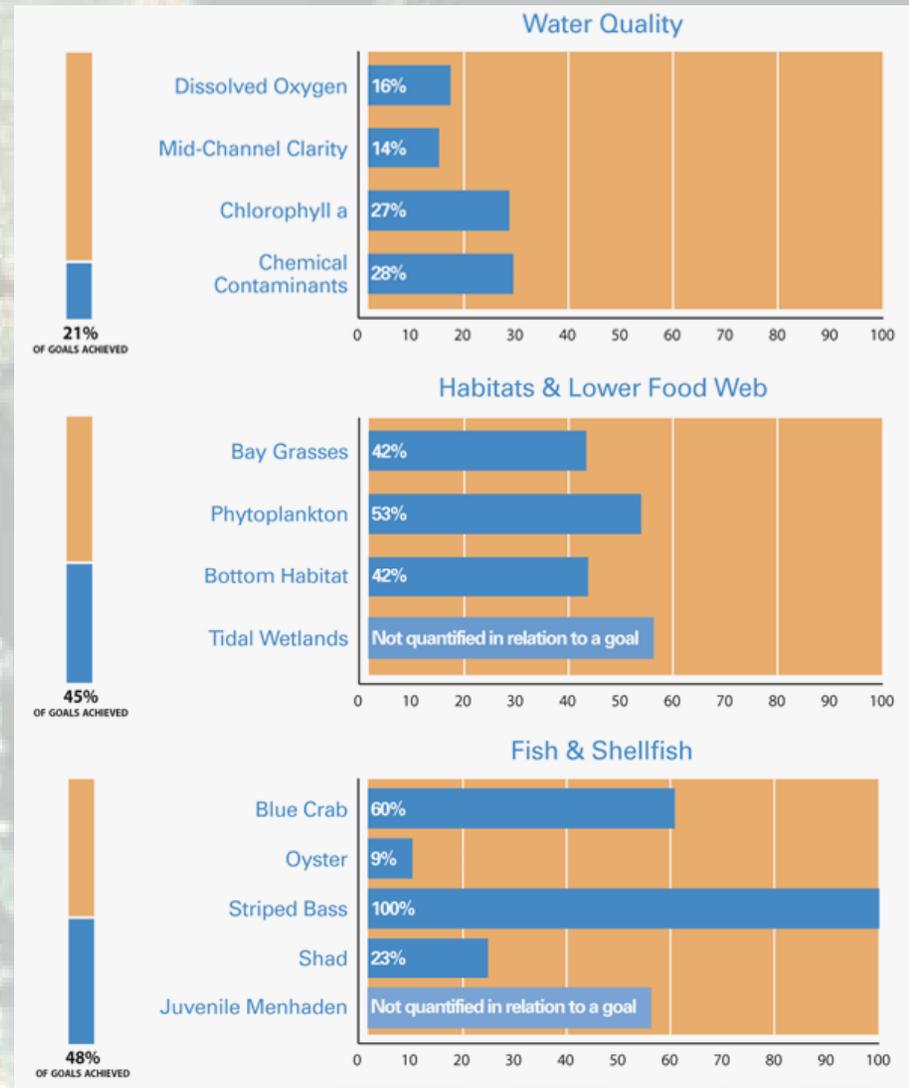
## **Plotting the Path to Bay Water Quality Restoration**

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**U.S. EPA Region III Chesapeake Bay Program Office**

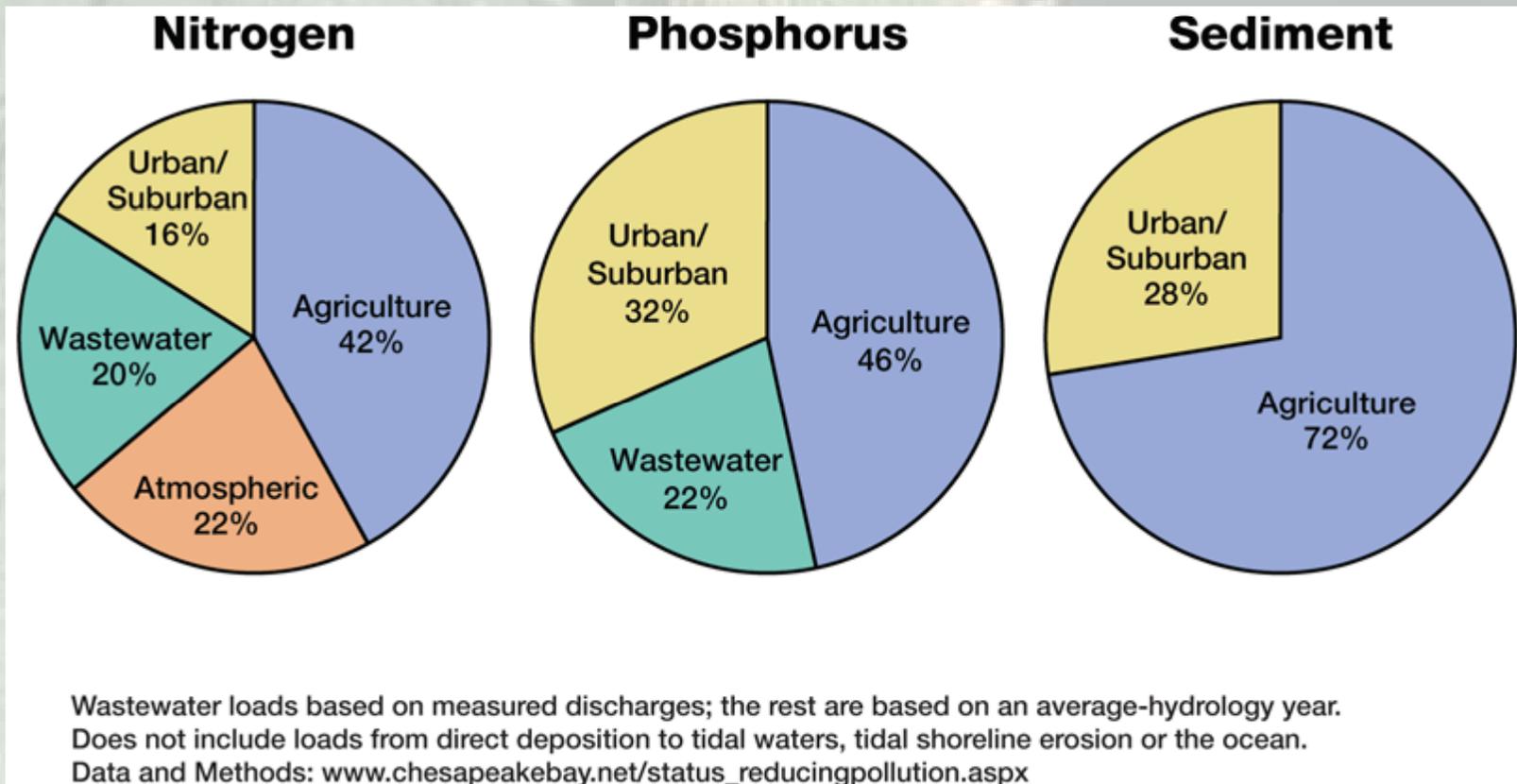
**August 6, 2009**

# 2008 Bay Health Summary

- Most of the Bay's waters are degraded—less than one-third of Bay water quality goals are being met.
- The Bay's critical habitats and food webs are currently at about a third of desired levels.
- Many of the Bay's fish and shellfish populations are below historic levels.



# Pollutant Sources to the Bay



# **What is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)?**

- **For pollutants impairing our waters**
- **Loading to stream necessary to meet water quality standards**
- **Split into wasteload allocations for point sources and load allocations for non-point sources**

**In other words...a pollution budget**

## **Myth**

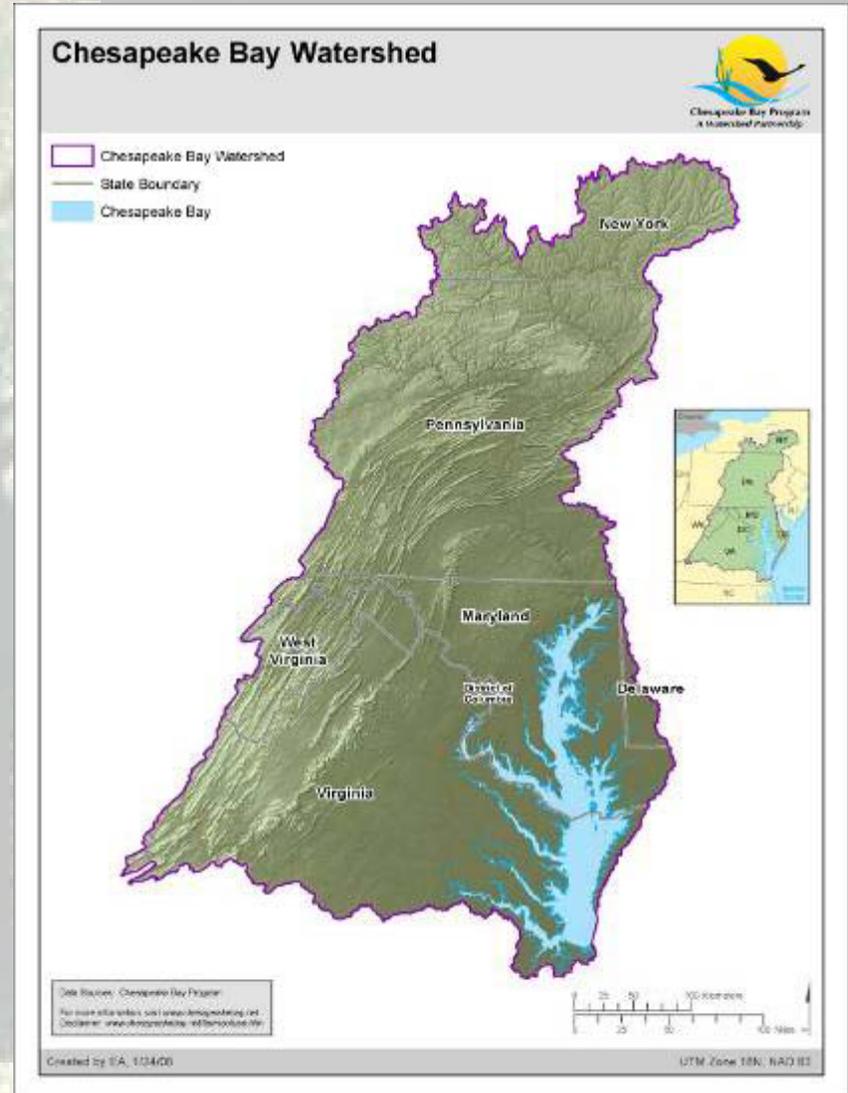
- **The Bay TMDL will be another paper exercise resulting in limited implementation of nutrient and sediment controls**

## **Fact**

- **The Chesapeake Bay TMDL will be unlike any other, being part of a comprehensive framework for implementation**

# Chesapeake Bay TMDL: The Basics

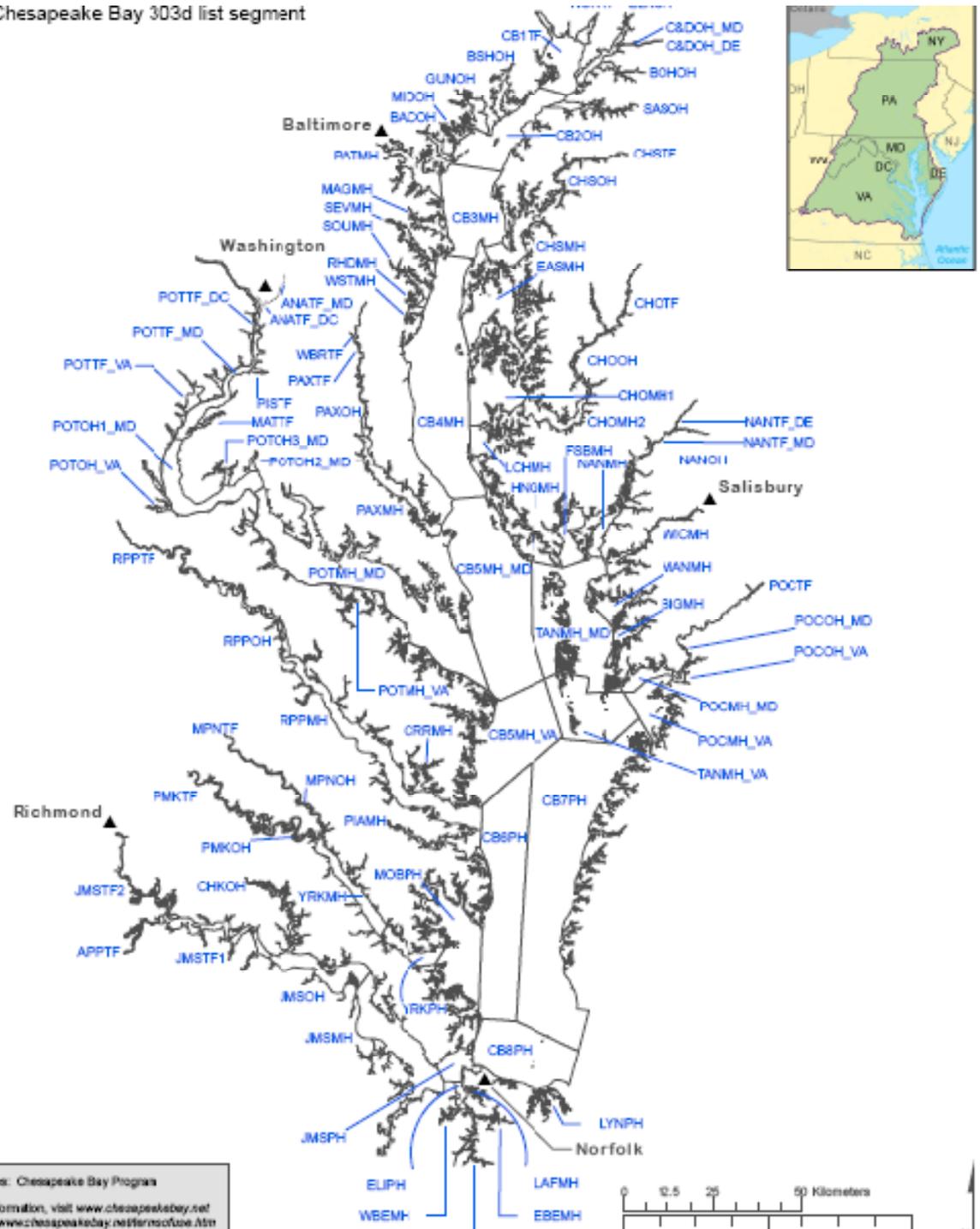
- Will establish a 'pollution budget' for N, P, and S
- Will establish load caps for all six Bay states and the District of Columbia
- Wasteload allocations for point sources; load allocations for nonpoint sources
- Planned for completion by December 2010



# Impaired Segments

- Clean Water Act requires a TMDL for each impaired waterbody
- MD, VA, DE and DC have listed Bay tidal waters on the basis of designated use by tidal Bay segments (92 total)

Chesapeake Bay 303d list segment



# Bay TMDL Schedule

- **Basin-jurisdiction target loads: October 2009**
- **Bay TMDL public meetings: Fall 2009**
- **States set geographic- and source-specific loading caps in their Implementation Plans: October – May 2010**
- **EPA establishes Draft Bay TMDL: June 2010**
- **Public comment period/public meetings: Summer 2010**
- **EPA establishes Final Bay TMDL: December 2010**

# Starting point from the Bay Watershed Model...

County Segment

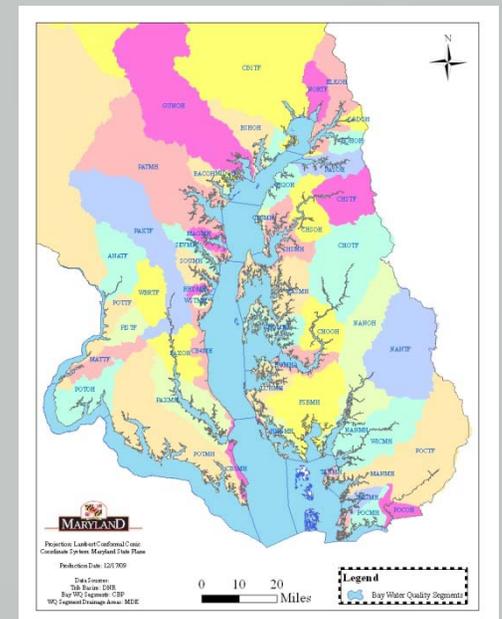
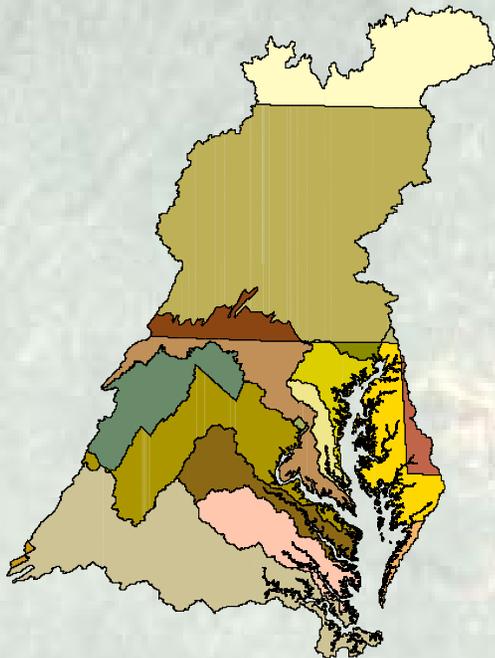
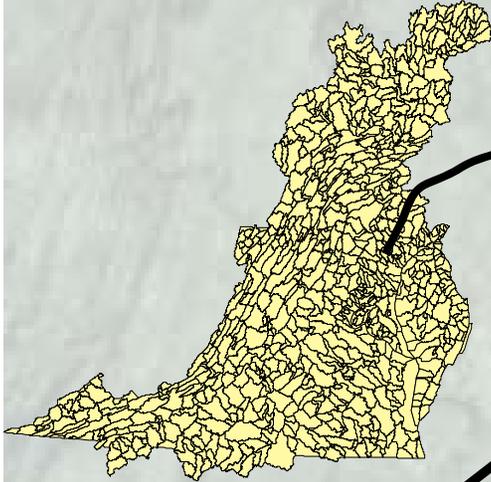
Major Tributary Basin

Impaired Tidal Segmentshed

State

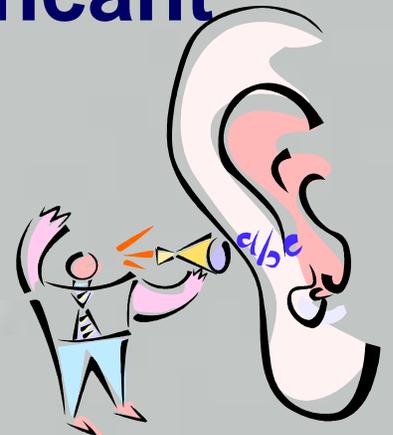
County

...leading to various aggregations of county segments.



# What the new science and new models are telling us

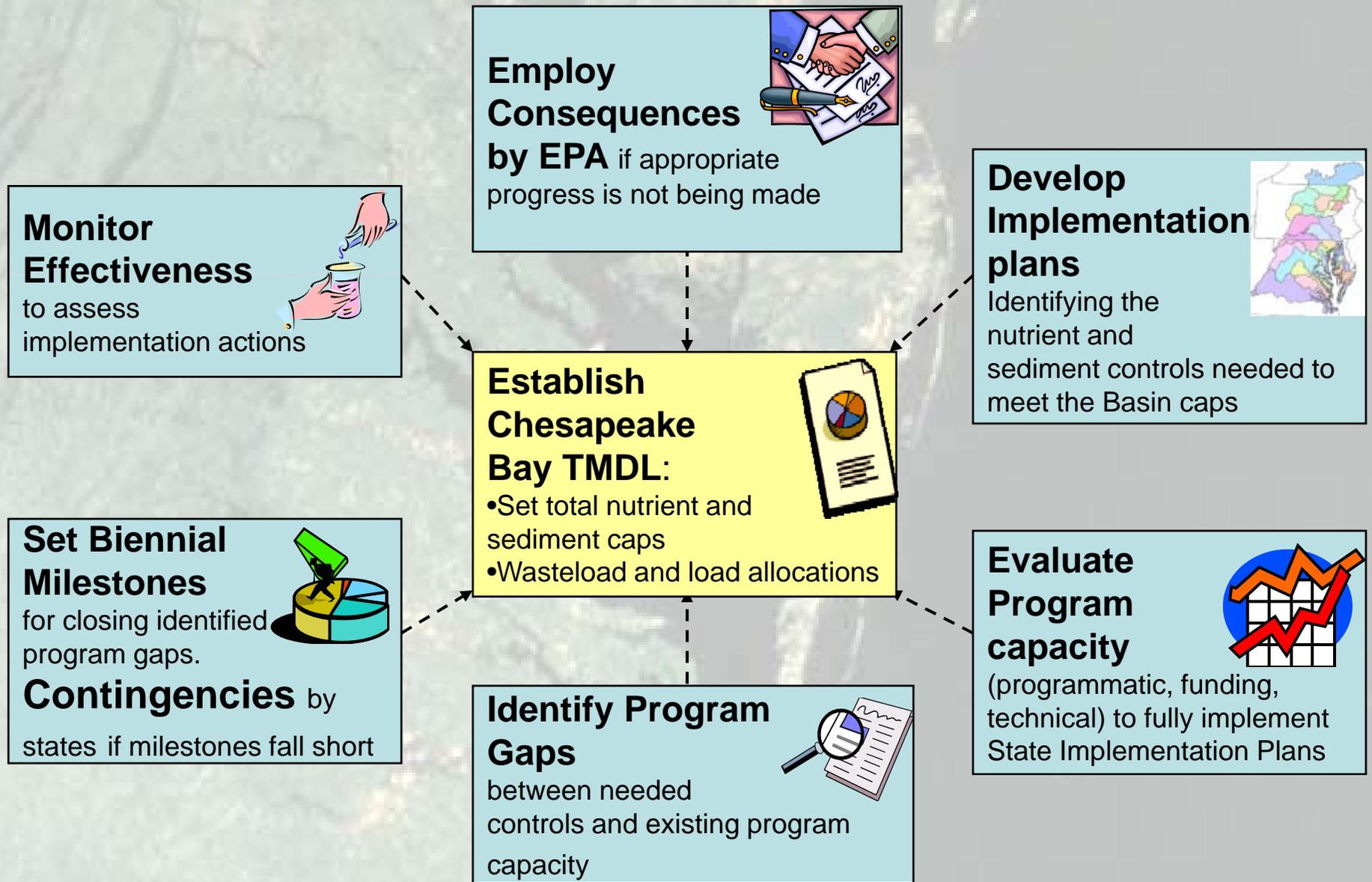
- Cleaning up the Bay results in local water quality improvements
- Full implementation of the jurisdictions' current tributary strategies will not be enough to restore Bay water quality
- All source sectors will need significant reductions
  - Local involvement in planning and implementation is critical



# What about implementation?



# The Bay TMDL Implementation and Accountability Framework





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