



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
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<http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/>

March 31, 2014

RE: STAC Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats Workshop Report

Nicholas DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, MD 21403

Cc: Management Board; Protect and Restore Vital Habitats GIT, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup; Wetland Workgroup; Sustainable Fisheries GIT; Protect and Restore Water Quality GIT.

Dear Mr. DiPasquale,

Please see the attached STAC workshop report entitled, “Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats.” This report provides a summary of STAC’s April 16-17, 2013 workshop and includes specific recommendations identified by workshop attendees. Attendees recommended the following:

- Institute a more balanced approach to Chesapeake Bay restoration by integrating water quality, habitat, and ecosystem-based species goals;
- Expand the spatial and temporal scales used to set Bay restoration/conservation targets;
- Align differing and complex objectives for management of living resources using an adaptive management (AM) framework;
- Initiate a pilot study of landscape-scale restoration approaches;
- Encourage better dialogue and data/tool sharing among restoration partners by forming a Habitat Modeling workgroup to facilitate data synthesis, coordination, and regional model development.

We hope these recommendations are useful, and STAC looks forward to your feedback. STAC respectfully requests a written response to the above specific recommendations from the CBP Management Board Chair by Friday, May 30, 2014.

Please direct any questions you may have about this report and its recommendations to Natalie Gardner, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Coordinator, and lead workshop steering committee members, Jeff Horan of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Donna Bilkovic of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

On behalf of the entire STAC, thank you again for considering these recommended next steps, and we look forward to working with you closely on this in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Havens', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirk Havens

Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee