

**Targeted
Actions**

**Pollutants
Decrease**

**Waterways
Improve**

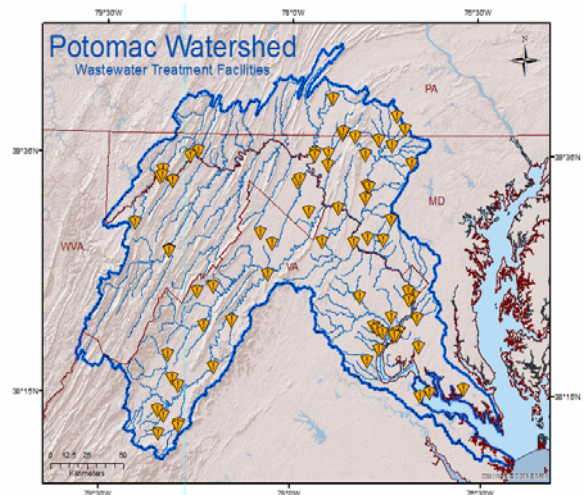
Restoring the Bay: Potomac River responding to management efforts to reduce nutrients



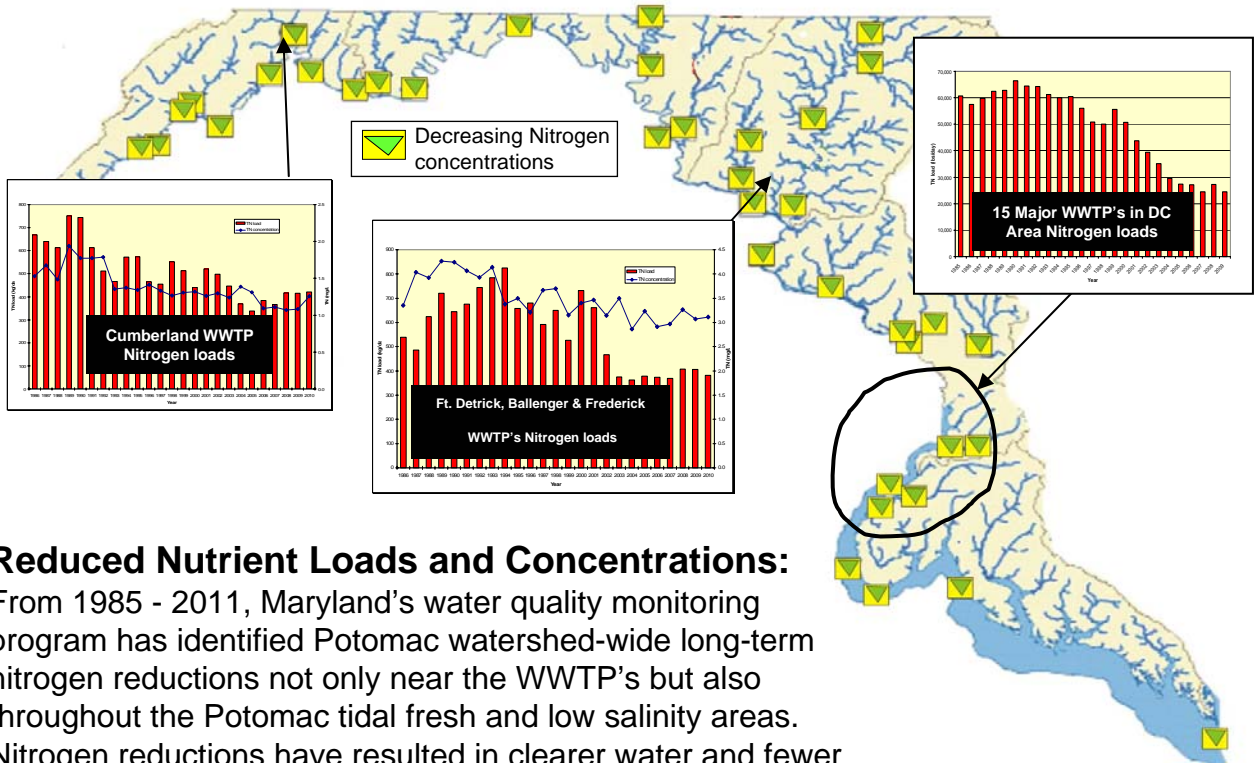
The waters of the Potomac River are important for many reasons including as a major source of drinking water, supporting a valuable fishery and providing for public recreation and enjoyment over its nearly 400 mile length. The Potomac River is the second largest contributor of freshwater flow (after the Susquehanna) to the Chesapeake Bay. Like the rest of the Bay, the Potomac is suffering from excess nutrients and sediments from runoff associated with cities, suburbs, farms and discharges from wastewater and industrial plants, and atmospheric deposition. While there is much to be done to restore the Potomac, **we are seeing improvements in the freshwater and low salinity areas of the River due to large-scale wastewater plant upgrades.**

**Targeted
Actions**

Better Wastewater Treatment = Reduced Nutrient Loads: Currently all major wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's) in Maryland's portion of the Potomac watershed have reduced nitrogen effluent levels to below 8 mg/l. By 2016, all major WWTP's will be further upgraded to reduce nitrogen effluent levels down to 4 mg/l. While extensive non-point source reduction activities in this watershed will continue, WWTP upgrades in this point source dominated area will continue to show decreasing nutrient levels and associated improvements in water quality (dissolved oxygen), habitat (underwater grasses) and living resources (fish and shellfish).



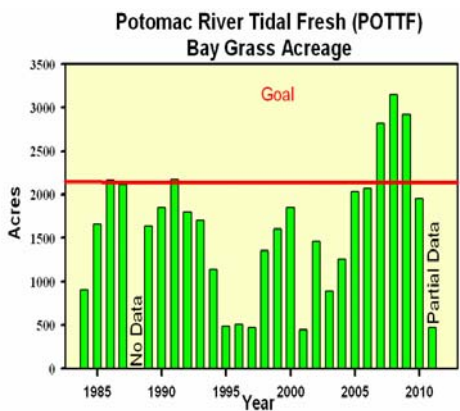
Pollutants Decrease



Reduced Nutrient Loads and Concentrations:

From 1985 - 2011, Maryland's water quality monitoring program has identified Potomac watershed-wide long-term nitrogen reductions not only near the WWTP's but also throughout the Potomac tidal fresh and low salinity areas. Nitrogen reductions have resulted in clearer water and fewer serious algal blooms.

Waterways Improve



More Bay Grasses: Improved water clarity resulting from reductions in nutrients and algae have allowed a resurgence in Bay Grasses in the tidal fresh portion of the Potomac River since 2000. They are a key indicator of Chesapeake Bay health and protect shorelines from erosion, produce oxygen, filter polluted water and provide food and shelter for many Bay creatures. Bay grasses are also a prime habitat for Maryland's renowned Largemouth Bass fishery in the Potomac River.