

**Field Collection**

Field biologists visit sites by small boat, research vessel, pier, bridge or shoreline. Measurements are taken with meters/instruments or samples are gathered for analysis.

**Data Preparation**

**Lab Samples and Field Measurements**

Laboratories analyze samples for nutrients, chlorophyll & sediment.

Hand written field sheets are entered or electronic sheets are downloaded.

Lab & field data are merged into a database

**Autonomous Instrument Data**

Continuous data from meters are downloaded (Continuous Monitoring & Water Quality Mapping).

**Data Quality Assurance**

Automated data quality assurance checks are performed. Data analysts review data and make corrections as warranted. Data are checked by a second Chesapeake Bay Program quality assurance tool. Further corrections are made if necessary.

Automated data quality assurance checks are performed and reviewed by field biologists. Data analysts review data for additional error correction/data flagging.

**Data Submission & Availability**

Data are submitted in monthly increments to the Chesapeake Bay Program Data Hub, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Exchange. Select data are posted to eyesonthebay.net.

Provisional real- and near-time data are posted to eyesonthebay.net. Final quality assured data are updated on eyesonthebay.net semi-annually and submitted to the Chesapeake bay Program. Some data are also posted on partners' sites.