



Economic Impacts of the Chesapeake Bay

Agriculture

- Every \$1 of state/federal funding invested in agricultural best management practices would generate \$1.56 in economic activity in Virginia.¹
- Investing \$804 million (2010 dollars) in farm conservation programs would create 11,751 temporary 1 year jobs in the state of Virginia alone.²
- The expanded use of water quality trading between point and nonpoint sources could reduce compliance costs associated with TMDL regulations by \$1 billion or more annually between 2000 and 2015.³

Clean Waterways Increase Property Values

- Clean water can increase the value of a single family home 4,000 feet or closer to the shoreline by up to 25 percent.⁴
- Improvements in water quality along Maryland's western shore to levels that meet state bacteria standards could raise property values by six percent.⁵
- Decreasing nitrogen pollution in waters increases home prices in the Chesapeake Bay region.⁶
- A decrease in sediment pollution in waters also increased the home prices within the Chesapeake Bay region.⁷

Clean-Water Technologies Create Jobs and Stimulate National Local Economies

Cost/Benefits:

1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s annual costs for clean air and water regulations from October 1, 1999, to September 30, 2009, ranged from \$26 to \$29 billion, while benefits ranged from \$82 to \$533 billion.⁸
2. The U.S. environmental industry is worth \$312 billion yearly.⁹
3. The federal Clean Water Act alone spurs construction projects that are worth at least \$11 billion per year to the national economy.¹⁰
4. A \$1 investment in water and sewer infrastructure increases private output (Gross Domestic Product) in the long term by \$6.35.¹¹
5. The number of environmental industry jobs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia has surged by 43 percent over the last two decades.¹²
6. Every \$1 billion invested in water and wastewater projects creates approximately, 20,000 construction jobs.¹³
7. Adding one job in the water and sewer sector creates 3.68 jobs to support the initial job created.¹⁴



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Tourism and Nature-Based Recreation Industries

1. Americans take more than 900 million trips to coastal areas annually and spend approximately \$44 billion during these trips.¹⁵
2. In 1996, benefits of water-quality improvements to annual recreational boating, fishing, and swimming ranged from \$357.9 million to \$1.8 billion.¹⁶
3. Roughly eight million wildlife watchers spent \$636 million, \$960 million, and \$1.4 billion in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, respectively, on trip-related expenses and equipment in 2006.¹⁷
4. Roughly \$2.03 billion and 32,025 jobs are generated each year in Maryland due to its recreational boating industry.¹⁸
5. Pennsylvanians spend \$1.7 billion on boating annually (PFBC)¹⁹

The Bay's Fisheries and Seafood Industry

- The commercial seafood industry in Maryland and Virginia contributed \$3.39 billion in sales, \$890 million in income, and almost 34,000 jobs to the local economy.²⁰

Oysters

- In 2010 the harvest of over one million pounds of oysters from the Chesapeake was valued at \$9.4 million.²¹

Blue Crabs

- The average commercial harvest in Maryland and Virginia between 2000 and 2009 was more than 55 million pounds each year.²²
- In 2009, the dockside value of the blue crab harvest Bay-wide was approximately \$78 million. Further, the decline of crabs in the Bay between 1998 and 2006 has meant a cumulative loss of about \$640 million to Maryland and Virginia (Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences).²³

Striped Bass (a.k.a. Rockfish)

- Striped bass are the most popular commercial and recreational finfish in the Bay, generating roughly \$500 million in economic activity related to fishing expenditures, travel, lodging each year.²⁴
- Improving dissolved oxygen levels increases catch levels.²⁵



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