



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Chesapeake Bay Information:

The Bay:

- is the largest estuary in the United States and the third largest in the world;
- is fed by 50 major tributaries (or streams and rivers) every day—the largest of these are the Susquehanna, Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James;
- produces more than 500 millions pounds of seafood harvest each year.
- supports 348 species of finfish and 173 species of shellfish;
- supports more than 3,600 species of plant and animal life, including 2,700 types of plants and more than 16 species of underwater grasses;
- has an average depth of 21 feet (the deepest part of the Bay, a.k.a. "The Hole," is 174 feet deep and located off of Bloody Point, southeast of Annapolis, Maryland)
- ranges from 3.4 to 35 miles wide;
- holds more than 15 trillion gallons of water.

The Bay watershed:

- supports more than 17 million people who live, work, and play within the watershed (10 million of these live along or near the Bay's shores);
- helps filter and protect the drinking water of 75 percent of Bay watershed residents through its forests and trees;
- contains more than 100,000 rivers and streams;
- comprises 64,000 square miles;
- includes parts of six states (Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York) and Washington, D.C.;
- has 11,684 miles of shoreline, including tidal wetlands and islands (that's more shoreline than the entire West Coast of the United States);
- has a 14:1 land-to-water ratio;
- has approximately 150,000 new people moving into the watershed each year.