SAVE THE DATE!

STAC Workshop: *Understanding the "Lag Times" Affecting the Improvement of Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay*

May 19-20, 2004

Sheraton Barcelo, Annapolis, MD

Need for Workshop

Dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Chesapeake Bay have been degraded by an overabundance of nutrients and sediment. The Bay was listed as an "impaired water body" in 1999 under regulatory status related to the Clean Water Act. Improvements in water quality conditions must be met by 2010 or a Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) for the Bay will have to be developed and enforced. The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) has finalized the water quality criteria and the subsequent nutrient and sediment "allocations" (amount of reduction) that are needed to meet these criteria. The jurisdictions in the Bay watershed are revising the tributary strategies to achieve the nutrient and sediment allocations. There may be some refinement to the allocations and tributary strategies in 2007 as the jurisdictions adopt formal water quality standards over the next two years.

There is a large degree of uncertainty about the "lag time" between planning the nutrient and sediment strategies and detecting an actual improvement of water quality and SAV in the Bay. Better quantifying the factors influencing the "lag time" between the planning of management practices and improvement in the Bay's water quality and SAV is critical to allow resource managers implement the nutrient and sediment reduction strategies and improve monitoring and modeling of these processes.

Objective of Workshop

- To provide the CBP with a better understanding of the factors affecting the "lag time" associated with improving water quality and SAV in the Bay.
- To provide recommendations for improved monitoring and modeling of these factors and implementation of management practices.

Topics to be addressed

The workshop has sessions for each of the major "lag time" components:

1. The time between planning and implementation of a management practice;
2. The influence of watershed properties on movement of nutrients and sediment to the Bay; and
3. The time between a load reduction to the Bay and the actual improvement in water quality and SAV.

Additionally, the influence of climate variability (both short and long term cycles) affects the nutrient and sediment load delivery to the Bay and will have a large influence on water quality and SAV changes over time.

If you are interested in participating in this important workshop, please contact Jennifer Bistrack at bistrackj@si.edu or (410) 798-1283.