Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative:

Technical Assistance is on the Way!

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

A partnership that aims to provide **technical, logistical, and outreach support** for the integration of volunteer-based and nontraditional water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership.

Cooperative Agreement

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

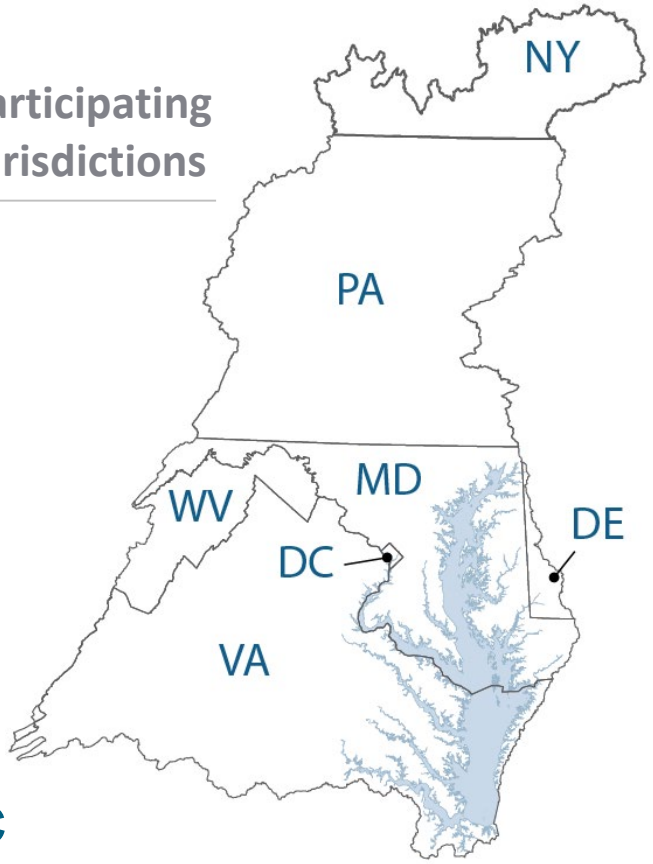
CMC development team partners & service providers

The Izaak Walton League of America — Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring — ALLARM — est. 1986

University of Maryland
Center for Environmental Science

Participating Jurisdictions



CMC

Meet the CMC Team

Liz Chudoba (ACB)
Project Manager

Emily Bialowas (IWLA)
Project Coordinator

Danielle Donkersloot
(IWLA)

Julie Vastine
(ALLARM)

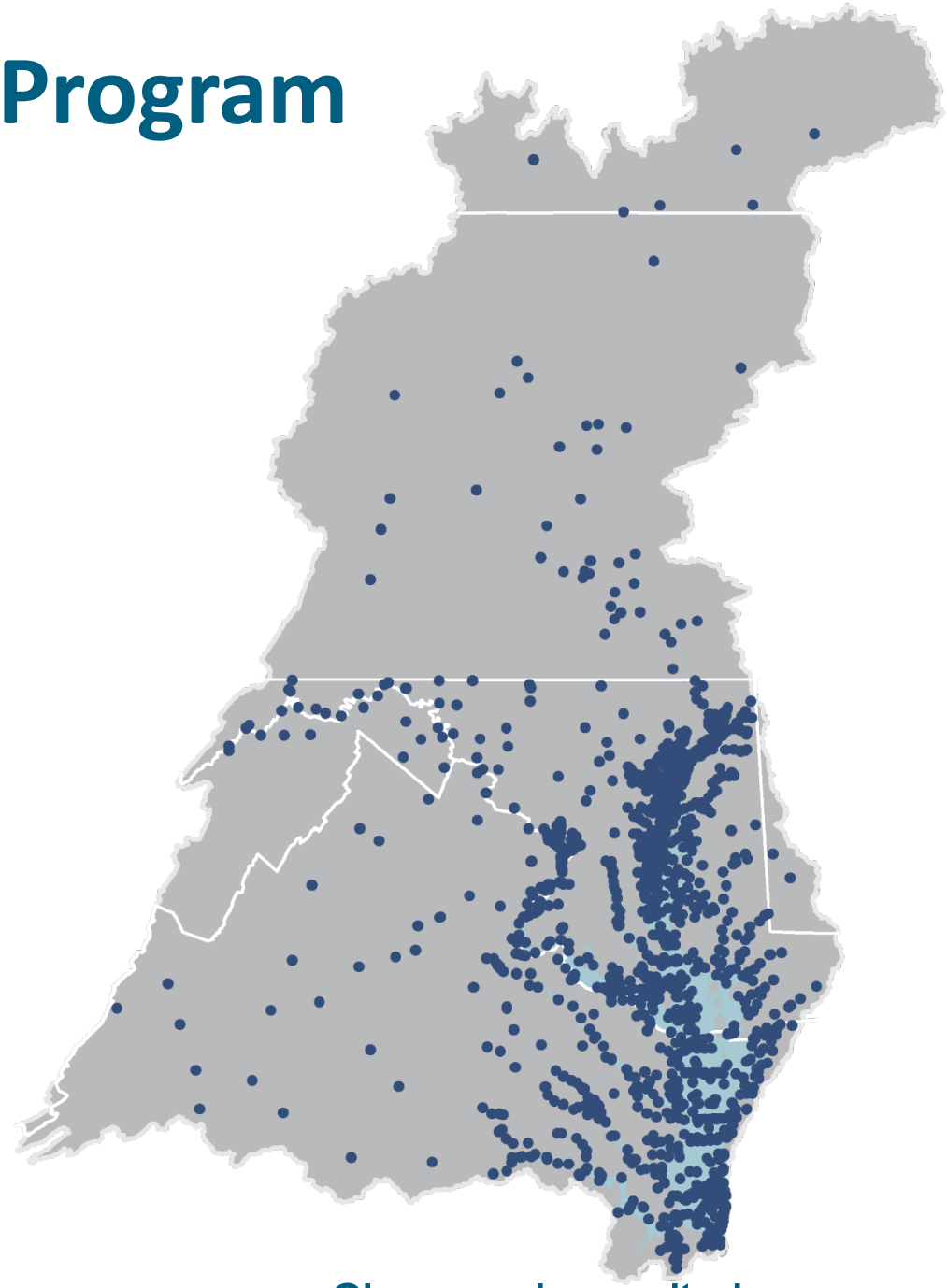
Helen Schlimm
(ALLARM)

Caroline Donovan
(UMCES)

Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Sites

Coverage Includes

- Tidal water quality
- Benthic
- Non-tidal network

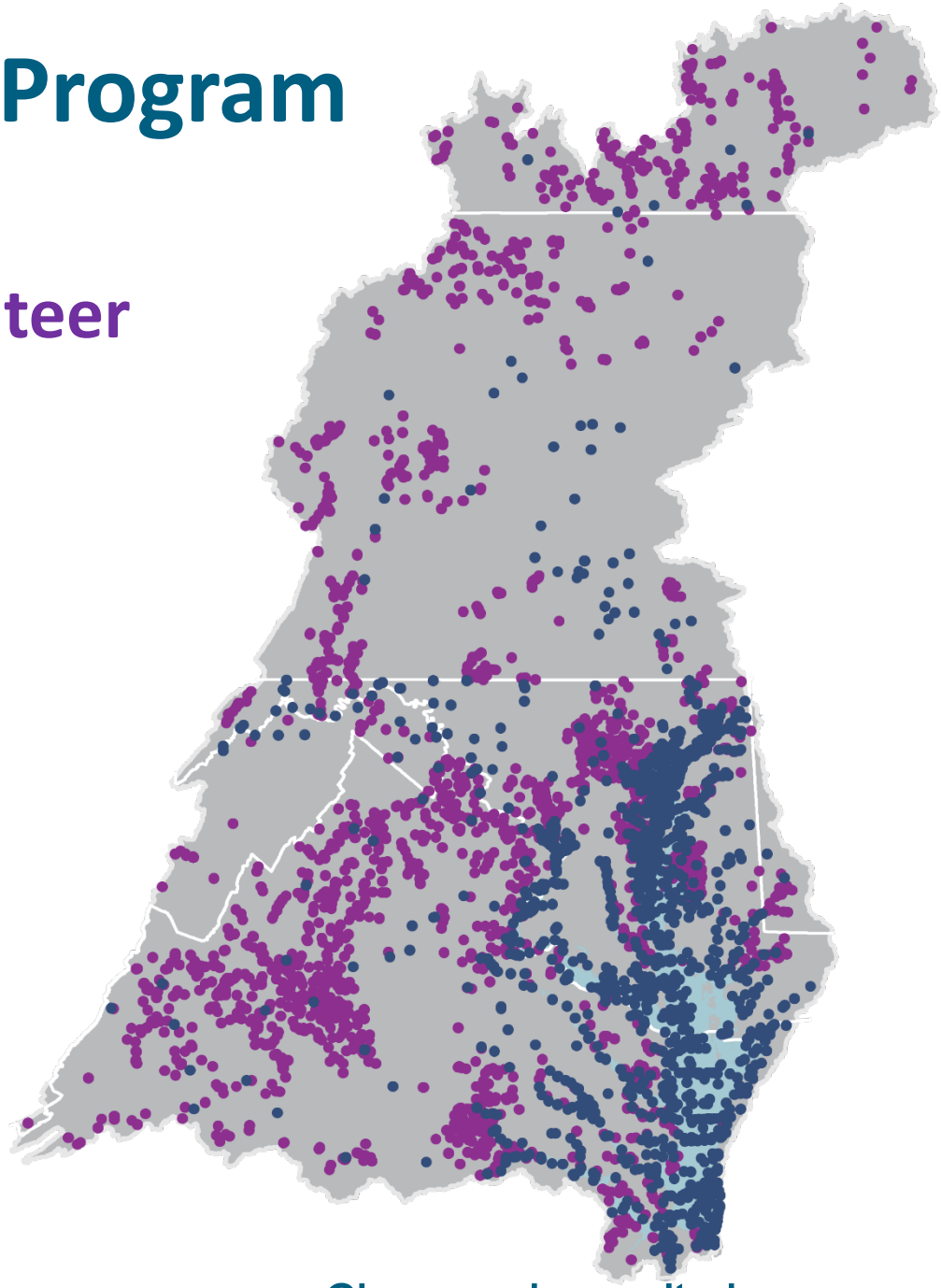


CMC

Chesapeakemonitoringcoop.or

Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Sites

Chesapeake Bay Volunteer and Nontraditional Monitoring Sites



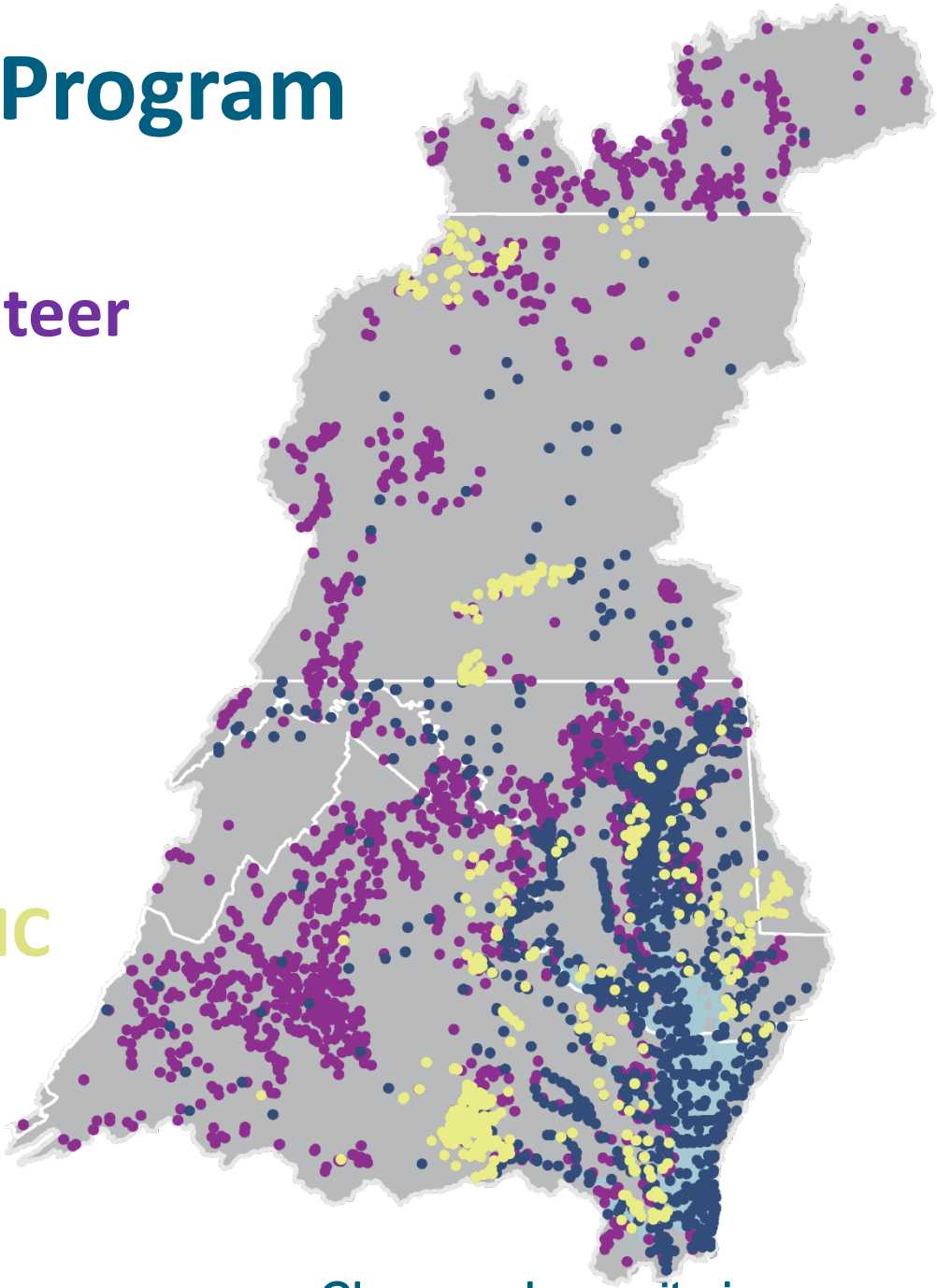
CMC

Chesapeakemonitoringcoop.or

Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Sites

Chesapeake Bay Volunteer and Nontraditional Monitoring Sites

Chesapeake Bay Volunteer and Nontraditional Monitoring Sites Integrated into the CMC



CMC

Chesapeakemonitoringcoop.or

Needs of the Chesapeake monitoring community

Photos courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Quality Assurance

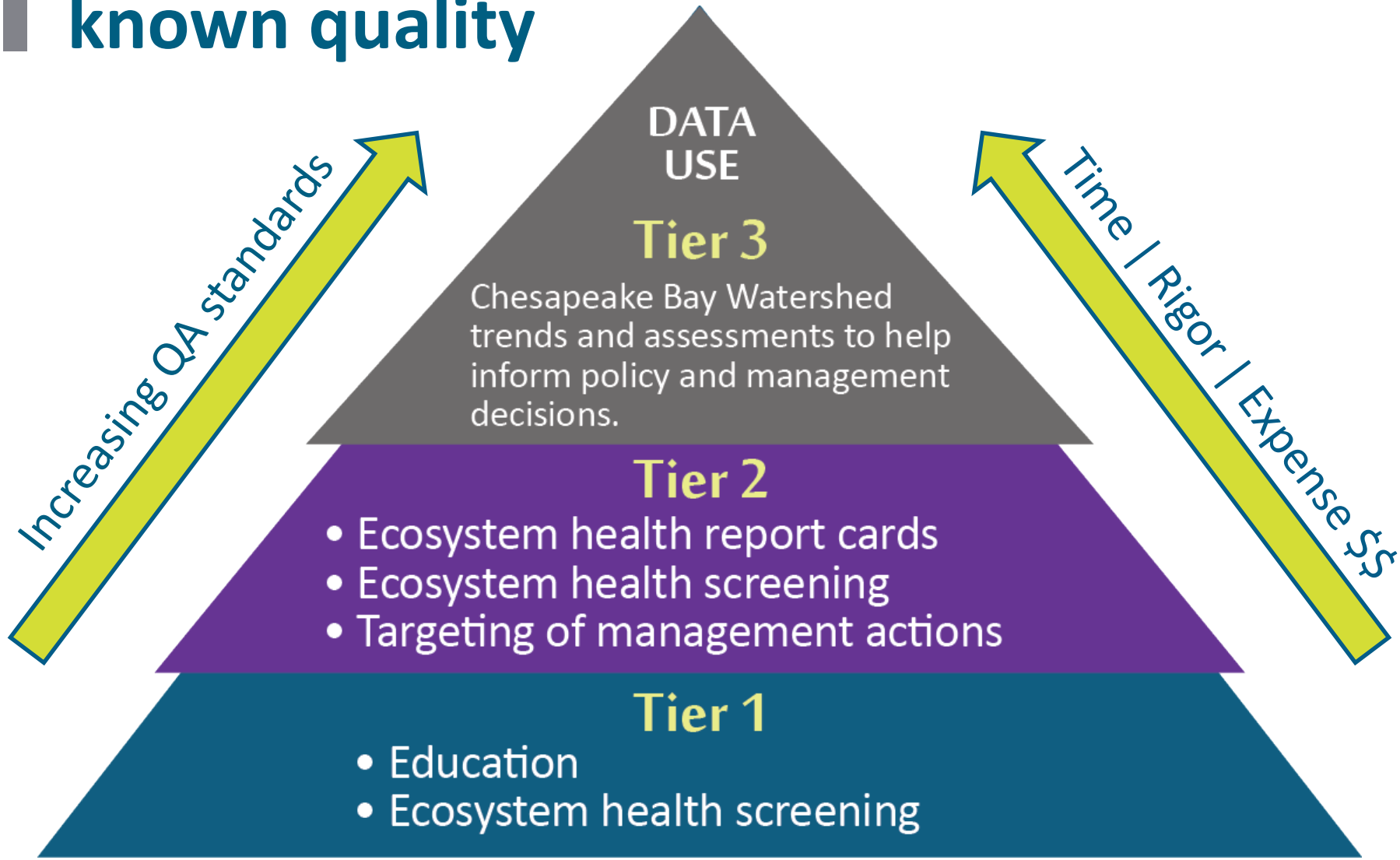
Comparability

Technical Support

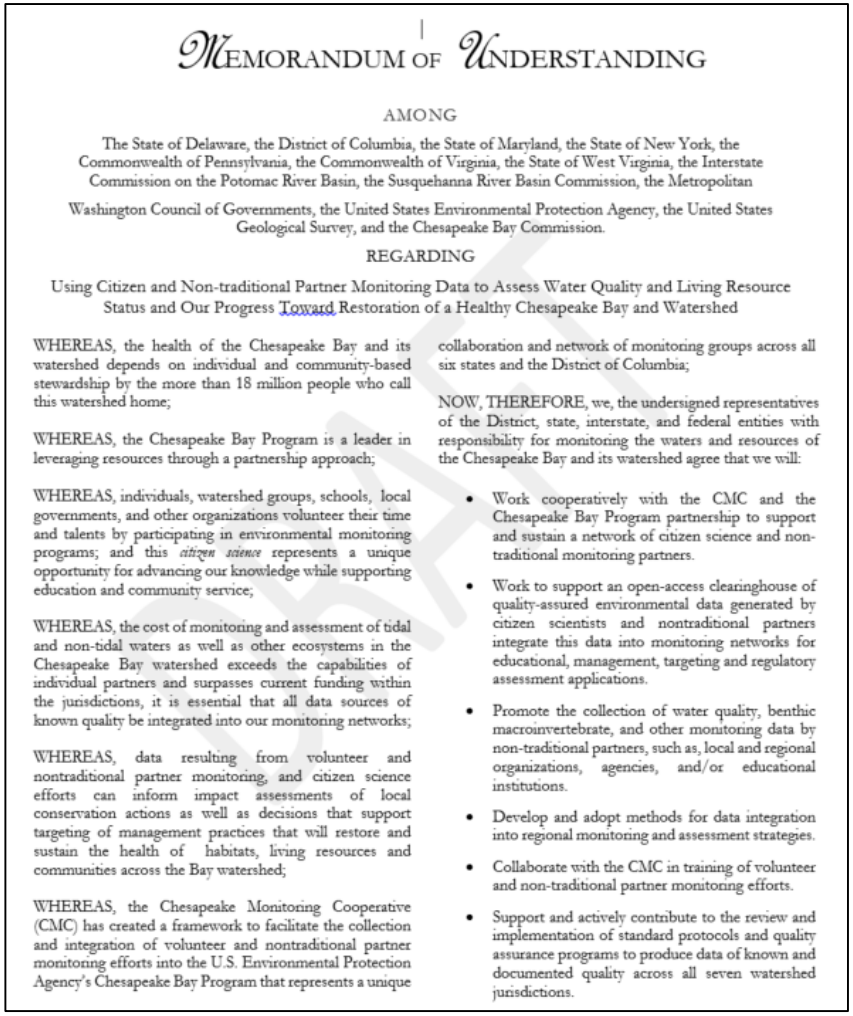
Share Data

Collaboration

Quality Assurance: to classify data of known quality



Memorandum of Understanding



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

The State of Delaware, the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of West Virginia, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

REGARDING

Using Citizen and Non-traditional Partner Monitoring Data to Assess Water Quality and Living Resource Status and Our Progress Toward Restoration of a Healthy Chesapeake Bay and Watershed

WHEREAS, the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed depends on individual and community-based stewardship by the more than 18 million people who call this watershed home;

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program is a leader in leveraging resources through a partnership approach;

WHEREAS, individuals, watershed groups, schools, local governments, and other organizations volunteer their time and talents by participating in environmental monitoring programs; and this *citizen science* represents a unique opportunity for advancing our knowledge while supporting education and community service;

WHEREAS, the cost of monitoring and assessment of tidal and non-tidal waters as well as other ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay watershed exceeds the capabilities of individual partners and surpasses current funding within the jurisdictions, it is essential that all data sources of known quality be integrated into our monitoring networks;

WHEREAS, data resulting from volunteer and nontraditional partner monitoring, and citizen science efforts can inform impact assessments of local conservation actions as well as decisions that support targeting of management practices that will restore and sustain the health of habitats, living resources and communities across the Bay watershed;

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) has created a framework to facilitate the collection and integration of volunteer and nontraditional partner monitoring efforts into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program that represents a unique collaboration and network of monitoring groups across all six states and the District of Columbia;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned representatives of the District, state, interstate, and federal entities with responsibility for monitoring the waters and resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed agree that we will:

- Work cooperatively with the CMC and the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to support and sustain a network of citizen science and non-traditional monitoring partners.
- Work to support an open-access clearinghouse of quality-assured environmental data generated by citizen scientists and nontraditional partners integrate this data into monitoring networks for educational, management, targeting and regulatory assessment applications.
- Promote the collection of water quality, benthic macroinvertebrate, and other monitoring data by non-traditional partners, such as, local and regional organizations, agencies, and/or educational institutions.
- Develop and adopt methods for data integration into regional monitoring and assessment strategies.
- Collaborate with the CMC in training of volunteer and non-traditional partner monitoring efforts.
- Support and actively contribute to the review and implementation of standard protocols and quality assurance programs to produce data of known and documented quality across all seven watershed jurisdictions.

Purpose is to forge a deeper understanding of and commitment to the use of citizen-based and other non-tradition partners' monitoring data in individual partners and shared partnership decision making.

CMC

Chesapeakemonitoringcoop.or

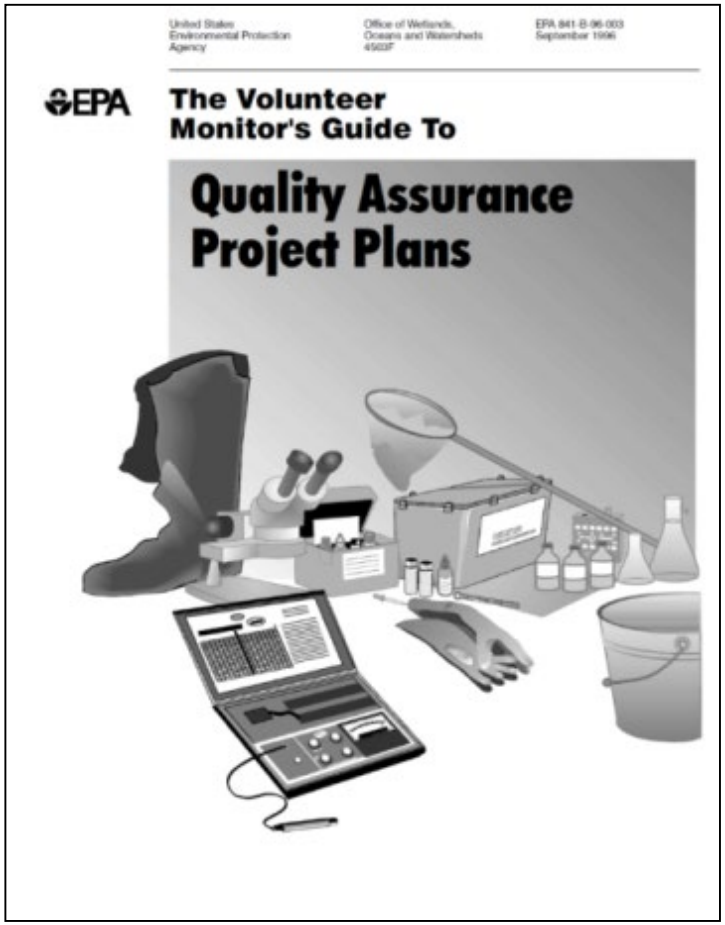
Technical Support Resources

- Quality Assurance Project Plans – Tier 1 & 2
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – Tier 1 & 2
- User-friendly Methods Manuals
- Indicator Fact Sheets
- Prioritization Report: How volunteer and nontraditional monitoring can help fill data gaps in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Let's take a quick look!

Photos courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Quality Assurance Project Plans



Water Quality Monitoring:
Tidal streams (Tier 1 & 2)
Nontidal streams (Tier 1 & 2)

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring:
Nontidal wadable streams (Tier 1 & 2)

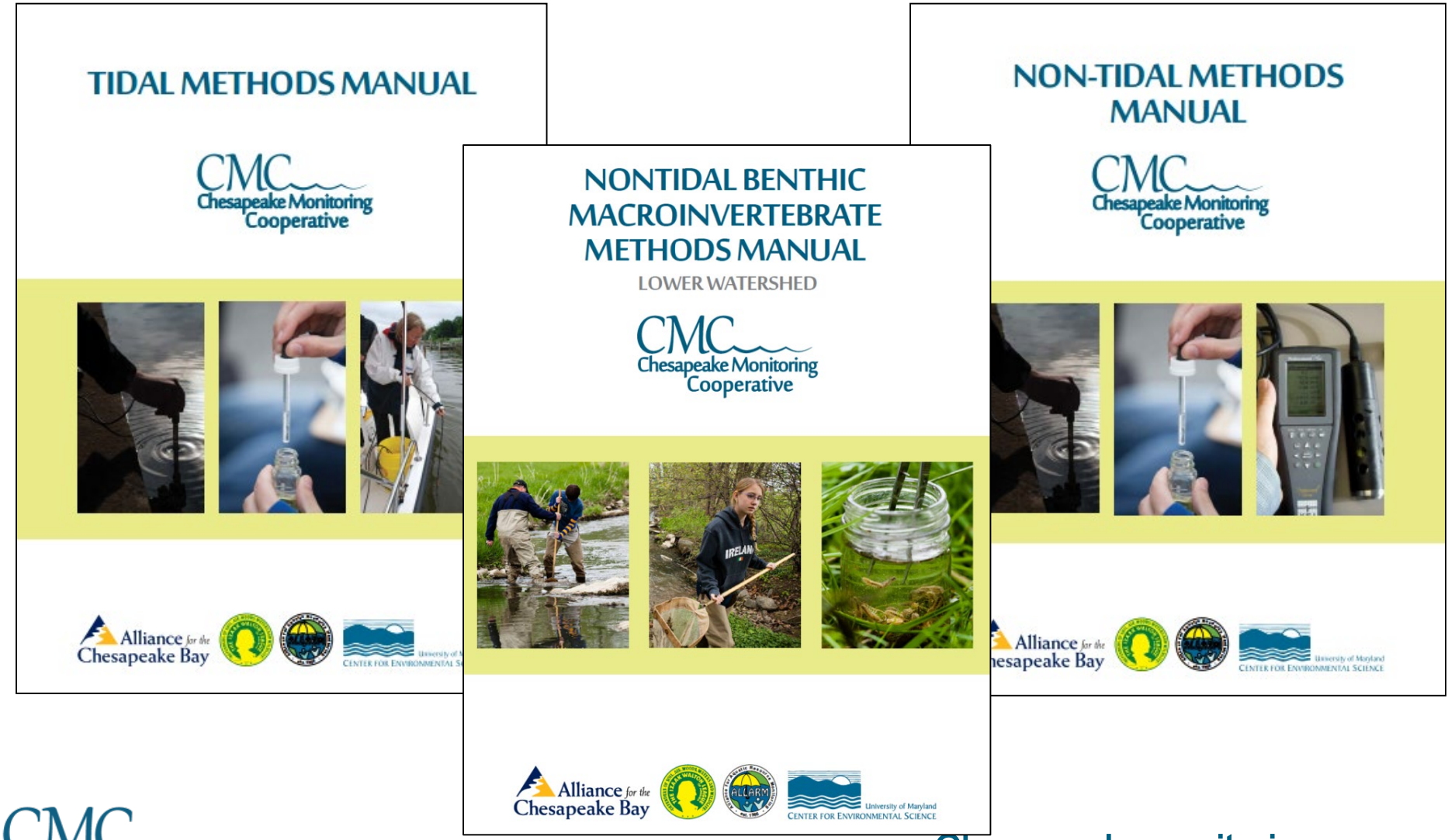
Approved by EPA

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

CMC

Chesapeakemonitoringcoop.or

User-friendly Method Manuals



User-friendly Method Manuals

How the manual is organized

NOTE

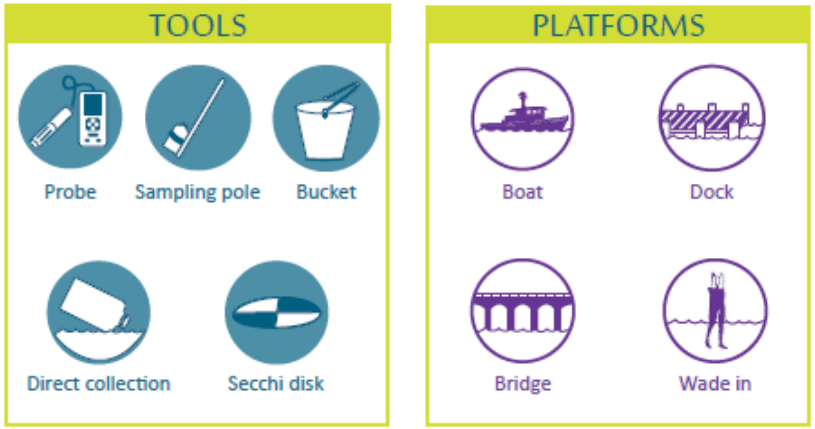
There are notes highlighted in yellow (like this one) to remind you of important things such as safety, replicates, and best practices. Be sure to read these and take note of their contents.

Each method will have a few options for how to approach sampling. You will need to work with your monitoring coordinator to define which one works for your monitoring plan.

In order to help you pin point what piece of a method you will be using, there are visual buttons to help you quickly find what you need.

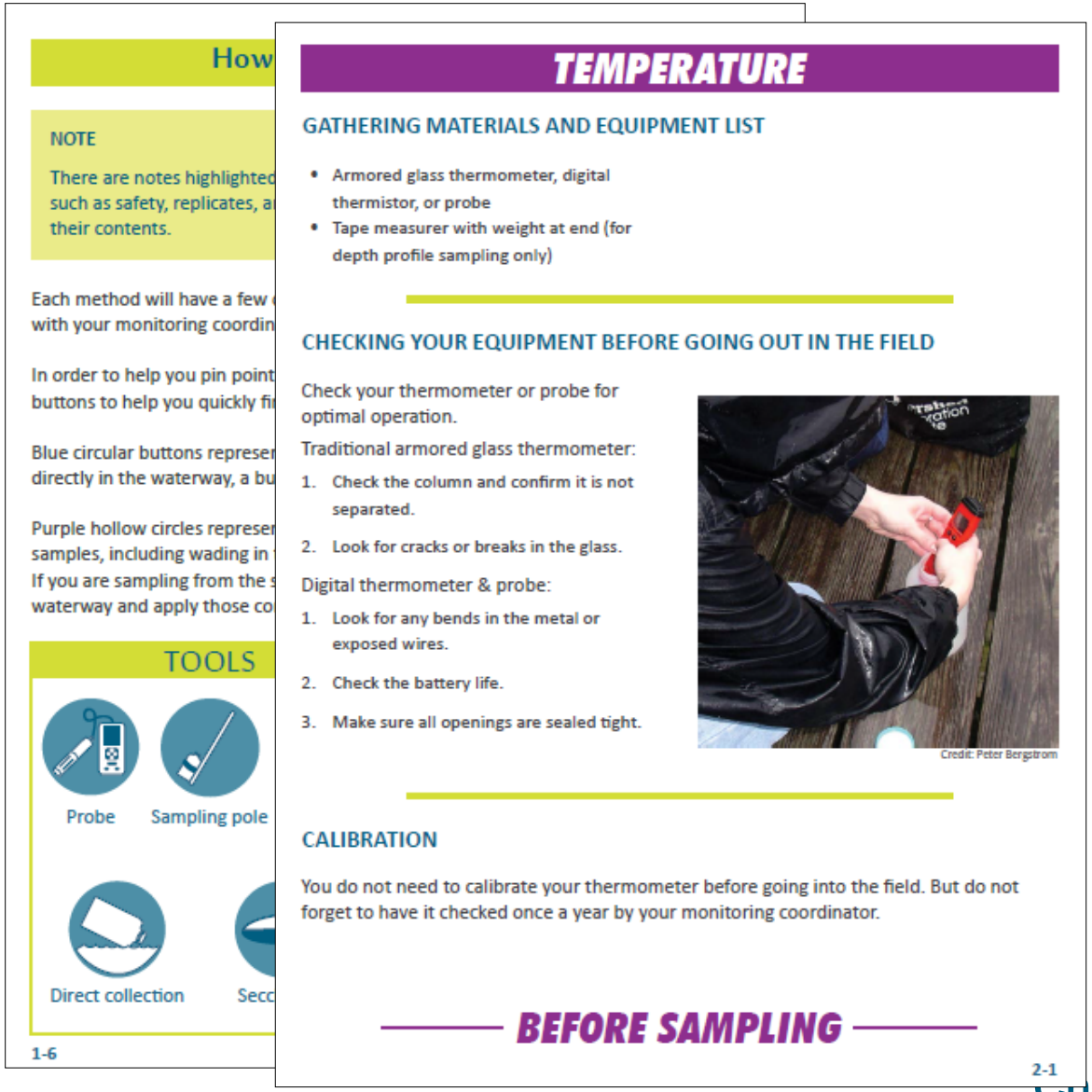
Blue circular buttons represent the tool that you will use to collect your sample, including directly in the waterway, a bucket, a probe, or with a sampling pole.

Purple hollow circles represent the platforms from which you will be collecting your samples, including wading in the waterway, from a boat, from a bridge, and from a dock. If you are sampling from the shore, try to take note of the method for wading into the waterway and apply those concepts to your sampling.



1-6

User-friendly Method Manuals



How

NOTE

There are notes highlighted
such as safety, replicates, a
their contents.

Each method will have a few
with your monitoring coordin

In order to help you pin point
buttons to help you quickly fi

Blue circular buttons represe
directly in the waterway, a bu

Purple hollow circles represe
samples, including wading in
If you are sampling from the
waterway and apply those co

TOOLS

Probe

Sampling pole

Direct collection

Secc

1-6

TEMPERATURE

GATHERING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT LIST

- Armored glass thermometer, digital thermistor, or probe
- Tape measurer with weight at end (for depth profile sampling only)

CHECKING YOUR EQUIPMENT BEFORE GOING OUT IN THE FIELD

Check your thermometer or probe for optimal operation.

Traditional armored glass thermometer:

1. Check the column and confirm it is not separated.
2. Look for cracks or breaks in the glass.

Digital thermometer & probe:

1. Look for any bends in the metal or exposed wires.
2. Check the battery life.
3. Make sure all openings are sealed tight.

Credit: Peter Bergstrom

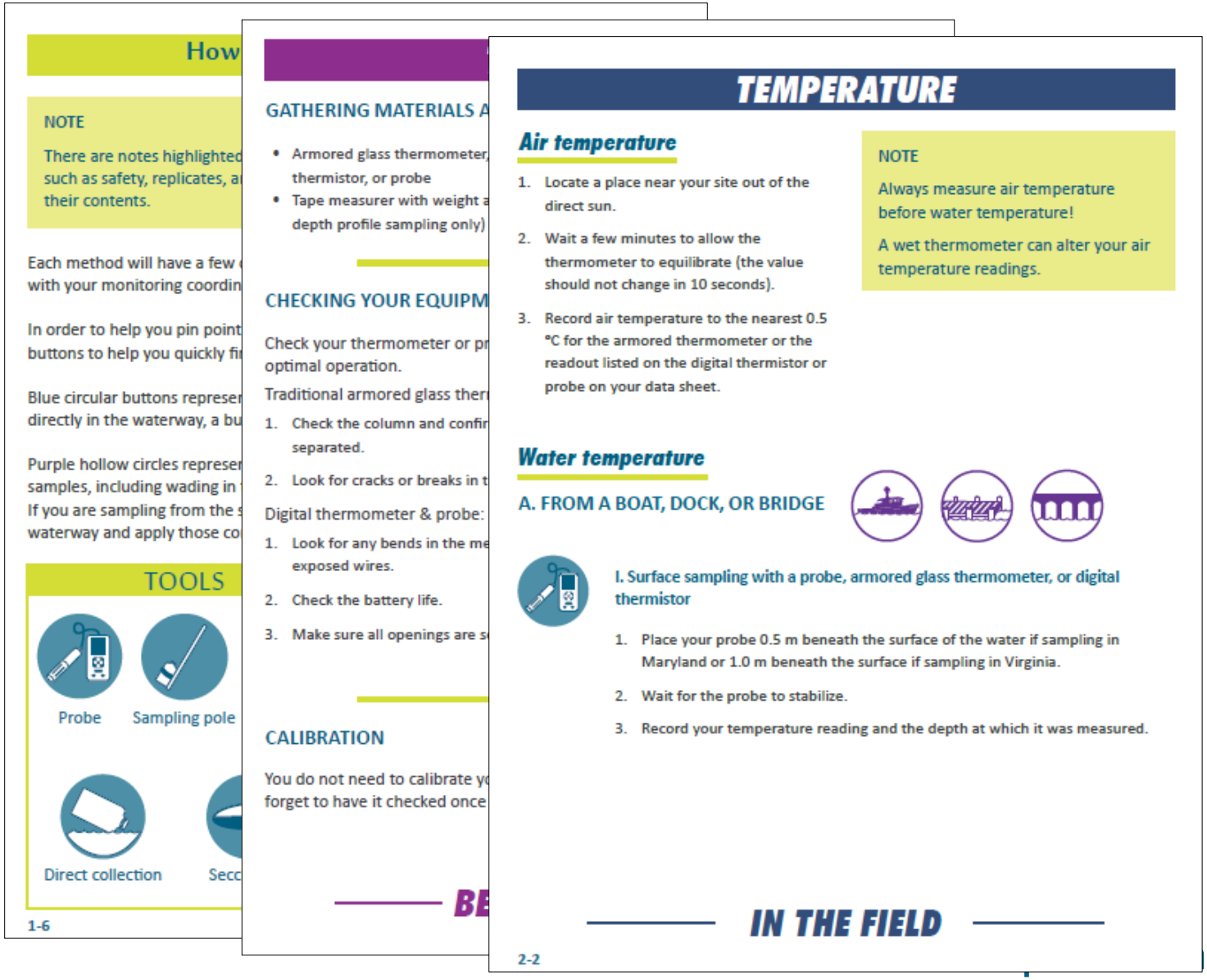
CALIBRATION

You do not need to calibrate your thermometer before going into the field. But do not forget to have it checked once a year by your monitoring coordinator.

BEFORE SAMPLING

2-1

User-friendly Method Manuals



How

NOTE

There are notes highlighted
such as safety, replicates, a
their contents.

Each method will have a few
with your monitoring coordin

In order to help you pin point
buttons to help you quickly fi

Blue circular buttons represe
directly in the waterway, a bu

Purple hollow circles represe
samples, including wading in
If you are sampling from the
waterway and apply those co

TOOLS

Probe

Sampling pole

Direct collection

Secc

1-6

GATHERING MATERIALS A

- Armored glass thermometer,
thermistor, or probe
- Tape measurer with weight a
depth profile sampling only)

CHECKING YOUR EQUIPM

Check your thermometer or pr
optimal operation.

Traditional armored glass ther

1. Check the column and confir
separated.
2. Look for cracks or breaks in t

Digital thermometer & probe:

1. Look for any bends in the me
exposed wires.
2. Check the battery life.
3. Make sure all openings are s

CALIBRATION

You do not need to calibrate y
forget to have it checked once

BE

TEMPERATURE

Air temperature

1. Locate a place near your site out of the direct sun.
2. Wait a few minutes to allow the thermometer to equilibrate (the value should not change in 10 seconds).
3. Record air temperature to the nearest 0.5 °C for the armored thermometer or the readout listed on the digital thermistor or probe on your data sheet.

NOTE

Always measure air temperature before water temperature!

A wet thermometer can alter your air temperature readings.

Water temperature

A. FROM A BOAT, DOCK, OR BRIDGE

I. Surface sampling with a probe, armored glass thermometer, or digital thermistor

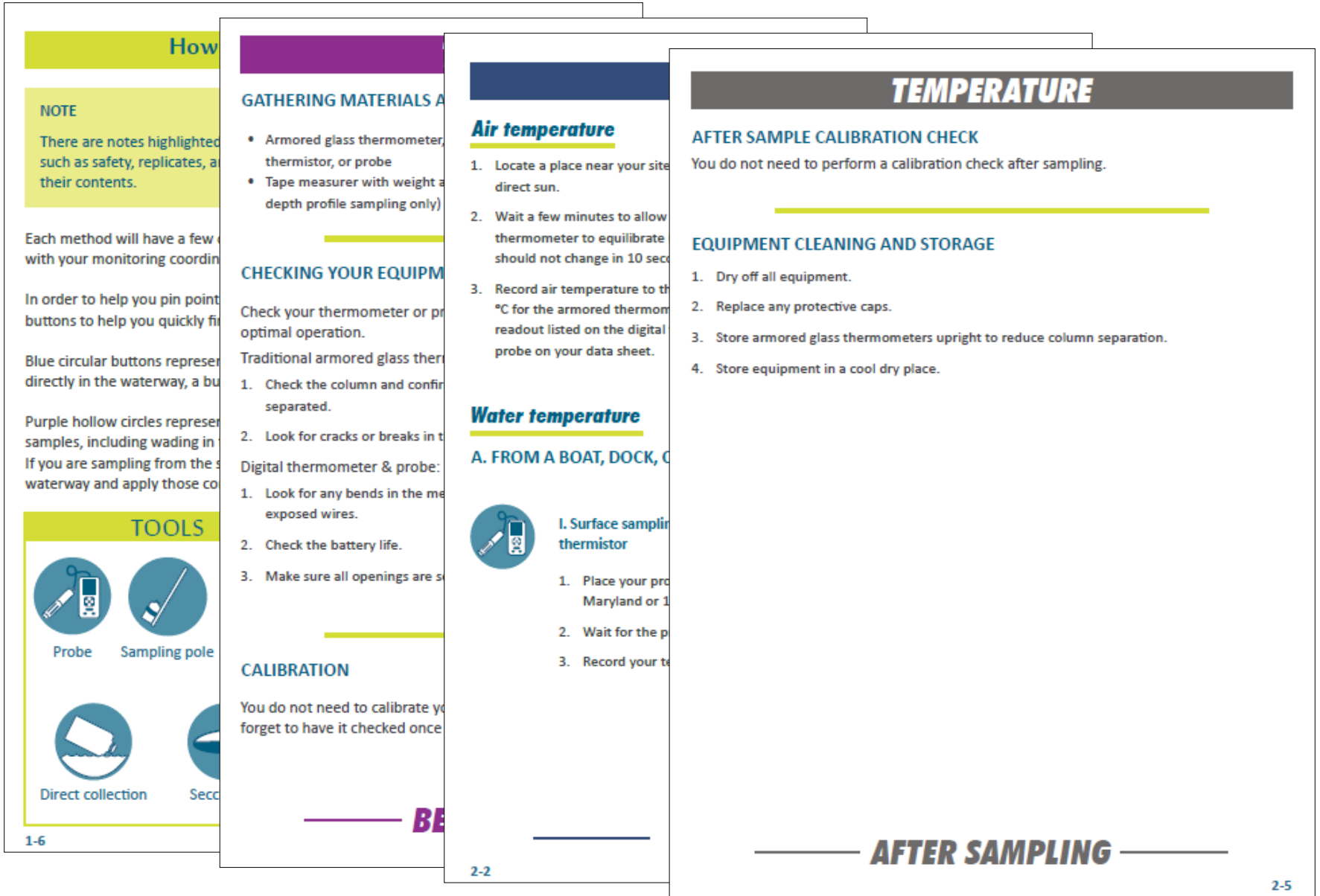
1. Place your probe 0.5 m beneath the surface of the water if sampling in Maryland or 1.0 m beneath the surface if sampling in Virginia.
2. Wait for the probe to stabilize.
3. Record your temperature reading and the depth at which it was measured.

IN THE FIELD

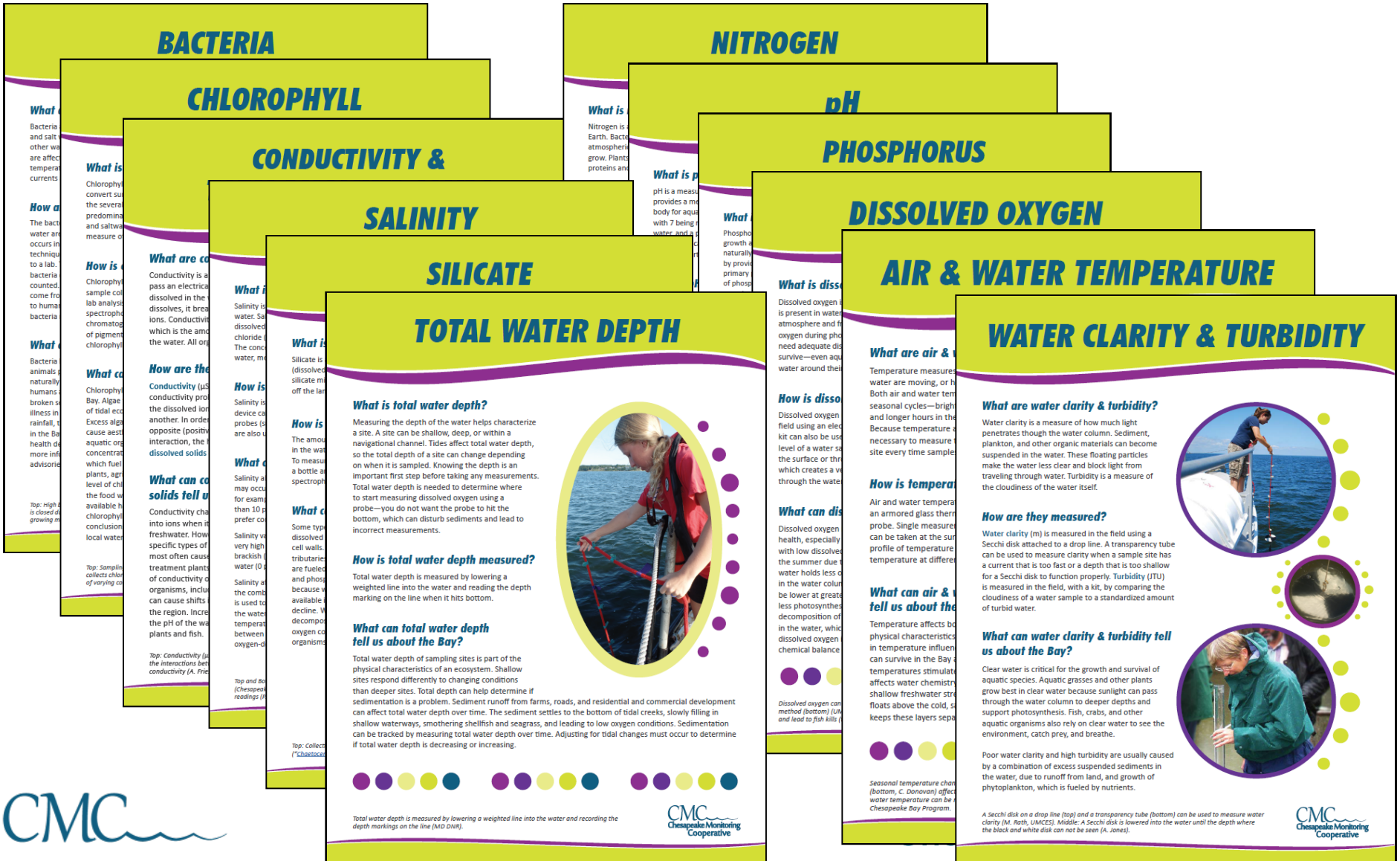
2-2

itoringcoop.or

User-friendly Method Manuals

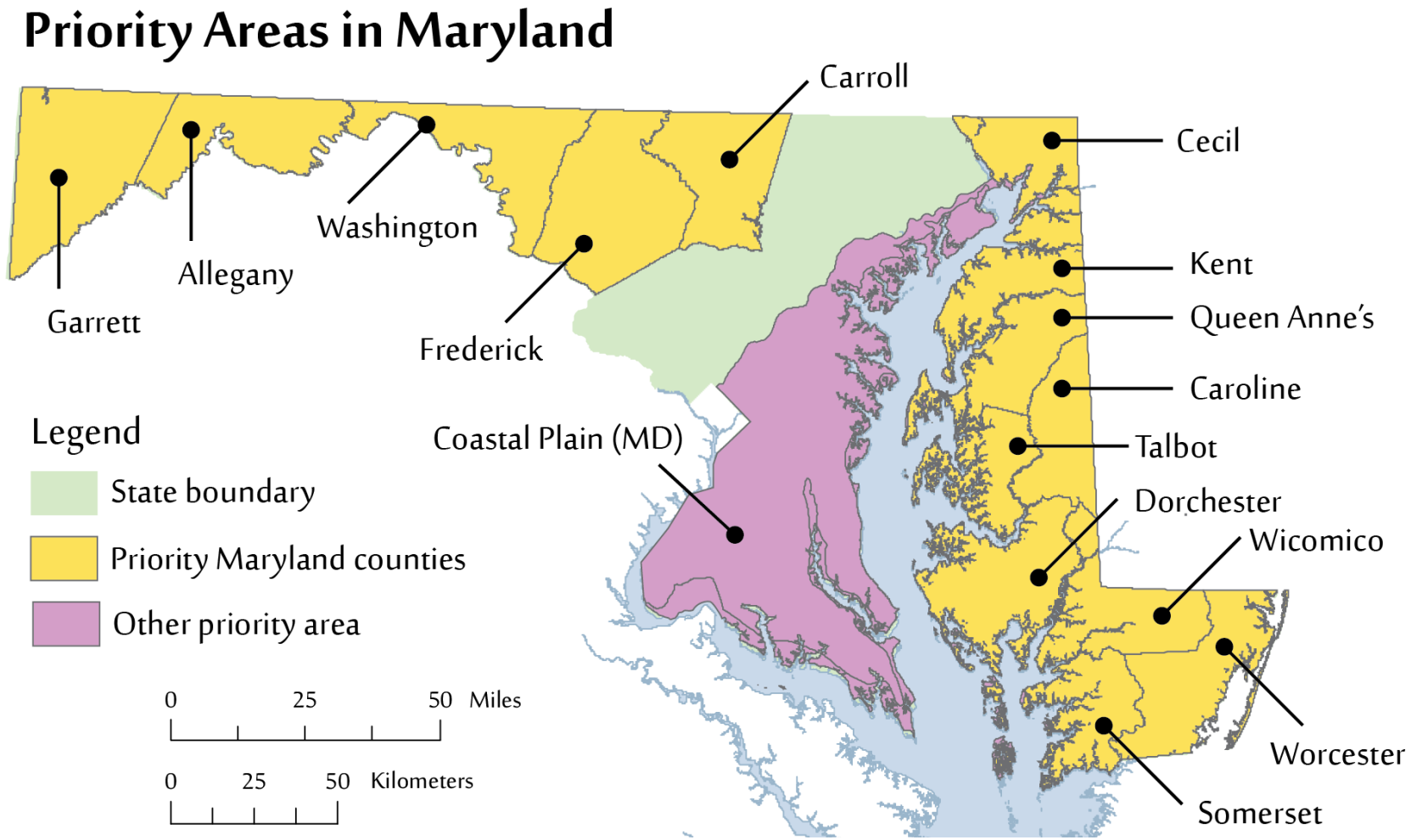


Indicator Fact Sheets



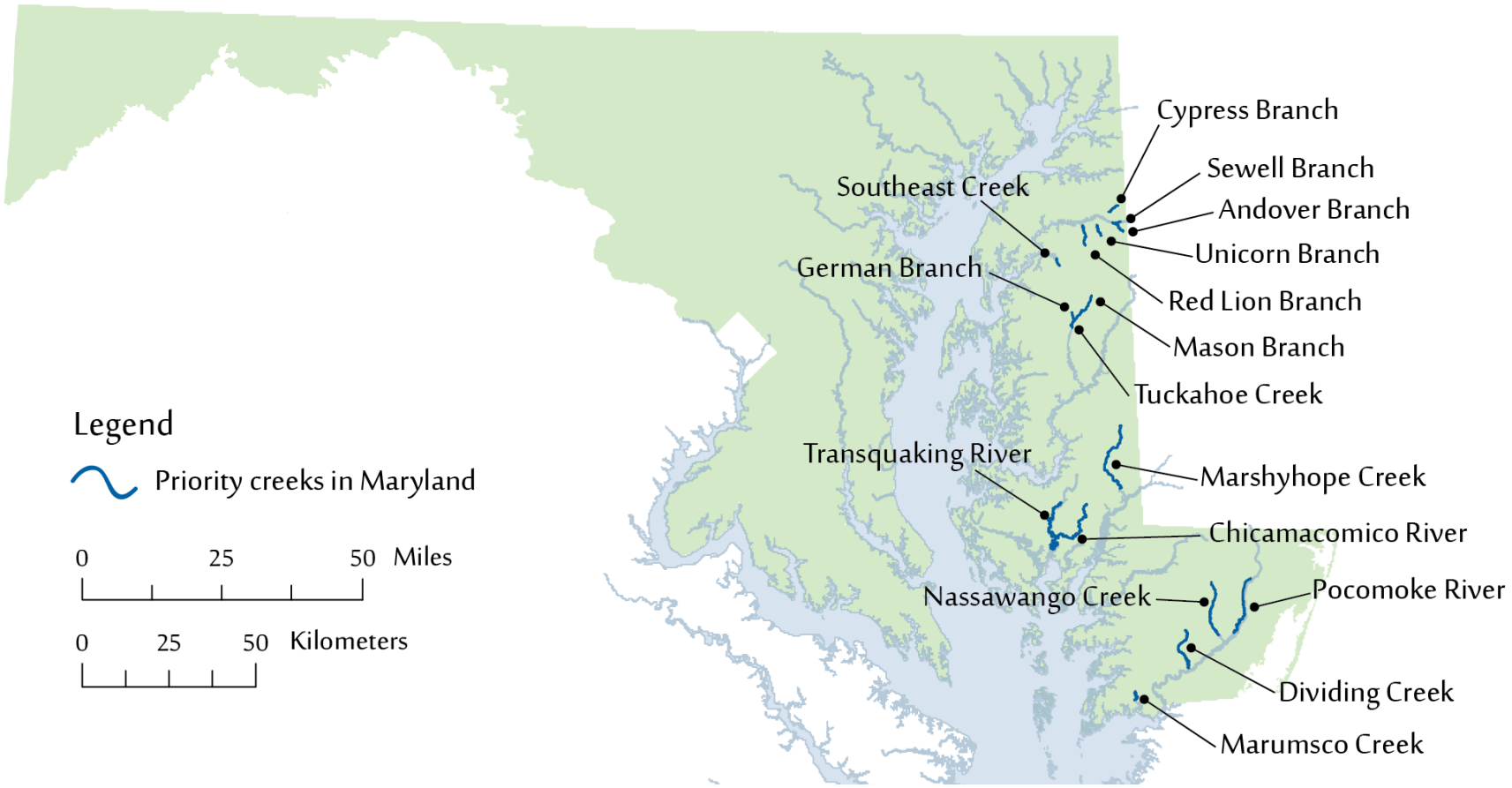
CMC

Prioritization Report



Prioritization Report

Priority Creeks in Maryland Identified by MDE

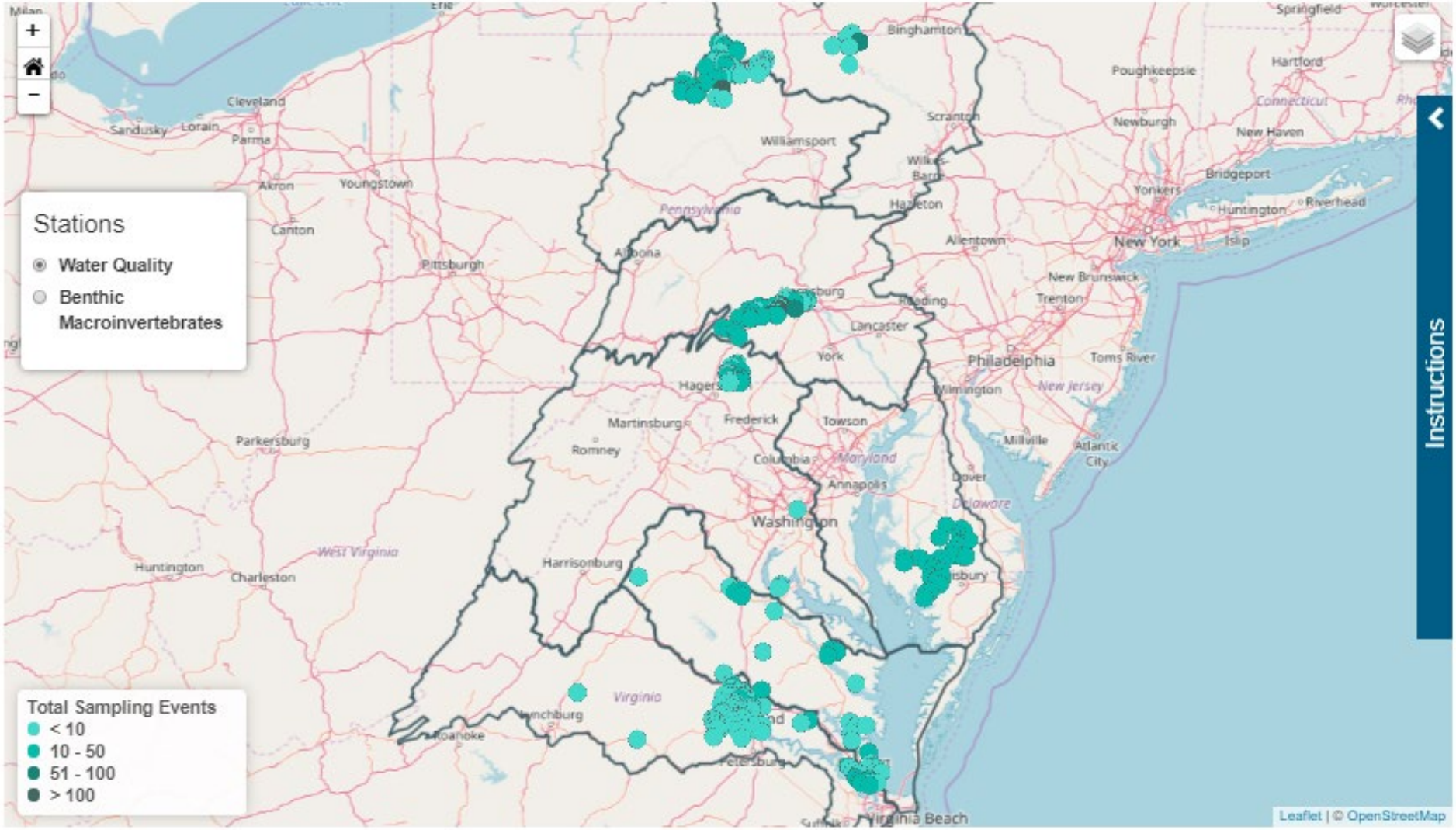


Technical Support Services

- Study Design Workshops
- Water Quality and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Trainings, Certifications, and Re-certs
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Order Level Identification
- Equipment and Equipment Suggestions
- QA trouble shooting
- Data Interpretation and Report Card Workshops
- Data Verification & Quality Control
- Support for Data Cleaning and Data Uploads

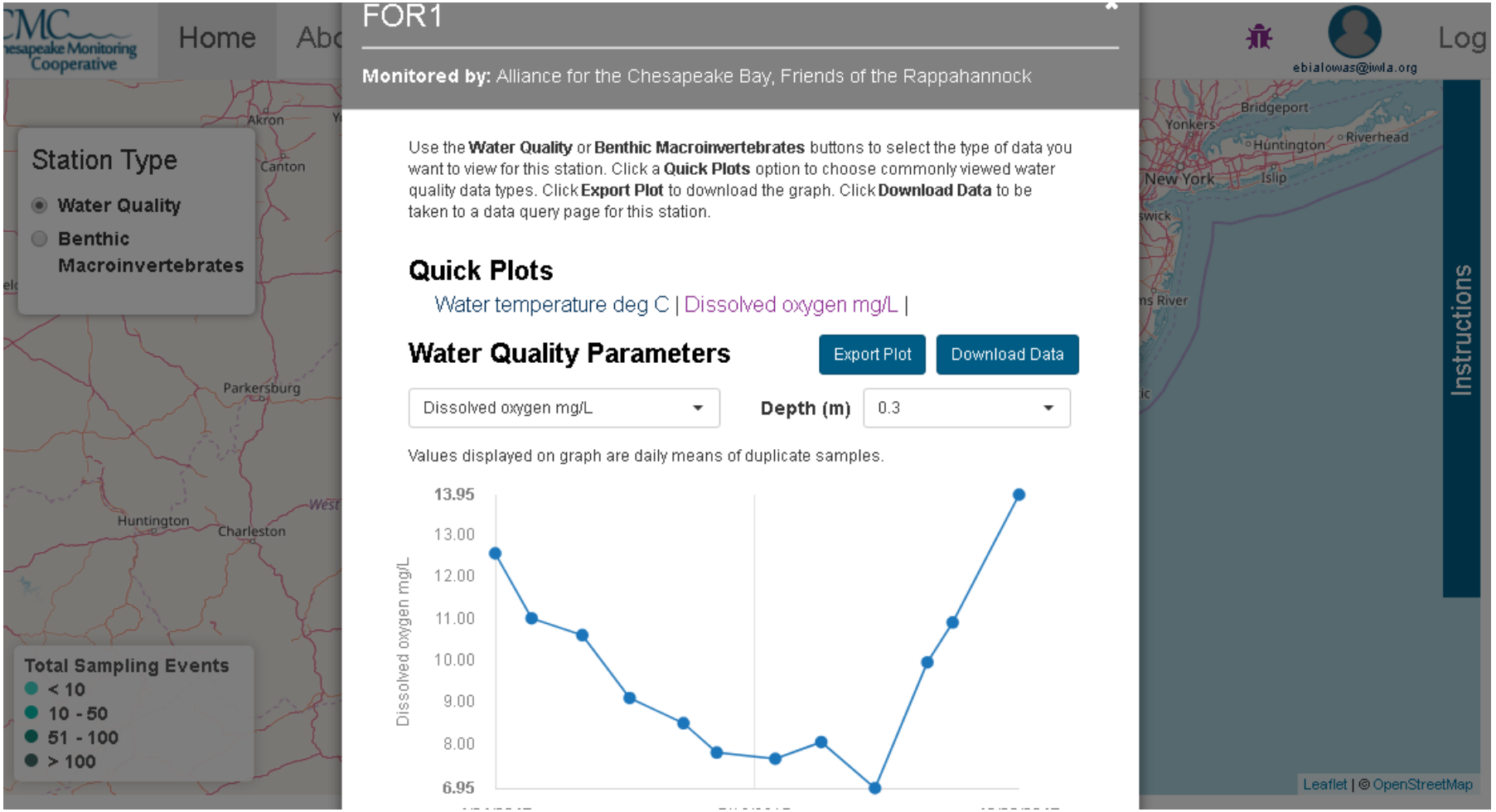
Photos courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Share Data: Chesapeake Data Explorer

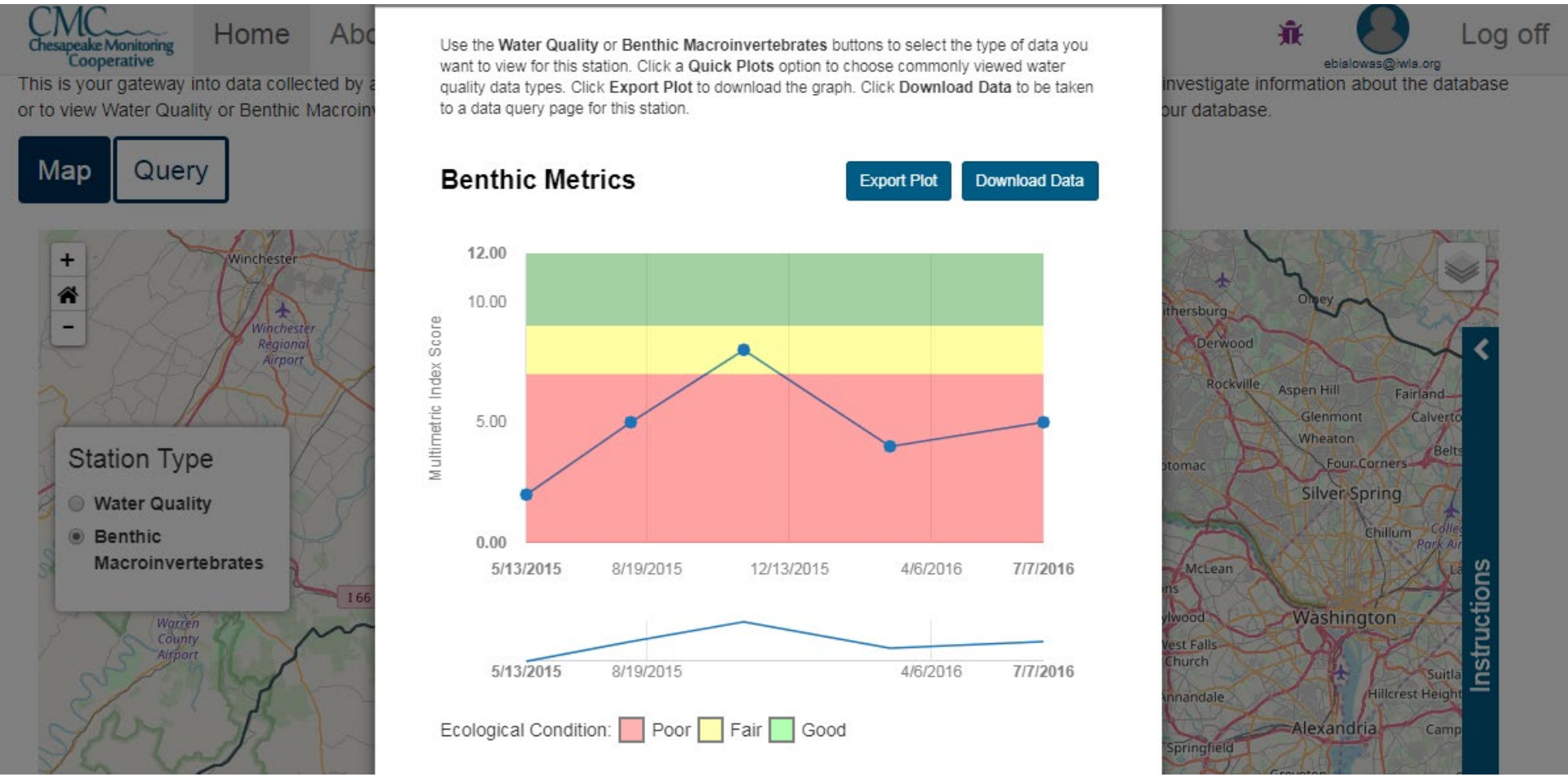


Chesapeakemonitoringcoop.or

Share Data: Chesapeake Data Explorer



Share Data: Chesapeake Data Explorer



STEPS TO BECOME A **CMC PARTNER**

Share Data: Chesapeake Data Explorer

Application for Assistance

To apply for assistance:

STEP 1

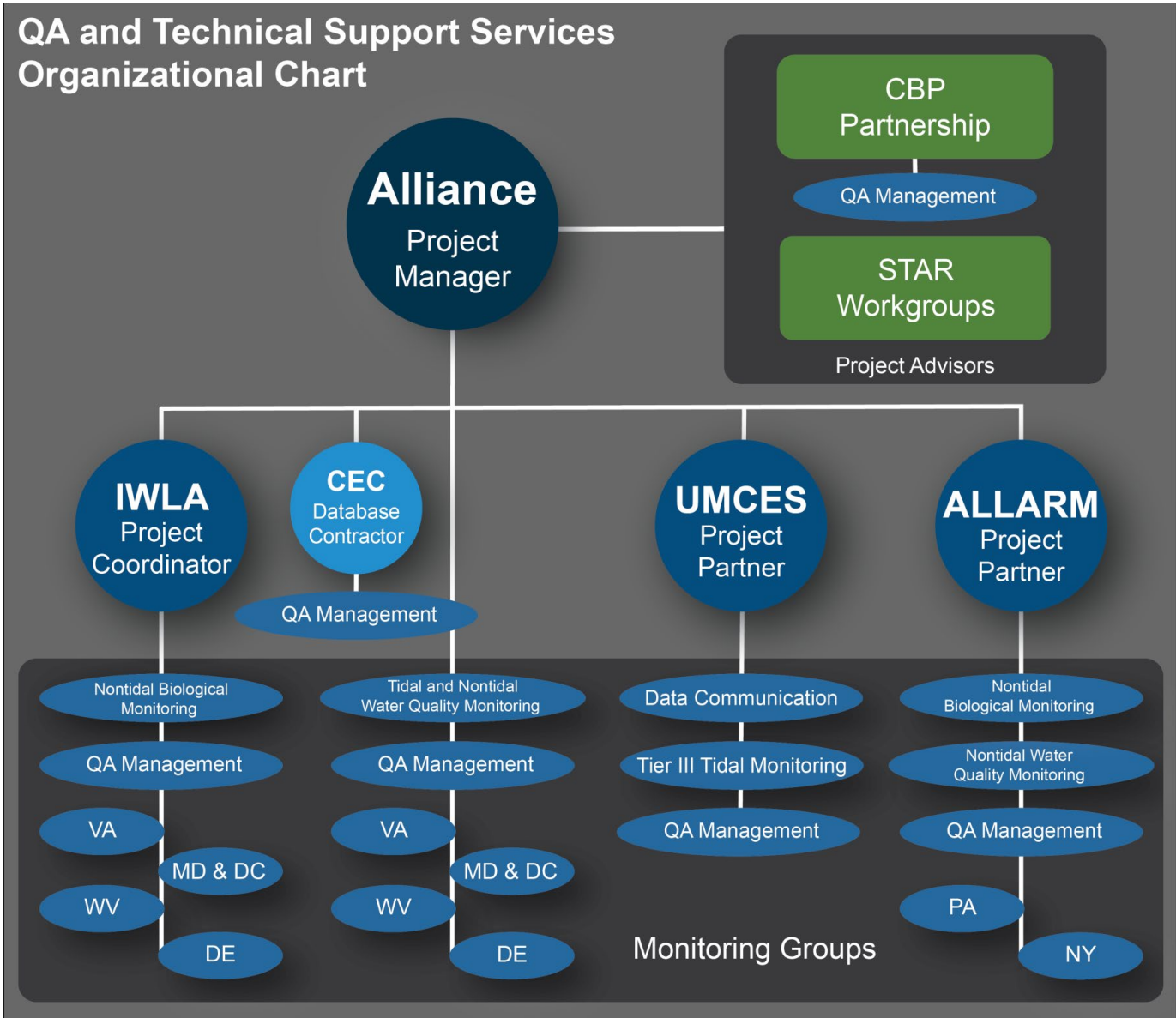
1) Complete the brief Application form.
   i. Basic organizational and contact information
   ii. Checklist of technical assistance needs
   iii. Open-ended Q's about the purpose for technical assistance
   iv. Identify service providers you've previously worked with

2) Email the completed form to Liz Chudoba at: lchudoba@allianceforthebay.org.

Connect with a CMC Service Provider

STEP

2



On Boarding

STEP

3

New Monitoring Groups – the CMC service provider works with each group to conduct a Study Design workshop, Training workshops and equipment selection.

OR

Existing Monitoring Groups – the CMC service provider works with each group to review current quality assurance and standard operating procedures to determine Tier level.

Enter Data into Chesapeake Data Explorer

STEP

4

Minimum eligibility requirements:

- GPS coordinates of your monitoring sites
- Documented methods
- Documented quality assurance procedures


Questions?
Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program