

CMC

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative



Why should you get involved?

- Free water quality monitoring training
- Assistance in acquiring monitoring supplies
- Technical support to establish and maintain a monitoring program
- Free data interpretation and report card development workshops
- Use of the user-friendly database for storing and managing water quality data

What is the CMC?

The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative is a group of leading organizations that **provide technical, programmatic, and outreach support** for the integration of water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. We envision a Chesapeake community where all data of known quality are used to inform watershed management decisions and restoration efforts.

The Cooperative works with diverse partners to collect and share new and existing water quality data. We are supporting a comprehensive understanding of Chesapeake Bay Watershed health. **Data contributions** by a network of **volunteer and non-traditional sources** will provide valuable information that supports shared decision-making and adaptive management.

Who can participate?

- Any group interested in establishing a volunteer water quality monitoring program in their area. This can include, but is not limited to:
 - Watershed organizations
 - Environmental and conservation groups
 - Soil and water conservation districts
 - Local governments
 - Educational groups
 - Individuals
- Any group listed above that already collects water quality data that wants to contribute to the Chesapeake Bay Program and wider audiences.



How can you get involved?

Visit chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org to connect with the Team, sign up for our e-newsletter, and get information about trainings.

Data availability, potential users, and uses:

Are you ... looking for more data on local streams?

... a member of a monitoring program collecting quality data?

... concerned about the health of Chesapeake Bay and want to see data from other organizations?

Data submitted to this project's database will be available to the public through a user-friendly interface. **Anyone can access and use the data.**

Information that accompanies the raw data (metadata) will allow data users to identify the methodology and quality assurance criteria that fit their data-use needs.

What data are we working with?

This project is focused on **water quality** and **biological monitoring** of diverse parameters, such as nutrients, dissolved oxygen, benthic macroinvertebrates, and bacteria, in tidal and non-tidal areas of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Tier designations based on use and quality assurance:

The Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative uses a tiered structure to classify water quality and macroinvertebrate data of varying uses and levels of quality assurance. Advancing through the tier levels requires an increase in **quality assurance and quality control** in sample collection and analysis, as well as increased precision and accuracy of methodology and equipment.

TIERS	Intended Data Use
TIER 1	Education, Environmental Health Screening
TIER 2	Environmental Health Report Cards, Environmental Health Screening, Targeting of Management Actions
TIER 3	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Assessments and Trends

Key players



The CMC team includes representatives from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.



University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE