

Putting the Band Together: Citizen Scientists are the Rock Stars of the Monitoring World

Beth Wasden, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance

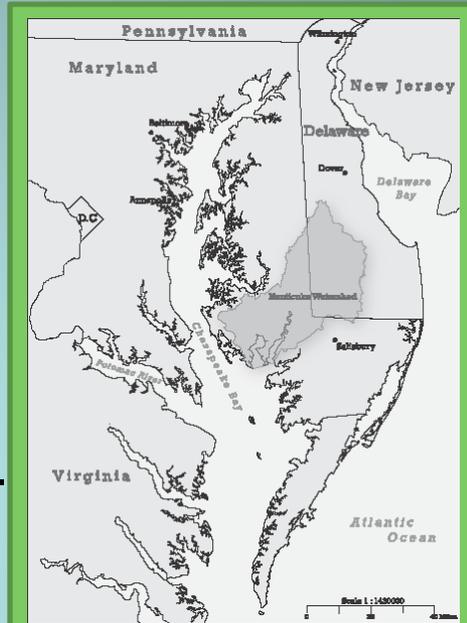


Nanticoke Creekwatchers Program

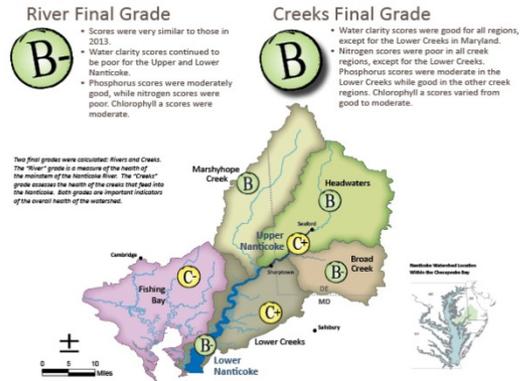
Field:
DO, Secchi depth and total water depth, salinity, and water temp

Lab:
TP, TN, chlorophyll a, and bacteria

- Program established 2007
- Volunteer-driven program that obtains scientifically-credible, long-term data
- 36 sites
- 40 Creekwatchers/over 1,000 hours annually

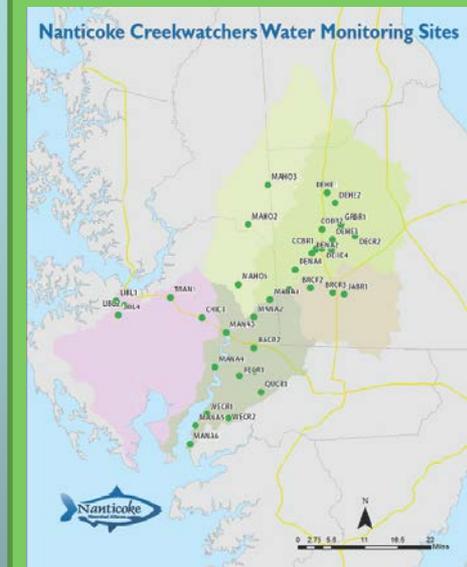


2014 NANTICOKE RIVER REPORT CARD



What Do the Grades Mean?

- A** All water quality indicators meet desired levels. Quality of water in these locations tends to be very good, most often leading to very good habitat conditions for fish and shellfish.
- B** Most water quality indicators meet desired levels (80-99%). Quality of water in these locations tends to be good, often leading to good habitat conditions for fish and shellfish.
- C** There is a mix of healthy and unhealthy water quality indicators (60-80%). Quality of water in these locations tends to be fair, leading to fair habitat conditions for fish and shellfish.
- D** Some or few water quality indicators meet desired levels (20-59%). Quality of water in these locations tends to be poor, often leading to poor habitat conditions for fish and shellfish.
- F** Very few or no water quality indicators meet desired levels. Quality of water in these locations tends to be very poor, most often leading to very poor habitat conditions for fish and shellfish.



I want to volunteer all night,
and Creekwatch every day!



The ROCKSTAR Method

- **R**eadize the program vision
- **O**rganize effectively
- **C**ommunicate
- **K**ick it off right!
- **S**upport
- **T**rain, train, and train again
- **A**ssess and adapt
- **R**etain your volunteers!

Resources

- Integration and Application Network (IAN), which features MTAC Tidal and Nontidal Protocol (along with report cards and free image/symbols): <http://ian.umces.edu/>
- Volunteer DE: <http://www.volunteerdelaware.org/>
- Energize Inc. (volunteer mgmt): <https://energizeinc.com/>

Thank You!

Beth Wasden, Volunteer and
Outreach Coordinator

Nanticoke Watershed Alliance

bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org

443.944.1175

www.nanticokeriver.org

www.facebook.com/NanticokeRiver

