



Scientific and Technical Working Group

2016 Annual Report

Contributions & Recommendations

Don Boesch

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting

September 19, 2016

STWG 2016 Activities

- Vetting team for communication & education
- Climate impacts
 - General update of 2008 assessment based on newer global & national assessments
 - Update of 2013 sea-level rise projections
 - Began assessment of impacts on agriculture
- Assessment of methane emissions

Written Contributions to 2016 Report

- Emerging scientific insights on Maryland's climate change vulnerability (including new probabilistic sea-level rise projections)
- Scientific overview of methane emissions
- Framework for assessments on agriculture (called for by the MCC Act) and on Chesapeake Bay restoration (related to the 2017 Mid-Point TMDL Assessment)

Provisional STWG Recommendations

- Address methane emissions from all controllable sources
- Broaden economic impact analyses to better account for employment, human health and well-being, and environmental quality
- Enhance GHG emission inventories to include duration of radiative forcing and presently unaccounted sources
- Revise or fine-tune adaptation and response strategies in light of updated climate impacts assessment
 - Incorporate probabilistic sea-level projections in coastal resilience planning
 - Take climate change into account in Chesapeake Bay restoration, while recognizing uncertainties of its effects on TMDL