

choptank river



Choptank Riverkeeper
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Follow the Choptank Riverkeeper on Facebook and Instagram for updates on the Choptank River.

In 2018, the entire Choptank River and its tributaries declined in water quality. The region received nearly 6 feet of rain (71") putting a lot of pressure on our natural lands and filters to slow down and treat the increased runoff. Water quality improvements in previous years demonstrate that the Choptank is capable of resisting the pressures of normal rainfall, but what's normal anymore?

Ten inches of rain fell over a week-long period in mid-May, causing bacteria levels to rise above safe swimming levels. As a result of the poor water quality, an open water swim event across the Choptank River was canceled, hindering the recreational use and economic value of the river. Spring rain also caused major problems for the agricultural community which accounts for nearly 60% of the land use in the watershed. Planting delays occurred and those farms that were able to plant prior to the heavy rains ended up having much of their crop and nutrient-rich fertilizer washed into the river. Frequent summer rains were often followed by intense heat and humidity that spiked the water temperature, promoting algal blooms and stressing fish.

We have to restore the river's natural ability to process and filter nutrient and sediment pollution. We won't get there by working alone, but by working with our communities, our partners and our members, we can envision a healthy Choptank River.



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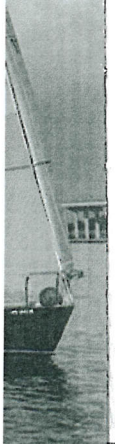
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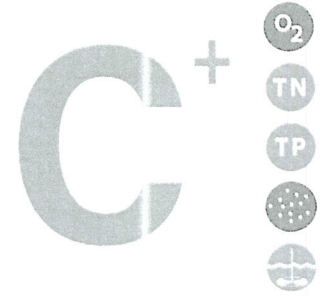
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Choptank River Overall Grade



Tuckahoe River

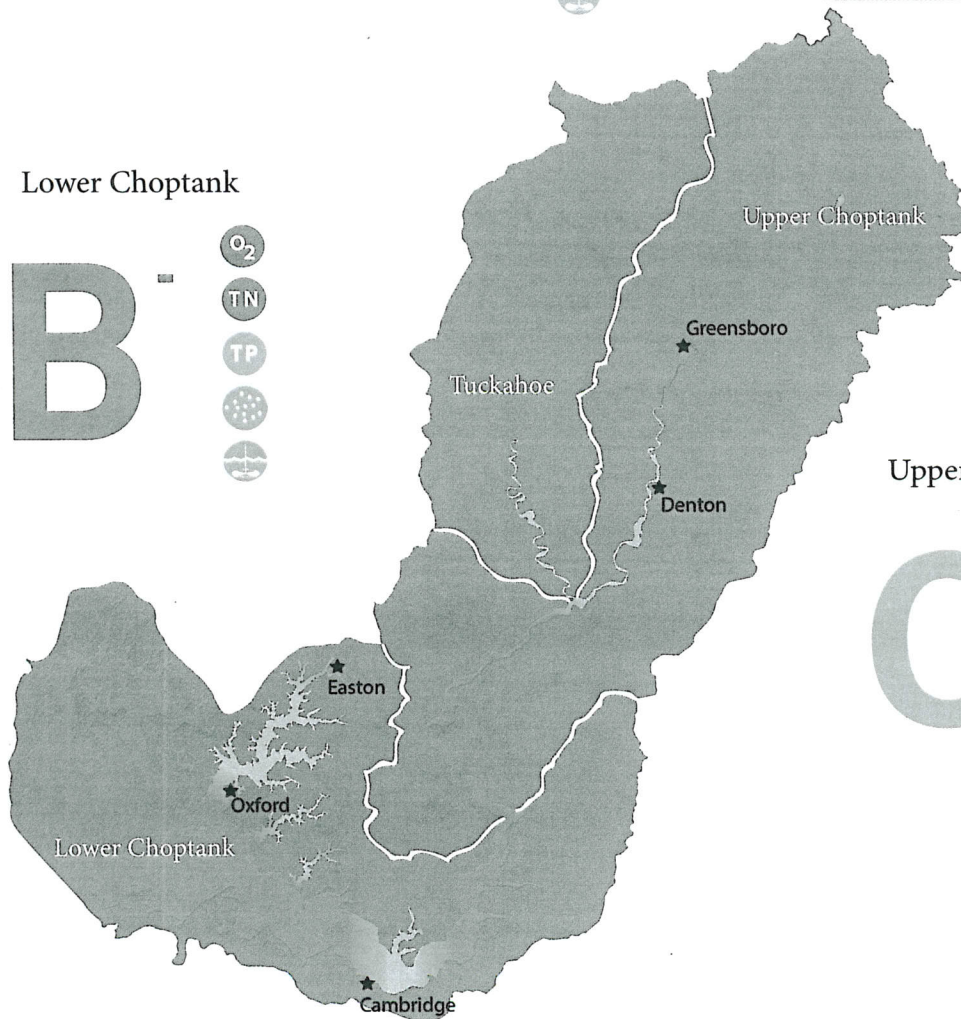


Lower Choptank

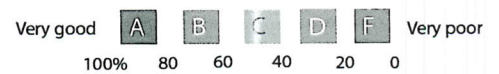


Upper Choptank

Upper Choptank



BAY HEALTH SCALE



For more detailed information on specific areas, summaries for all sampling stations are available in the ShoreRivers 2018 Water Quality Technical Report at: www.shorerivers.org/report-cards