# Improving Water Reuse for a Healthier Potomac Watershed

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#### **Project Team**

- Dr. Sujay Kaushal University of Maryland
- Dr. Shuiwang Duan University of Maryland
- Dr. Diana Aga University at Buffalo
- Dr. Adil Godrej Virginia Tech
- Dr. Luke Iwanowicz U.S. Geological Service
- Dr. Erik Rosenfeldt Hazen and Sawyer
- Dr. Sudhir Murthy DC Water











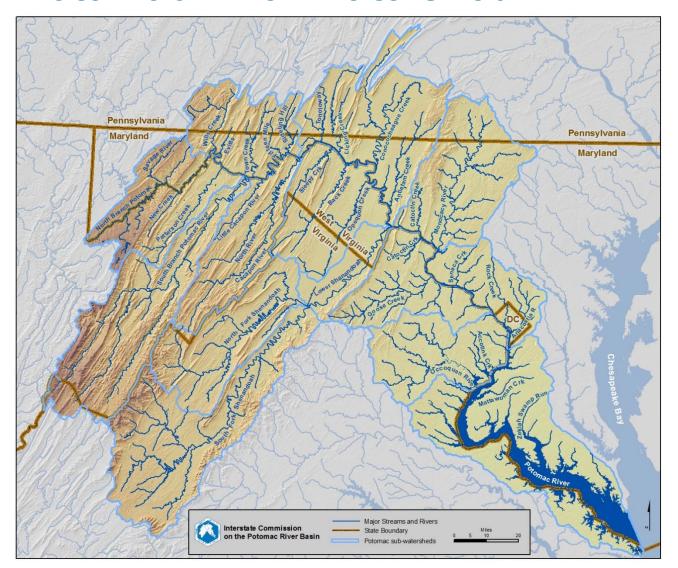


#### Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

- Bob Angeliotti Upper Occoquan Service Authority
- Dr. Rominder Suri Temple University
- Leita Bennett GHD
- Steven Bieber Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Dr. Susan Glassmeyer U.S. EPA



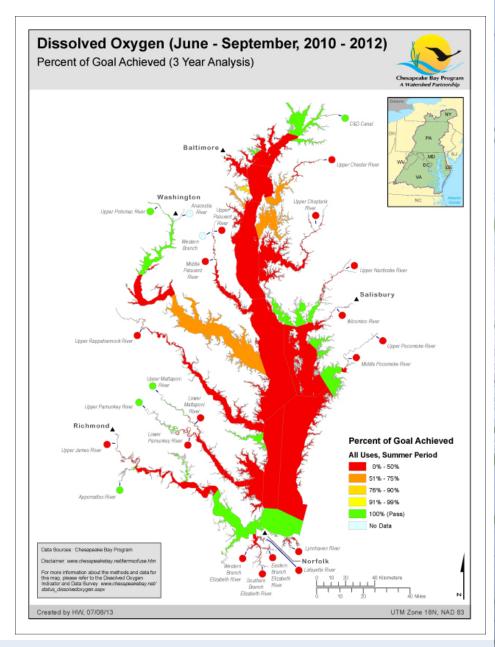
#### Potomac River Watershed





#### **Nutrients**

- Wide variety of land uses in Potomac watershed
- TMDL established in 2010 for Chesapeake Bay
- Economic value in fisheries
  - \$3.39 billion in sales
  - \$890 million in income
  - Nearly 34,000 jobs to the local economy





#### **Endocrine Disrupting Compounds**

Speaking of Science

### These fish started life as boys. Now scientists aren't sure what sex they are.

- Herbicides (e.g. atrazine)
- Biogenic hormones

Sex-change chemicals in Potomac

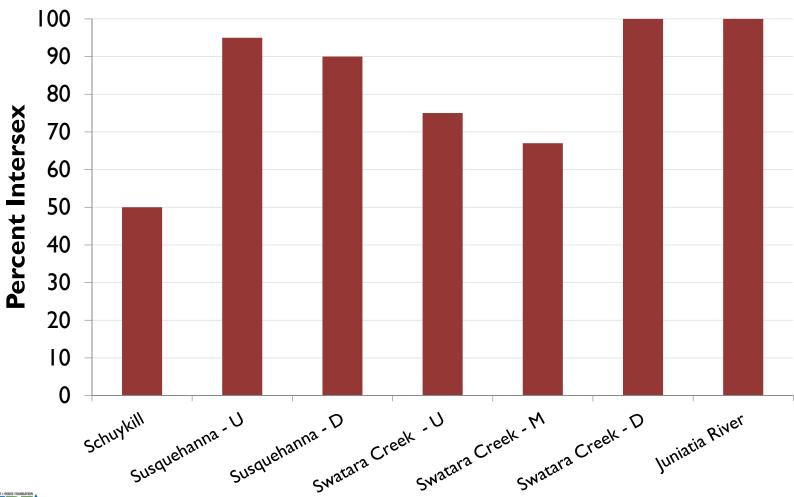
Potential sources Intersex Fish Linked To Population And Agriculture In Potomac River Watershed

Municipal wastewater

As more male bass switch sex, a strange fish story expands

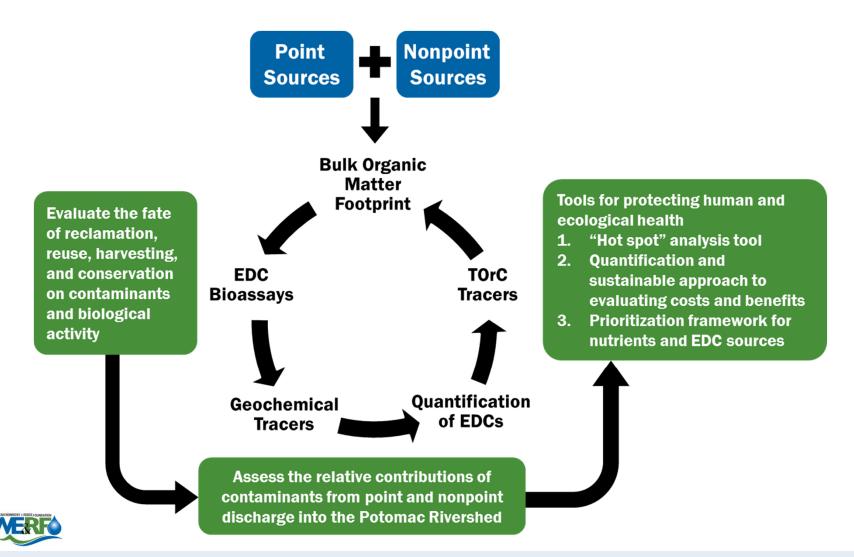


### EDCs in Pennsylvania Watersheds



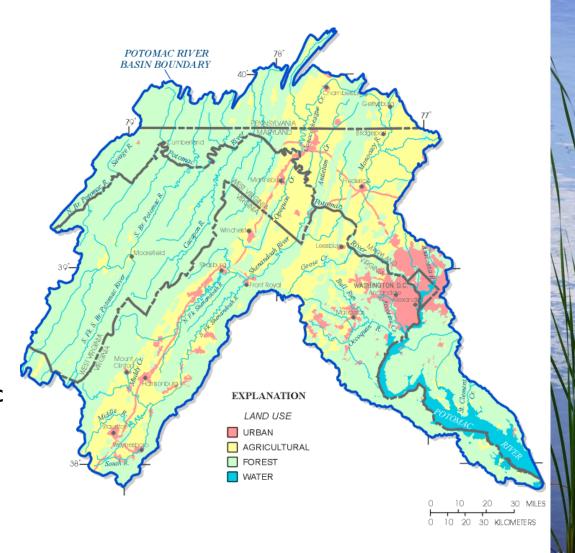


# Conceptual Model for Managing Pollutants



### Year 1 – Hot Spot Analysis

- Identify and track spatial variations in "hot spots" of EDCs, biological activity, and nutrients
- USGS and ChesapeakeBay Program sites
- Includes sites impacted by treated wastewaters, mineral fertilizers, animal manure, and atmospheric deposition





# Year 2a – Impact of current management strategies

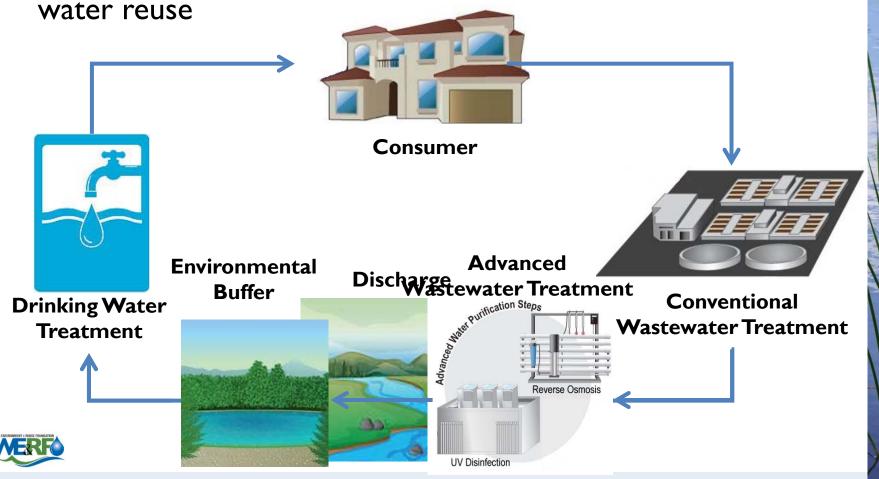
- Effects of water reuse, stormwater harvesting, and management practices
- Sites to be chosen in coordination with PAC based on the results of Year I

Advanced reclamation	Conventional reclamation
Stormwater reuse	Unmanaged stormwater
Managed agriculture (e.g. riparian buffers)	Unmanaged agriculture



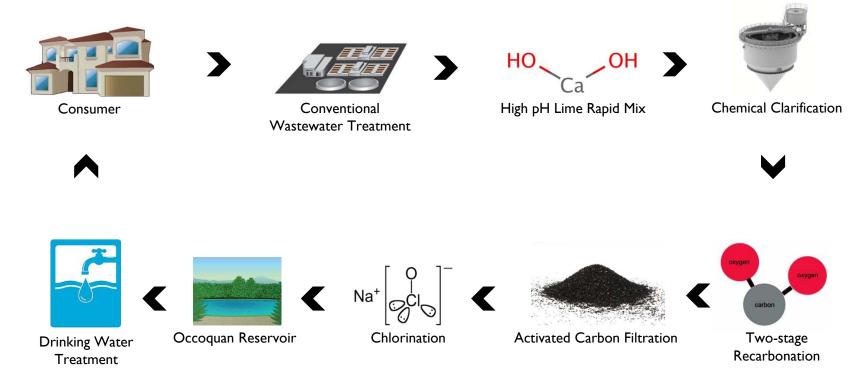
# Year 2b – Impact of planned potable reuse

Pilot-level studies on the impact of planned and unplanned



### **Upper Occoquan Service Authority**

#### Planned indirect potable reuse since 1978





#### Year 3 – Cost-benefit analysis

- Incorporate economic and societal factors
- Framework with three components
  - EDC and nutrient sources seasonal and spatial variability
  - 2. Proportion of EDC and nutrient sources along 10 sections of the Potomac
  - 3. Effectiveness of management strategies
- Output of potential EDC and nutrient reduction in the Potomac River watershed



#### Triple-Bottom Line Approach

**ECONOMIC** 

- Lifecycle cost
- Income
- Local tax revenue
- Affordability

- Water quality
- Air quality
- Carbon footprint
- Land footprint
- Eutrophication and ecosystem impact

Bearable Equitable SUSTAINABLE

**ENVIRONMENTAL Viable** 

SOCIAL

- Recreation
- Property Values
- Job growth
- Public health
- Water shortage impact
- Public perception



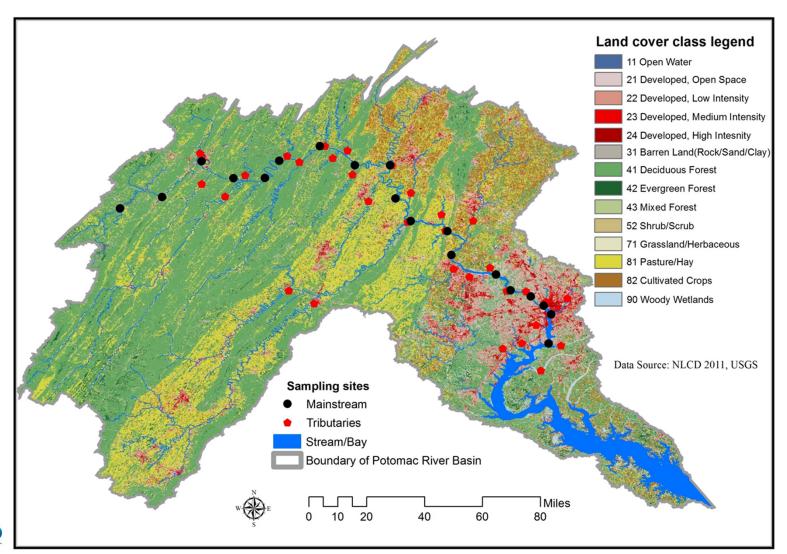




Sampling Sites and Preliminary Results



## Sampling sites in August – 19 main stem and 31 headwater sub-watershed sites





### Sampling the Land Use Gradient



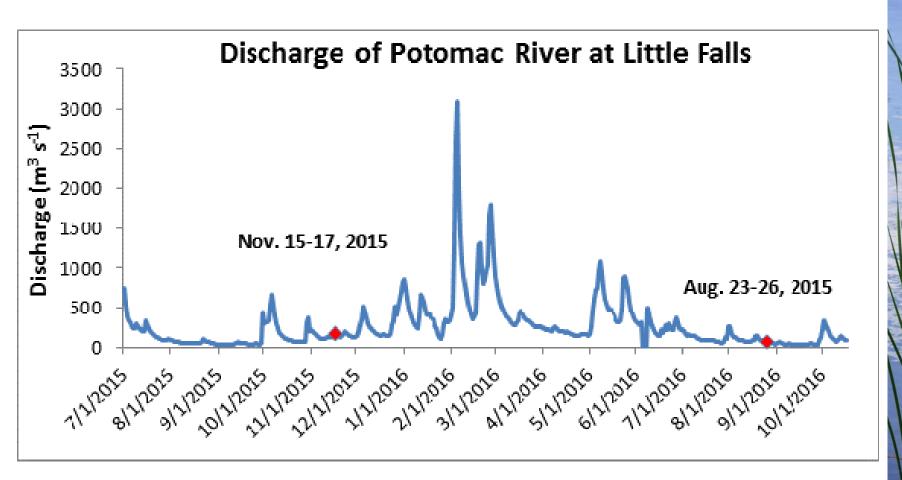
Upper Potomac: Forest

Middle Potomac: Agriculture

Lower Potomac: **Urban** 



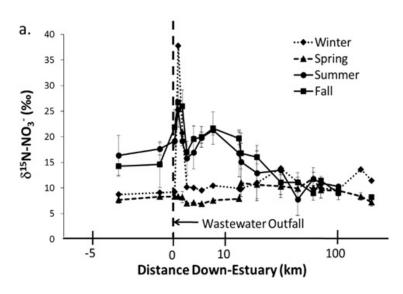
### Hot Spot Sampling at Baseflow

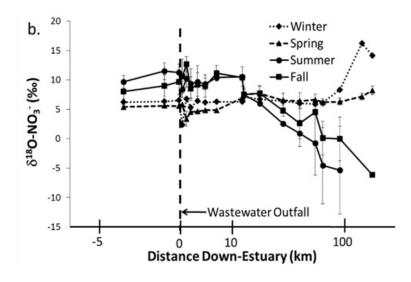


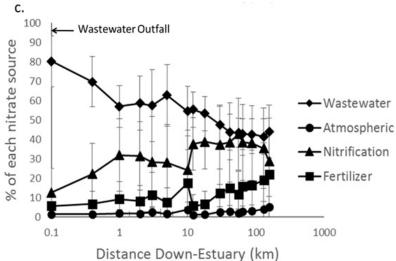




# Tracking Nitrogen Sources Along the Potomac River





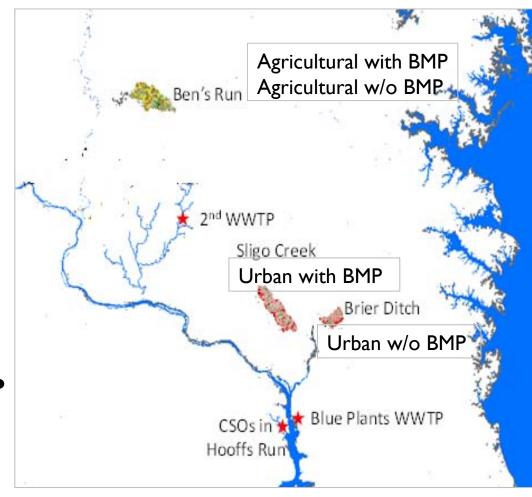




Evaluating Sources and Management of Nitrogen and EDCs

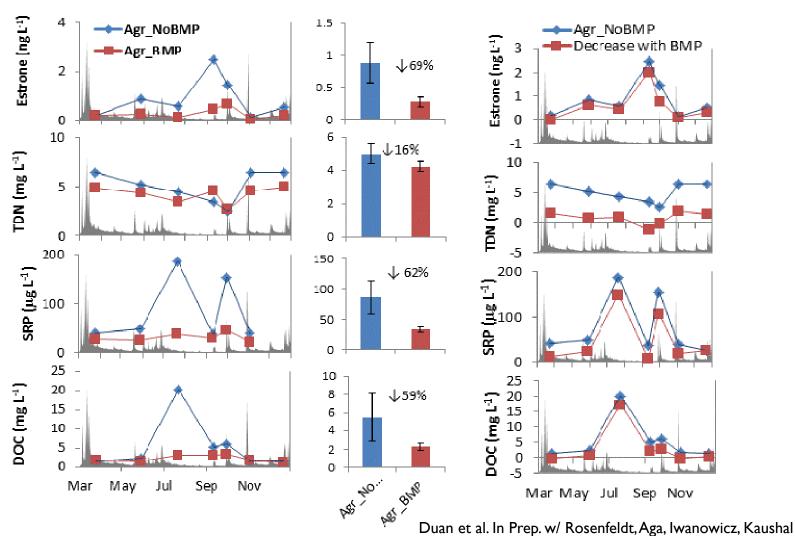
- Paired streams
- **↑** Agricultural w/o BMP
- ↓ Agricultural with BMP
- ↑ Urban w/o BMP
  Urban with BMP

Efficiencies of stormwater BMPs = w/o BMP - with BMP



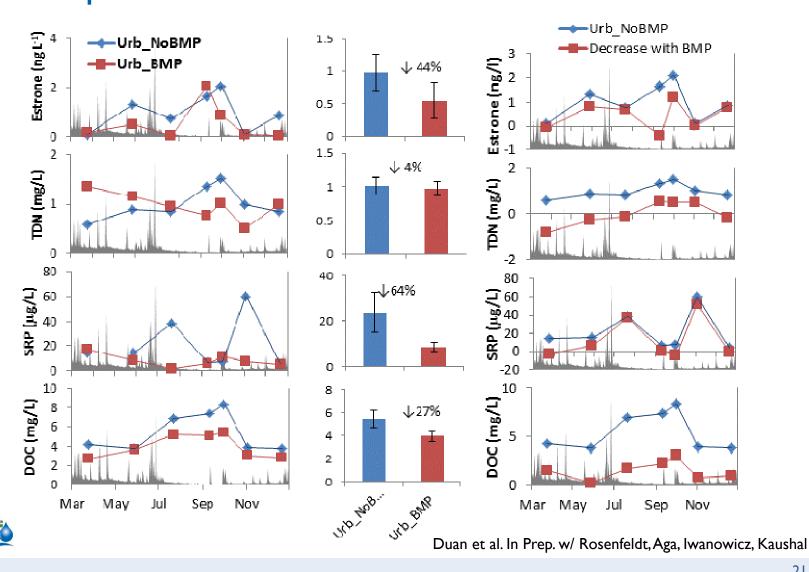


# Agricultural BMPs reduce Estrogen, N, P, or C inputs





### Urban BMPs reduce Estrogen, P or C inputs



#### **Next Steps**

#### Continuing Isotopic analyses

- Nitrate isotopes for N source
- Fluorescence scan for carbon source
- Carbon and nitrogen data for particulate sources

Analyzing EDC chemicals and reactivity

Continue seasonal sampling of hot spots

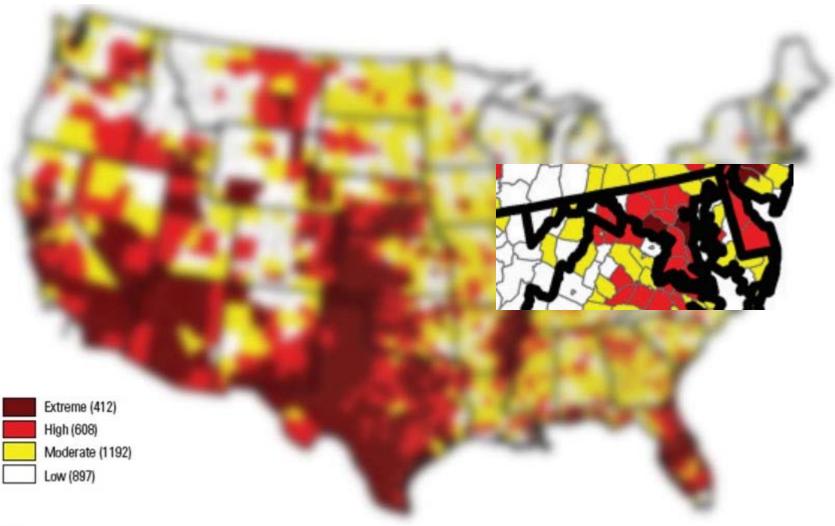


#### New Drivers for Water Reuse

- Mid-Atlantic region not considered water stressed
- Impacts from nutrients and EDCs
- Water Reuse = strategy for controlling nutrients and EDCs



#### **New Drivers for Water Reuse**





Water Supply Sustainability Risk Index (2050) – National Climate Assessment





### Thank You!

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