

From Headwater to Sea: Adapting to Climate Change in the Chesapeake Bay

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In the United States, Maryland was identified as one of the three most vulnerable states to sea level rise. Led by Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, Maryland has taken a proactive role in preparing for the risks associated with climate change. With the input from state and regional experts, the State has released two strategy reports that utilize a holistic, cross-agency approach to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Recognizing the impacts of climate change cast a wide net outside of the coastal zone, the strategies examine impacts and solutions to sea-level rise, and the impacts of increased temperature and altered precipitation patterns on human health, water resources, agriculture, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and built infrastructure. As a result, the Department of Natural Resources has been working with other state and local agencies to incorporate climate change adaptation into planning processes and policies. Efforts here and other efforts across the country present one of the best opportunities for working collaboratively across agencies and sectors.

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