

## Accessing data for the Bay: The Chesapeake Bay Data Mapper

<http://www.farmapper.psu.edu/ChesapeakeBay/>

The USGS Chesapeake Bay Program and the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure Mid Atlantic Information Node (MAIN) partners at Penn State Institutes for Energy and the Environment have launched the Chesapeake Bay Data Mapper. This web-based GIS mapping application can be accessed via the USGS Chesapeake Bay website “Data” section (<http://chesapeake.usgs.gov/data.html>) or from the MAIN Data Wizard (<http://main.nbii.gov>).



**The Goal** of the effort was to develop a web map interface to Chesapeake Bay related data bringing together spatial framework data with unique scientific, research, and other relevant data sets in a visually appealing and easy to use environment. The interface has been designed to meet the needs of a variety of users such as education providers, federal, state, and local partners.

**The Data** available through the Bay Data Mapper includes: USGS National Hydrologic Data for the upper and lower Chesapeake, major watershed basin boundaries, state, county, and municipal boundaries for all the Bay states, USGS National Land Cover Data, soils, critical areas, water quality, and vulnerable lands from the EPA CBP Resource Lands Assessment, USGS NBII wetlands, habitat and living resources information, and more.

**The Tools** available in the Bay Data Mapper help enhance discovery of the included datasets. Users can search the map spatially by using the names of lakes, streams, counties, or 8 digit HUC's. The Bay Data Mapper also allows users to click on stream gage points and link to the USGS National Water Information System database. Another valuable component of the Bay Data Mapper is the ability to link directly to metadata for datasets in the map and downloadable the data via the MAIN Data Wizard. Users who have GIS software can download data for the Bay or utilize map services of data by directly importing the services into their desktop.

**The Future** goal of the Bay Data Mapper is to continue to be an asset to citizens and scientists interested in researching or learning more about the Bay. Desired future directions would be to offer access to Chesapeake Bay-wide synoptic imagery data including satellite sources, LiDAR, and Radar. The Bay Data Mapper is an ongoing effort that will continue to be enhanced as new data and functionality become available. For more information or suggestions please contact: Maurie Caitlin Kelly <mck4@psu.edu>, Cassandra Mullinix <ccmullinix@usgs.gov>