

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Laura Koster

610.254.7432 or [lkoster@btcmktg.com](mailto:lkoster@btcmktg.com)

**Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution Supports Objectives of  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation's New 'Healthier Rivers' Report**

**Existing solutions do not address costs, however, and are economically unsustainable**

MANHEIM, Pa. – (April 30, 2013) – The [Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution](#) (CABS) fully supports the objectives of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) [2013 Smallmouth Bass Report: Angling for Healthier Rivers](#). The report focuses on repairing the health of the Chesapeake Bay's tributaries and reversing the declining health and population of smallmouth bass.

The CBF report's conclusions, however, only recommend *existing* nutrient reduction options and fail to address the single greatest impediment – *cost*. That is, expenditures for Chesapeake Bay federally mandated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) mandates, the Susquehanna River watershed and habitat impairment, and the overall program's financial impact on Pennsylvania taxpayers.

The existing approach is economically unsustainable. A recent National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) report stated: "the cost to remove a pound of nitrogen or phosphorus from farm runoff and drainage is typically four to five—and sometimes up to 10 to 20—times less than the cost to remove the same amount from municipal wastewater or stormwater."

In March of 2012, a Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) study titled ["Nutrient Credit Trading for the Chesapeake Bay: An Economic Analysis"](#) concluded that verified nutrient reductions from agriculture would significantly reduce Chesapeake Bay nutrient TMDL compliance costs. Moreover, in January 2013, the [PA Legislative Budget & Finance Committee](#) projected that a competitively bid verified nutrient procurement program would reduce nutrient compliance costs by up to 80%.

Without directly addressing compliance cost, Chesapeake Bay TMDL mandates will continue to go unmet; interior freshwater sources will continue to deteriorate; and the taxpayers will be challenged as other priorities such as education and healthcare require more funding.

Failure to adopt a policy solution that addresses cost and compliance is negative for agriculture, the environment, habitats and taxpayers. CABS, however, offers a policy initiative that enables economically sustainable technology solutions for these interconnected issues. Resulting cost savings could be invested in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of CBF's *Angling for Healthier Rivers* report.

For more information on Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution, as well as a list of founding members and supporters, please visit [www.AffordableBaySolutions.org](http://www.AffordableBaySolutions.org). For more information about CBF, please visit [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)