

Chesapeake Bay Boat Tour

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On August 15th, Chester County Conservation District (CCCD) staff and local farmers had the opportunity to attend an educational tour given by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. We departed from the Baltimore Aquarium and discussed the effects that rivers and tributaries have on the Bay before continuing our journey to test water turbidity (clearness), dredge the bottom of the Harbor for sediment, and view the city's aquatic trash wheels & skimmers. After traveling to Fort Carroll, we dredged the oyster bed and trawled for fish in order to assess the diversity of the habitat.



While aquatic species are slowly returning to the Bay, oysters remain at 2% of their original population. They are a primary filter of sediment and other suspended toxins, but excess sediment and nutrients from as far as Pennsylvania and New York can cause a loss of habitat for Bay oysters and the species that benefit from them. Overall, we had an enlightening day learning how what we do upstream affects downstream waters.



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