

January 26, 2017

# **2016 ANNUAL FLIGHT DATA YE REPORT**

SouthWings has grown in service territory, program scope, and volunteer pilot force over the last year.

## Year in Review Summary

- SouthWings completed 130 flights in 2016, an increase of 7% over 2015; and a compound annual growth of 11% since 2011 when we transitioned to an all volunteer owned aircraft force.
- We conducted 35% of our flights in Louisiana and 28% in North Carolina last year, with 48% of flights supporting our Appalachia to Atlantic programs and 39% in support of Gulf programs.
  - Flight needs have changed over the last decade; work in states such as LA and MD has grown, while work in other states like KY, TN, and WV has diminished, but our work in most states has remained relatively constant.
- In the last 5 years, SouthWings has recruited 28 new volunteer pilots; 57% have been added to support our Appalachia to Atlantic programs, 21% to our Gulf programs, and 21% to our Chesapeake programs.
  - 10 new pilots joined SouthWings' volunteer network last year alone.

SouthWings has grown in service territory, program scope, and volunteer pilot force over the last year.

## Year in Review Summary (continued)

- This year out of 46 active volunteer pilots, 63% (29 pilots) flew SouthWings flights. Seven pilots accounted for over 50% of all of our flights, with an average of 4.5 flights per pilot, or 1 flight per quarter.
- SouthWings volunteer pilots flew over 250 passengers for over 100 partner organizations in 2016.
  - Over 50 VIP and media passengers
- Although it varied by program, our 2016 flights most often addressed watershed protection and climate change.
  - 49% of flights included a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance
  - 28% of flights resulted in pollution reports to regulators and/or contributed to environmental litigation
  - 20% of flights included members of the media
  - 6% of our flights included a government/elected official

Each of SouthWings' three regional program areas – Appalachia to Atlantic, Gulf, and Chesapeake – successfully supported local environmental partnerships and organizations.

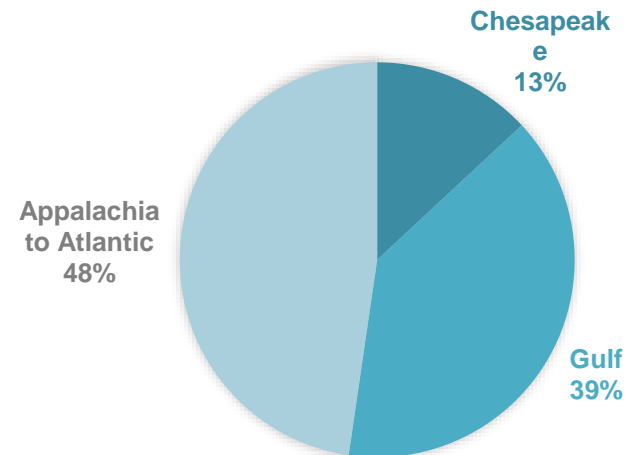
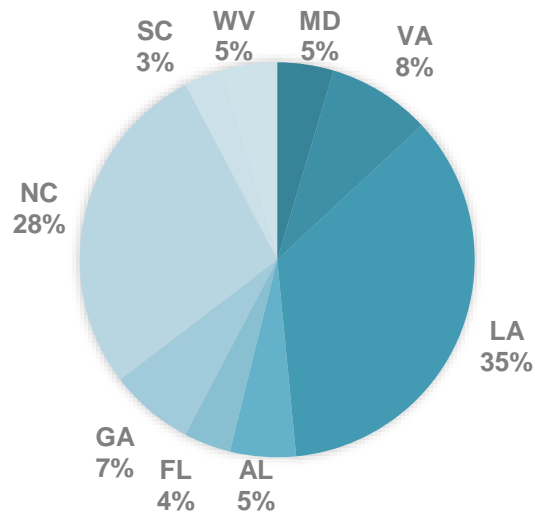
## Program Summary

- **Appalachia to Atlantic**
  - Our partnerships with members of the Waterkeeper Alliance in the A2A region, which covers 8 states, accounts for the majority of our work there.
- **Gulf**
  - Our partnerships with organizations focused on Gulf restoration, particularly wetland restoration in coastal Louisiana, accounts for the majority of our Gulf Coast work.
  - 45% of Gulf flights supported enforcement of environmental laws.
  - In Louisiana: passengers included six state and parish-level elected officials, representatives of five foundations, authors, coastal scientists, journalists, community stakeholders, artists and photographers, business leaders, and others.
- **Chesapeake**
  - We launched our new Chesapeake program in August with the hiring of our new Chesapeake Program Director, Shannon Lyons.
  - Flights completed in the Chesapeake Bay region have more than doubled compared to 2015, highlighting the growing success of this new program.
  - Thanks to her efforts, two high-profile articles were published in major publications, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Chesapeake Bay Journal*, highlighting our work.

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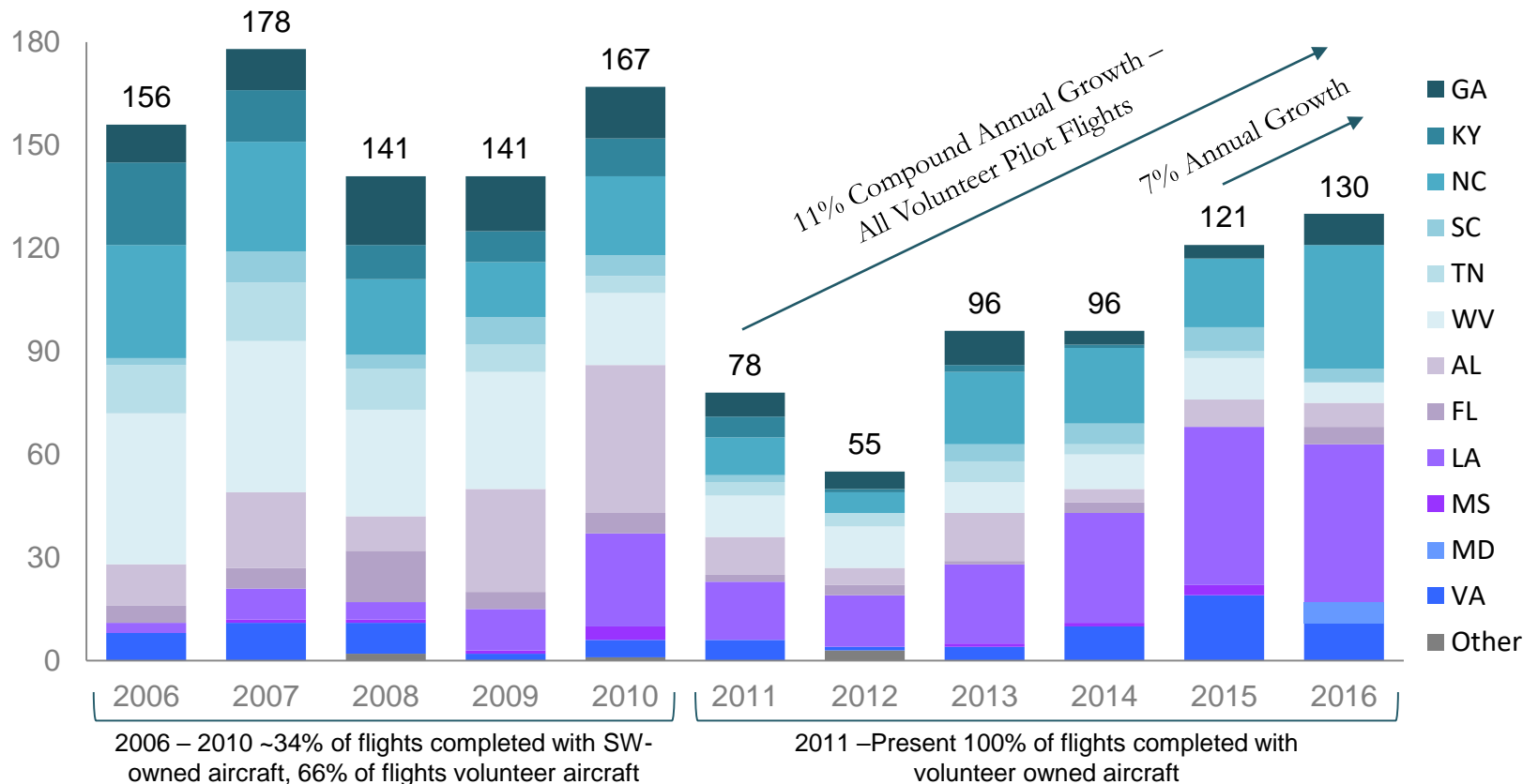
## Flight Analysis by Program, State, and Quarter

Program	Gulf				Appalachia to Atlantic						Chesapeake		Total
	LA	MS	AL	FL	GA	KY	NC	SC	TN	WV	MD	VA	
Q1 2016	11		3		2		7			2		1	26
Q2 2016	10		1	2	6		11					6	36
Q3 2016	13		1	1			7	2		2	1	2	29
Q4 2016	12		2	2	1		11	2		2	5	2	39
<b>State Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>51</b>				<b>62</b>						<b>17</b>		



Flight needs have changed over the last decade; work in states such as LA and MD has grown, while work in other states like KY, TN, and WV has diminished, but our work in most states has remained relatively constant.

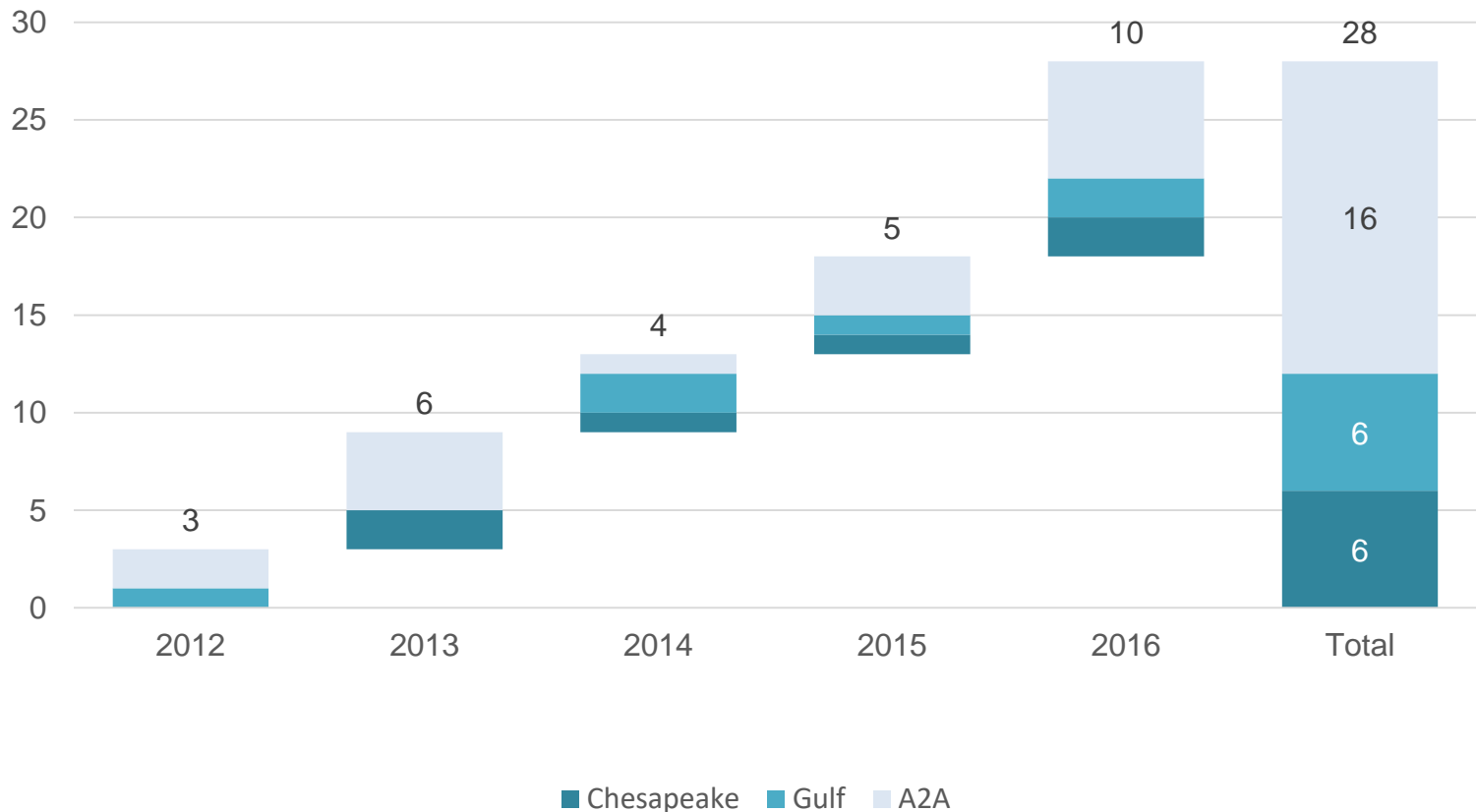
## Historical Flight Data by State



For detail, see Appendix page 19

In the last 5 years, 28 new volunteer pilots have joined SouthWings' volunteer pilot network; 57% fly to support our Appalachia to Atlantic programs, 21% to support our Gulf programs, and 21% to support our Chesapeake programs.

## Pilot Recruitment 2012 - 2016



SouthWings volunteer pilots flew over 250 passengers for over 100 partner organizations in 2016.

## Flights by Partners, Passengers, and Program

Appalachia to Atlantic			
Partner Organization	Pax	% Prog	% Total
Catawba Riverkeeper	21	21%	8%
Yadkin Riverkeeper	12	12%	5%
Altamaha Riverkeeper	7	7%	3%
Cape Fear River Watch	6	6%	2%
WWALS Watershed	6	6%	2%
34 Others	49	49%	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>		<b>39%</b>

Chesapeake			
Partner Organization	Pax	% Prog	% Total
James Riverkeeper	6	16%	2%
The Bay Journal	2	5%	1%
Rivanna Consv Alliance	2	5%	1%
Assateague Coastkeeper	2	5%	1%
Commonwealth of VA	2	5%	1%
Friends of Rappahannock	2	5%	1%
VIMS	2	5%	1%
18 Others	20	53%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>15%</b>

Gulf			
Partner Organization	Pax	% Prog	% Total
Gulf Restoration Network	17	15%	7%
Restore the MS River Delta <sup>(1)</sup>	17	15%	7%
Vanishing Earth	13	11%	5%
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper	5	4%	2%
NRDC	4	3%	2%
LUMCON / Tulane Univ.	4	3%	2%
41 Others	57	49%	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>46%</b>

Totals			
Program	# Partners	# Pax	# Flights
A2A	39	101	62
Chesapeake	25	38	17
Gulf	47	117	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>130</b>

1) Restore the Mississippi River Delta is a coalition of multiple organizations in Louisiana, including: Audubon, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Environmental Defense Fund, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and National Wildlife Federation.



Our volunteer pilots flew over 50 media organizations and VIP passengers.

## Media and VIP Passengers Summary

	Agency Officials	Celebrities	Elected Officials	Funders	Media Orgs	Other VIPs	Total
Appalachia to Atlantic			2		7		9
Chesapeake	1		4		4	1	10
Gulf	2	4	6	15	5	3	35
Total	3	4	12	15	16	4	54

- An important aspect of our work is getting individuals with the power to influence policy and public opinion in the air to view an environmental challenge for themselves. In 2016 our volunteer pilots flew over 50 media organizations and VIP passengers.
- Media coverage and 2016 publications highlighting SouthWings' work includes:
  - Profiled in J Henry Fair's book, *Industrial Scars: The Hidden Costs of Consumption*, which includes images from SouthWings flights.
  - Feature stories in the *Chesapeake Bay Journal* and *AOPA Pilot* magazine
  - A front page cover story and online video in *The Wall Street Journal* featuring our collaboration with Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to relocate 11 endangered whooping cranes.

# VIP and Media Passengers

## Appalachia to Atlantic

### **Elected Officials:**

State Senator Blake Tillery (GA); Mayor Bob Baber - Richwood, WV

### **Media:**

News 13 WLOS (local); WOWK news (local WV); Global News (Canada); Radical Media; BBC News; Berlignske (Dannish Media); WECT TV

## Chesapeake

### **Agency Officials:**

Ann Swanson, Chesapeake Bay Commission

### **Elected Officials:**

Mayor Mike Signer (Charlottesville, VA); Rick Randolf - Albemarle Board of Supervisors; Normal Dill - Albemarle Board of Supervisors; Senator Amanda Chase (VA)

### **Media:**

NBC 29, WVIR News; WWBT NBC12; The Chesapeake Bay Journal; The Wall Street Journal

### **Other VIPs:**

Roger Sorkin, Tidewater Security Project

## VIP and Media Passengers (continued)

### Gulf

#### **Agency Officials:**

Mike Lockwood, St. Bernard Environmental Director; Tanner Johnson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

#### **Celebrities:**

John Barry, Author of *Rising Tide*; Jonathan Pretus and John Bourgeois, The Breton Sound; Devon Baldwin, Singer/Songwriter

#### **Elected Officials:**

Guy McInnes, St. Bernard Parish President; Mike Yenni, Jefferson Parish President; Manuel "Monty" Montelongo, St. Bernard Parish Councilman; Sen. Norby Chabert (R) - LA Senate, Chairman of Natural Resources; Jerome "Zee" Zeringue (R-Lafourche&Terrebonne) - LA House of Representatives; Rep. Christopher Leopold (R-Belle Chasse) - LA House of Representatives

#### **Funders:**

Donors for Gulf Restoration Network, Restore America's Estuaries, and Vanishing Earth; Foundation for Louisiana; Greater New Orleans Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation; Surdna Foundation; McKnight Foundation

#### **Media:**

DeSmogBlog; WWNO New Orleans Public Radio; Vanishing Earth; Paul Corbit Brown, photographer; J Henry Fair, photographer and author of *Industrial Scars*

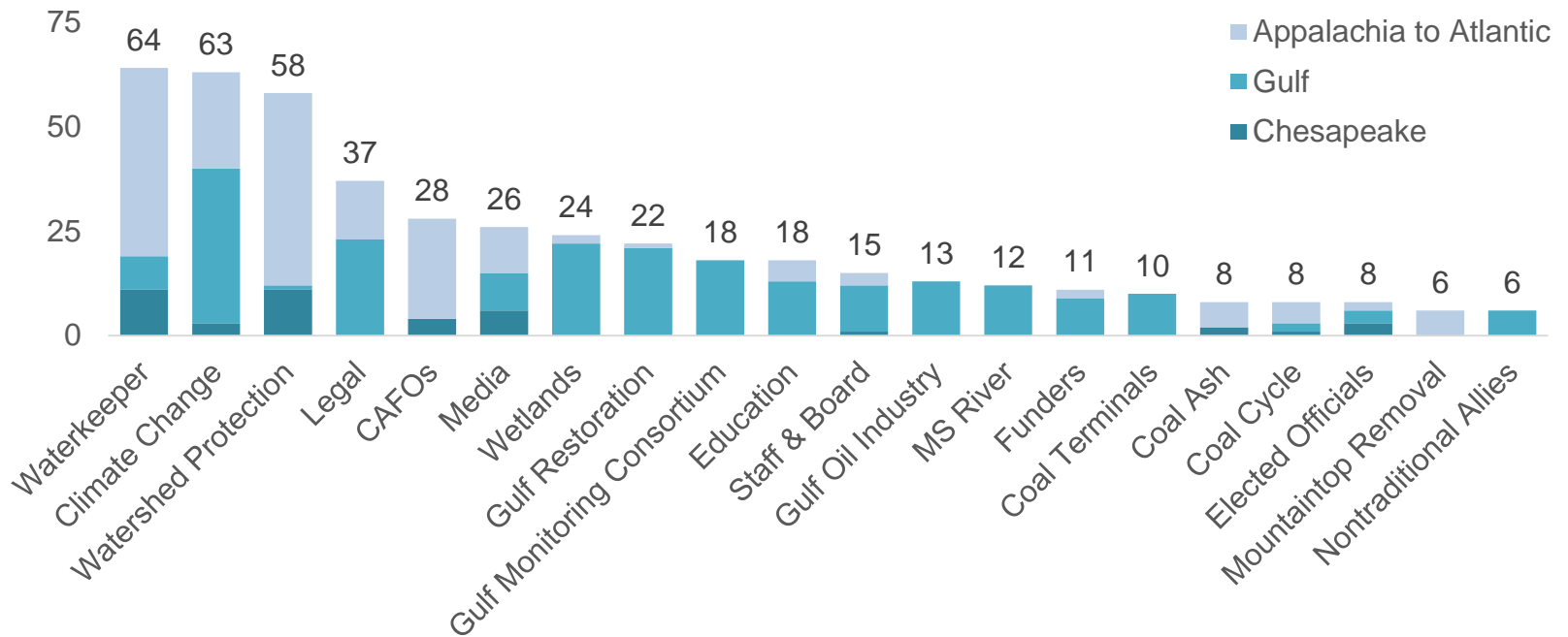
#### **Other VIPs:**

New Orleans Chamber; Blane de St. Croix, artist

Although it varies by program, our partners most often fly to address issues related to watershed protection and climate change.

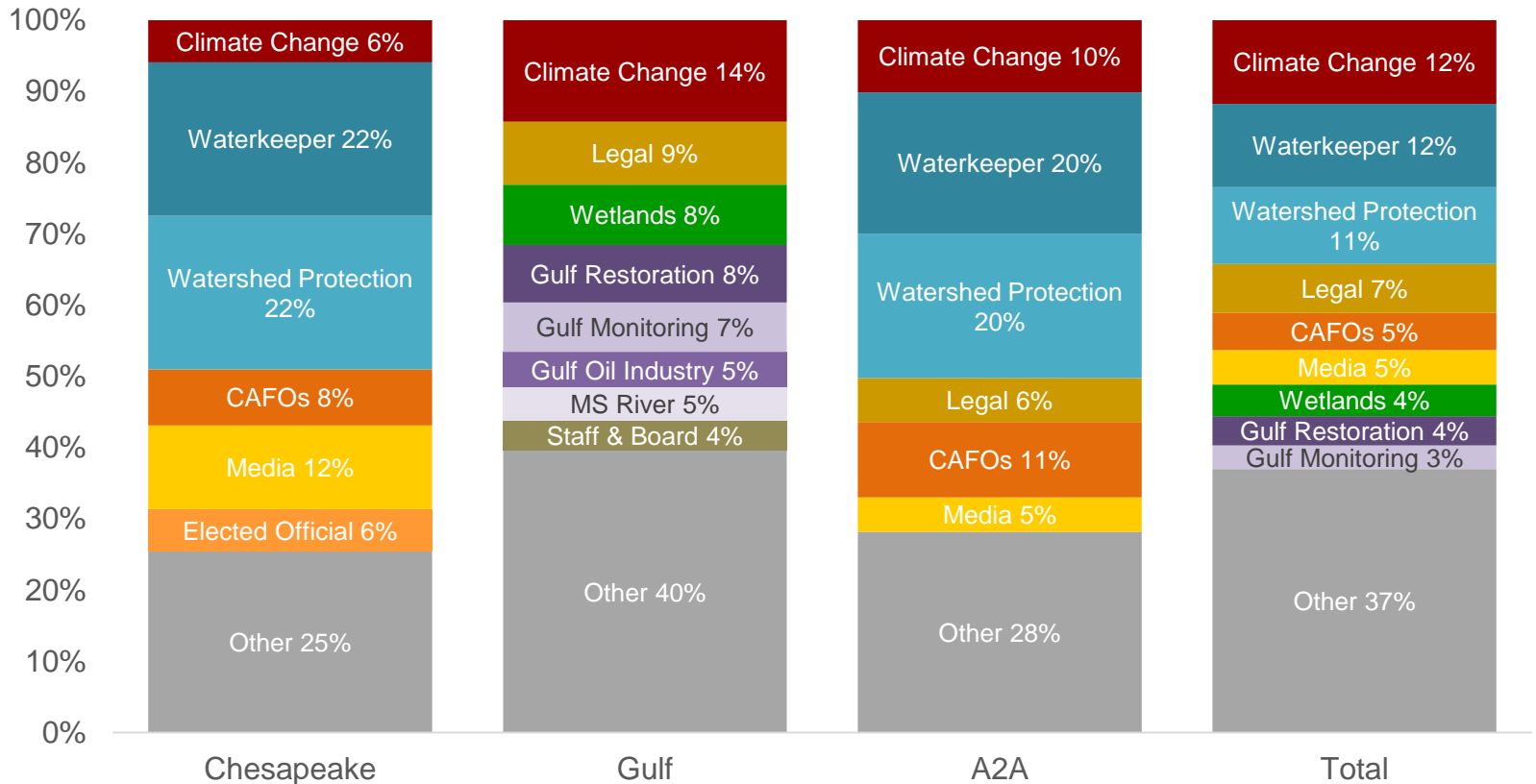
## Number of Flights by Top 20 Issues

- Because SouthWings' partners fly for a myriad of reasons, we capture the purpose of each flight by assigning issues which best identify the purpose and the partners on each flight.
- On average each flight is assigned 3-5 issues.



When normalized, the flight issues in the Chesapeake and Appalachia to Atlantic programs are similar. Although the Gulf program has a unique profile of challenges, climate change is the dominating issue overall.

## Top Issues Flown by Program and Overall



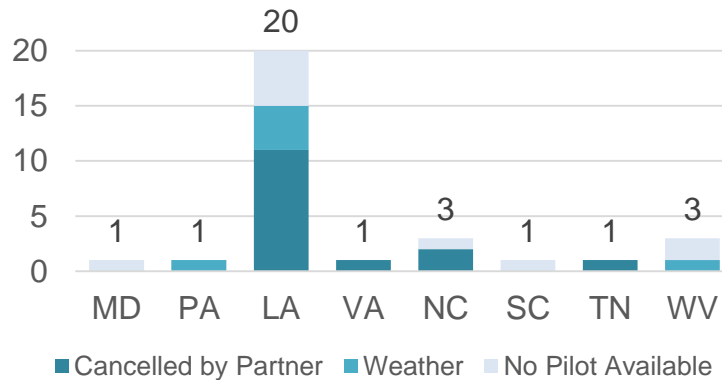
For detail on Other, see Appendix pages 20-21

Each flight is categorized on average with 3-5 issues to catalog the purpose of the flight. In order to determine % depicted above, the number of flights was divided by the number of issues per program and overall in order to normalize each issue.

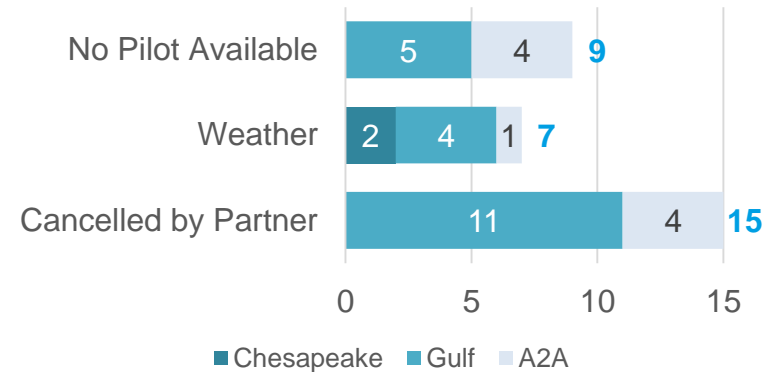
Of the 31 flights that were requested and then cancelled in 2016, the vast majority (48%) were the result of partner cancellation; 29% were the result of pilot unavailability; 23% were cancelled due to inclement weather.

## Cancelled Flights

Flight Cancellations by State, Reason



Flight Cancellations by Reason, Program



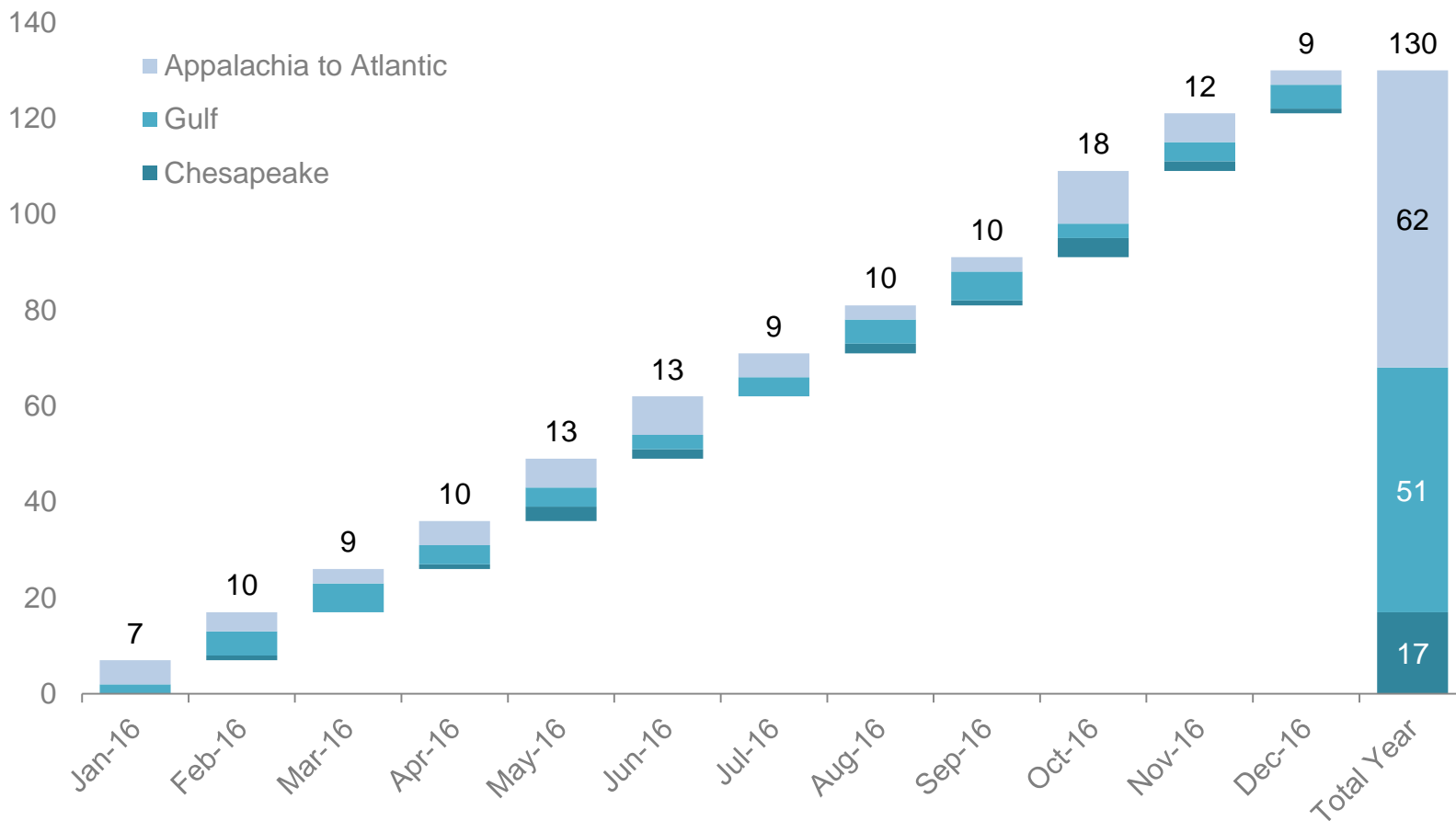
- 65% of cancelled flights occurred in the Gulf, mostly due to partner cancellation
- 29% of cancelled flights occurred in Appalachia to Atlantic, due equally to partner cancellation and pilot unavailability
- 6% of cancelled flights occurred in the Chesapeake due exclusively to weather

Reason	Pilot	Weather	Partner	Total	%
A2A	4	1	4	9	29%
Chesapeake	0	2	0	2	6%
Gulf	5	4	11	20	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	
<b>% of flights</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>48%</b>		

# APPENDIX

October was our busiest month, due in part to an increase in flight requests as a result of Hurricane Matthew; January is historically our slowest month and 2016 was no exception.

## Flights by Month by Program





Flight needs have changed over the last decade; work in states such as LA and MD has grown, while work in other states like KY, TN, and WV has diminished, but our work in most states has remained relatively constant.

## Historical Flights by State (Detail)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
AL	12 8%	22 12%	10 7%	30 21%	43 26%	11 14%	5 9%	14 15%	4 4%	8 7%	7 5%
FL	5 3%	6 3%	15 11%	5 4%	6 4%	2 3%	3 5%	1 1%	3 3%	0 0%	5 4%
GA	11 7%	12 7%	20 14%	16 11%	15 9%	7 9%	5 9%	10 10%	4 4%	4 3%	9 7%
KY	24 15%	15 8%	10 7%	9 6%	11 7%	6 8%	1 2%	2 2%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%
LA	3 2%	9 5%	5 4%	12 9%	27 16%	17 22%	15 27%	23 24%	32 33%	46 38%	46 35%
MD	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	6 5%
MS	0 0%	1 1%	1 1%	1 1%	4 2%	0 0%	0 0%	1 1%	1 1%	3 2%	0 0%
NC	33 21%	32 18%	22 16%	16 11%	23 14%	11 14%	6 11%	21 22%	22 23%	20 17%	36 28%
SC	2 1%	9 5%	4 3%	8 6%	6 4%	2 3%	0 0%	5 5%	6 6%	7 6%	4 3%
TN	14 9%	17 10%	12 9%	8 6%	5 3%	4 5%	4 7%	6 6%	3 3%	2 2%	0 0%
VA	8 5%	11 6%	9 6%	2 1%	5 3%	6 8%	1 2%	4 4%	10 10%	19 16%	11 8%
WV	44 28%	44 25%	31 22%	34 24%	21 13%	12 15%	12 22%	9 9%	10 10%	12 10%	6 5%
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	0 0%	0 0%	2 1%	0 0%	1 1%	0 0%	3 5%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>Total Flights</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>130</b>

1) Other includes flights outside of our normal service territory: 2008 2 flights TX/OH, 2010 1 flight TX/OH, 2012 2 flights TX/OH 1 flight AR