December 2018
Sustainable Fisheries GIT

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration Partnership

Remaining Challenges for Oyster Restoration in 10 Tributaries

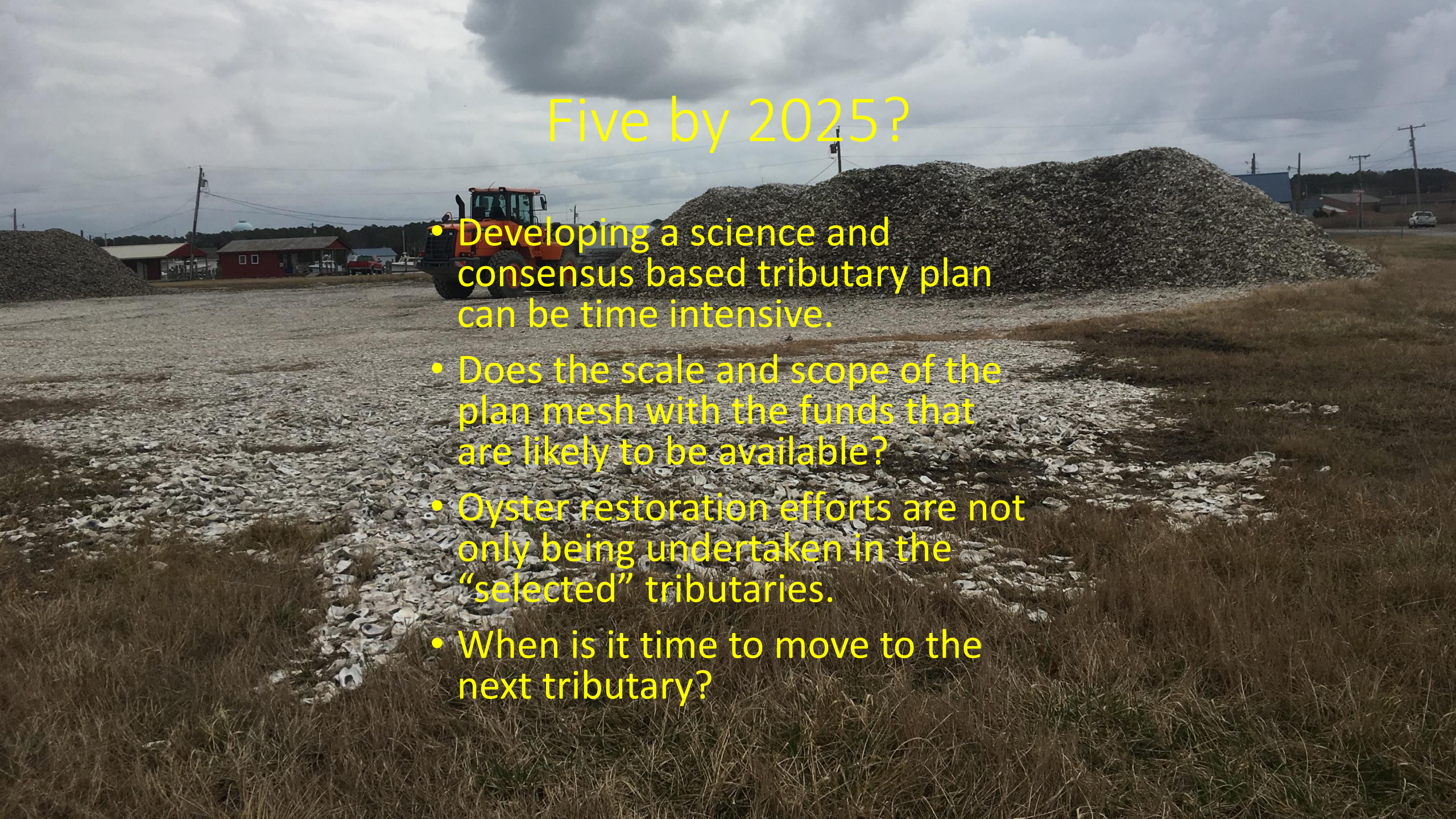
Lessons Learned in Large-Scale Oyster Restoration

(Virginia)

Andrew Button
VMRC

Progress

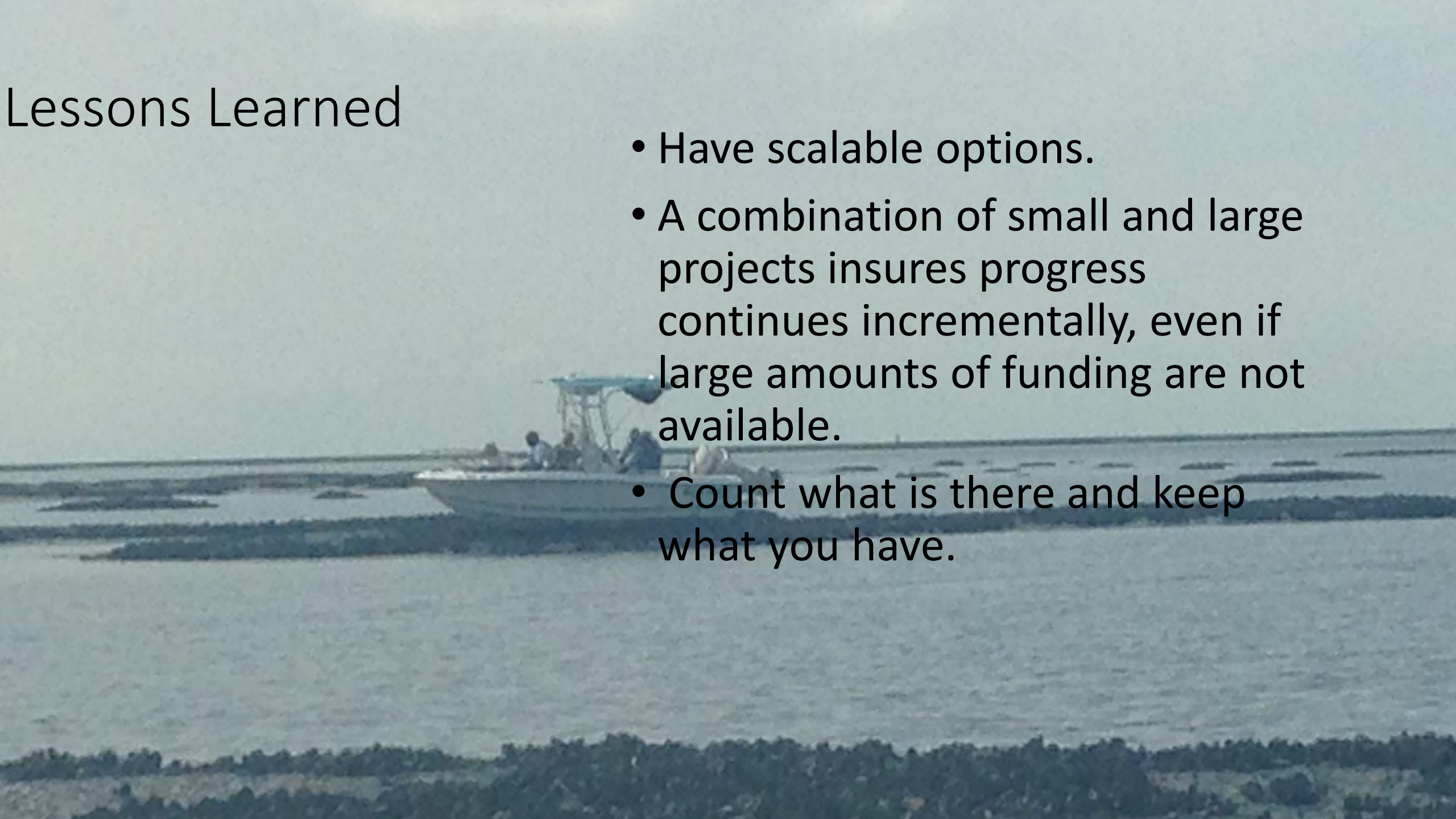
- All five tributaries in Virginia have been selected.
- Construction is complete in one (Lafayette).
- Work groups have developed restoration plans in three out of five.
- Some initial survey work has been conducted in all five.



Five by 2025?

- Developing a science and consensus based tributary plan can be time intensive.
- Does the scale and scope of the plan mesh with the funds that are likely to be available?
- Oyster restoration efforts are not only being undertaken in the “selected” tributaries.
- When is it time to move to the next tributary?

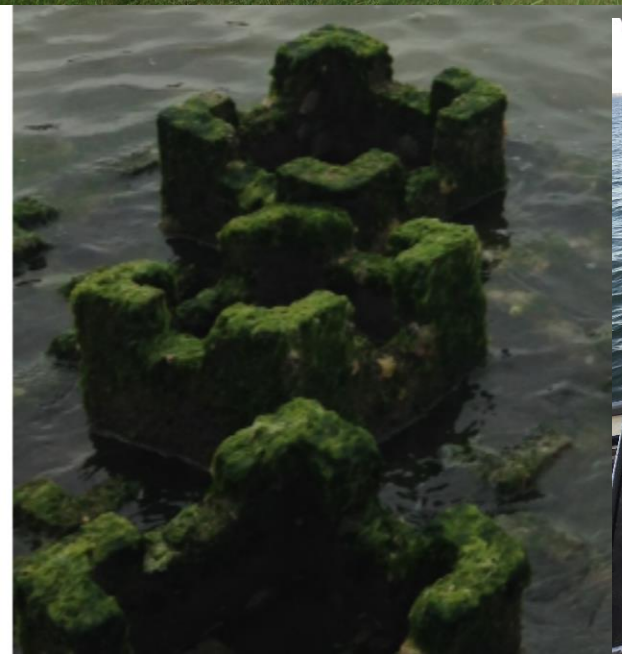
Lessons Learned

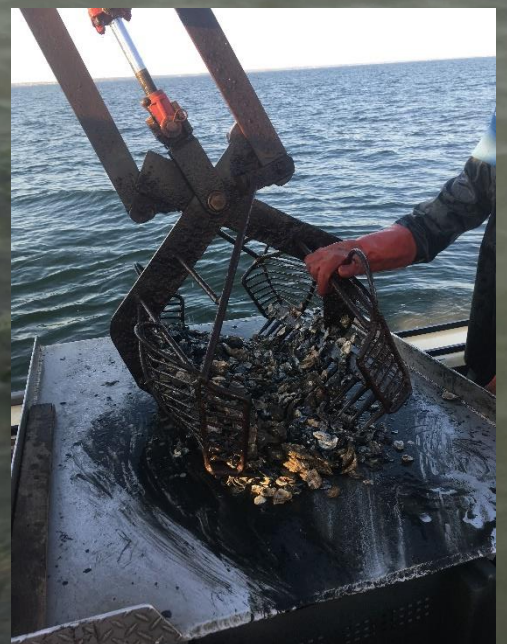


- Have scalable options.
- A combination of small and large projects insures progress continues incrementally, even if large amounts of funding are not available.
- Count what is there and keep what you have.

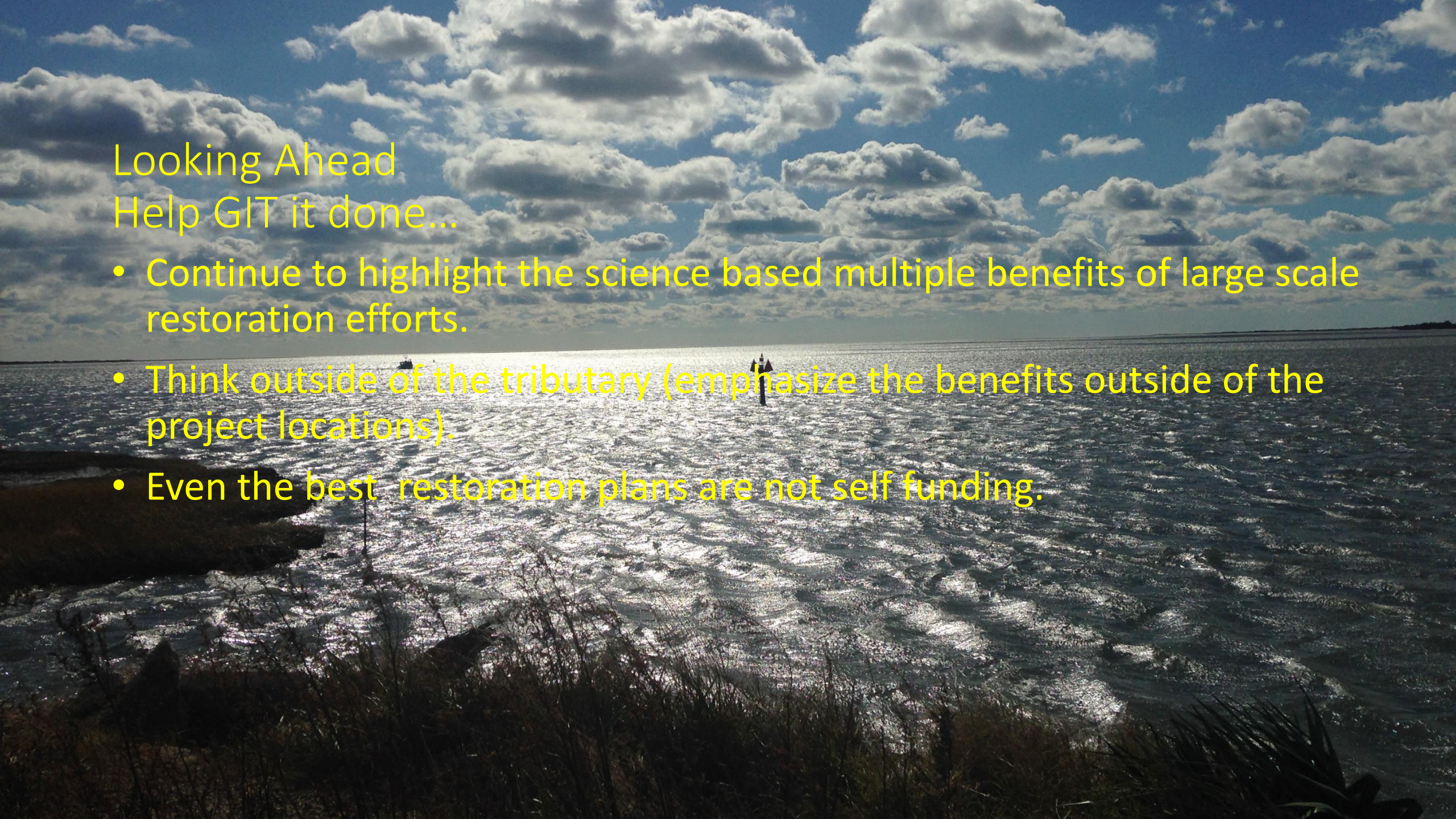
Still Learning…

Substrate Size Matters





- In high energy areas larger substrate may be the best option.
- The larger the substrate the more poaching resistant.
- Bigger is not always better.
- Large substrates can be expensive to deploy.
- Monitoring methods of smaller substrate (crushed stone and shell) are well established.
- Larger substrate monitoring costs can be higher and the methods are not as uniform across projects and tributaries.



Looking Ahead
Help GIT it done…

- Continue to highlight the science based multiple benefits of large scale restoration efforts.
- Think outside of the tributary (emphasize the benefits outside of the project locations).
- Even the best restoration plans are not self funding.

Andrew Button
Head, Conservation and Replenishment
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23607
757 247-2121
andrew.button@mrc.virginia.gov