



OUTCOME: Continually increase finfish and shellfish habitat and water quality benefits from restored oyster populations. Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 and ensure their protection.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The [Oysters Outcome](#) is on course. Three (Harris Creek, Lafayette River and Little Choptank River) of the 10 tributaries scheduled for restoration have been completed and formally recognized as restored. Three more were completed in 2021 (Lynnhaven, Piankatank and Tred Avon rivers) and will be formally recognized later on this year. Planning, financial resources and construction schedules are in place for the remaining four tributaries (Great Wicomico, Manokin, Lower York and Upper St. Mary's rivers). Additionally, the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Virginia has been restored to the same standard as the original ten tributaries. This outcome is expected to be met by 2025.

BACKGROUND: The [Executive Order 13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) included a goal to restore oyster populations in 20 tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. In response to this goal, the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team established the Oyster Metrics Workgroup to develop common Bay-wide restoration goals, success metrics and monitoring and assessment protocols for sanctuary reefs including progress toward achieving a sustainable oyster population and ultimately increasing levels of ecosystem services. Based on experience with current restoration implementation and resource availability, experts determined that an outcome of restoring native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 was a more appropriate goal to include in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

BASELINE: One tributary (Harris Creek) had been identified, but not yet restored, for large-scale oyster restoration by the time the most recent *Watershed Agreement* was signed in 2014.

DATA SOURCE: The Maryland and Virginia Oyster Restoration Interagency Teams are responsible for developing Oyster Restoration Tributary Plans for each waterway, in consultation with partners and scientists. These plans have been developed for all 10 selected tributaries and include information such as target reef acreage to be constructed and project costs.

Restoration is documented in annual reports developed by the Maryland and Virginia Oyster Restoration Interagency Teams and produced the auspices of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team.