



Oyster Outcome

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

Goal: *Sustainable Fisheries*

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.*

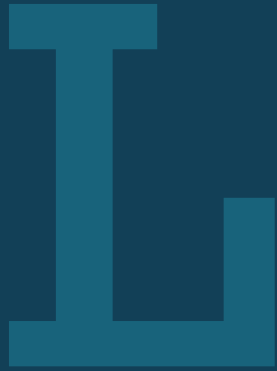




How You Can Help



- Maryland funding plans are in place to achieve 2025 outcome
- Virginia funding gap remains
- Funding and state support are critical to move forward at the rate needed to achieve outcome
- Applaud GIT approval of restoration and aquaculture BMPs and encourage their use



Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?



Successes and Challenges



Restored reef in Harris Creek



Oyster restoration works

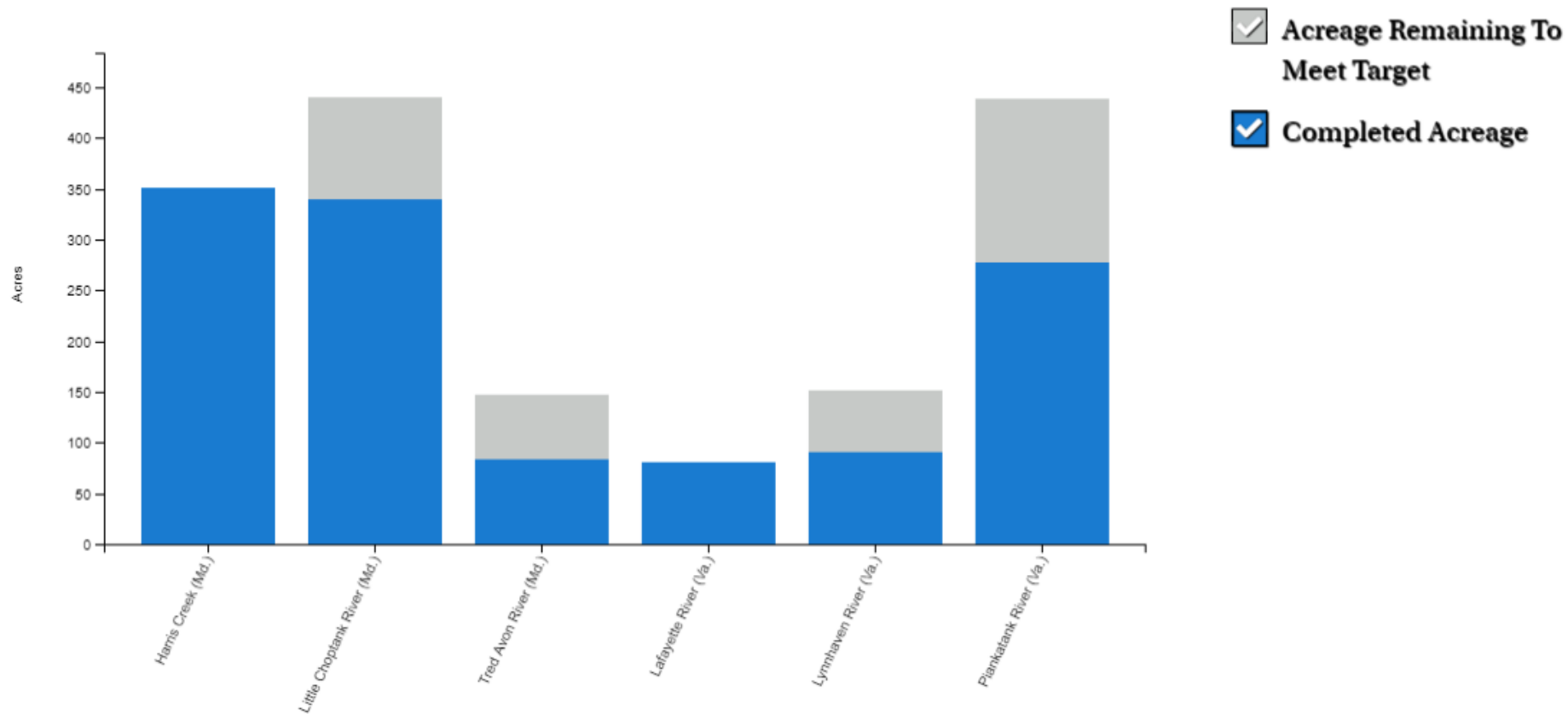
- Ecosystem services returned from Harris Creek
- Celebrate success stories

Restoration is expensive

- GIT project helped to reduce monitoring costs
- VA experiments with reef height
- Low salinity impacted oysters in 2018-2019

Oyster Reef Restoration (2018)

Individual acreage targets are based on a tributary's historic oyster habitat and currently restorable area. The Upper St. Mary's, Manokin, Great Wicomico, and Lower York rivers will be added to this chart once their target acreages are established.





On the Horizon

Oyster BMP Expert Panel report in progress with recommendations for crediting restoration

- Moving forward implementation through the WIP process
- Comprehensive oyster planning

Strategy for funding oyster restoration

A large, stylized, blue letter 'A' is centered on a dark blue background. The letter has a thick, blocky font with a slight shadow effect. The background is divided into horizontal bands of color: a dark blue band at the top, a medium blue band in the middle, and a light green band at the bottom.

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



**Based on what we
learned, we plan to ...**



Emphasis on continued construction and monitoring of existing reefs

- **Need to build more reefs more rapidly to meet the 2025 goal**
- **Groundwork is already in place**
- **Restoration planning continues**



Help

*How can the Management Board
lead the Program to adapt?*



Help Needed

The major barrier to success is funding

We need continued commitment from both Maryland and Virginia to be successful

Applaud GIT approval of restoration and aquaculture BMPs and encourage their use

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING

Chesapeake Bay Program



Discussion



Oyster planting in Lafayette River