Oyster Outcome

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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

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.
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
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?
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
Discussion

Oyster planting in Lafayette River