# DRAFT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OYSTER RESTORATION

# 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.

# CURRENT EFFORTS

- Six tributaries have been selected for tributary-scale oyster restoration. Each of the selected tributaries, listed below, are at different levels of progress in the general approach for completing restoration.
  - Maryland: Harris Creek, Little Choptank River, Tred Avon River
  - Virginia: Lafayette River, Lynnhaven River, Piankatank River
- Federal agencies and local organizations have led many smaller-scale oyster restoration efforts over the past few decades in both Maryland and Virginia.
   Some of these past projects in Virginia are being evaluated to determine if they meet the Oyster Metrics criteria for a restored reef.

### GAPS

- While six tributaries have already been selected, the Maryland and Virginia Interagency workgroups need to select, plan, and implement restoration treatments in four additional tributaries to work toward the outcome of 10 tributaries.
- The Restoration process and monitoring funds are heavily reliant upon available federal, state and other partner funds over the long term.
- Restoration funds for the future are not guaranteed.
   Partners will continue to work collaborative to plan for future restoration activities and document the results of current efforts.

### MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

General approach for implementing tributary-scale restoration:

- Restoration Planning and Implementation—the exact process will vary by state and tributary. The generalize approach to tributary-scale restoration planning and implementation is:
  - Tributary selection process and considerations
  - Data collection
  - Set acreage target
  - Develop plan
  - Implementation
  - Track progress, monitor and manage adaptively
- Secure Support and Resources
- Future Protection
  - Long-term protection is a priority for restoration partners. Enforcement against poaching is crucial to protecting the restoration investment and to allow the oyster population and habitat to increase in those areas.
- Engagement/communication with local communities

  Outreach and communication with local communities, especially near restoration sites
- Water quality and land use impacts on oyster restoration success
- Focus on cross-outcome collaboration and multiple benefits, specifically on water quality, climate change and citizen stewardship.

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For the full draft management strategy, visit: <a href="https://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies">www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies</a>