

*Annual Update on*

# **Oyster Restoration Progress**

*toward the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

*'Ten Tributaries by 2025' Oyster Outcome*

Presenters:

**Andrew Button, VMRC**

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*on behalf of the*

*MD and VA Interagency Oyster Restoration Workgroups  
of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team*

Partners include:

*Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

*Christopher Newport University*

*City of Norfolk*

*City of Virginia Beach*

*CSX*

*Elizabeth River Project*

*Lynnhaven River NOW*

*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

*National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

*The Nature Conservancy*

*Oyster Recovery Partnership*

*The Pew Charitable Trusts*

*Pleasure House Oysters/Ludford Brothers Oyster Company*

*University of Maryland*

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*Virginia Commonwealth University*

*Virginia Institute of Marine Science*

*Virginia Marine Resources Commission*

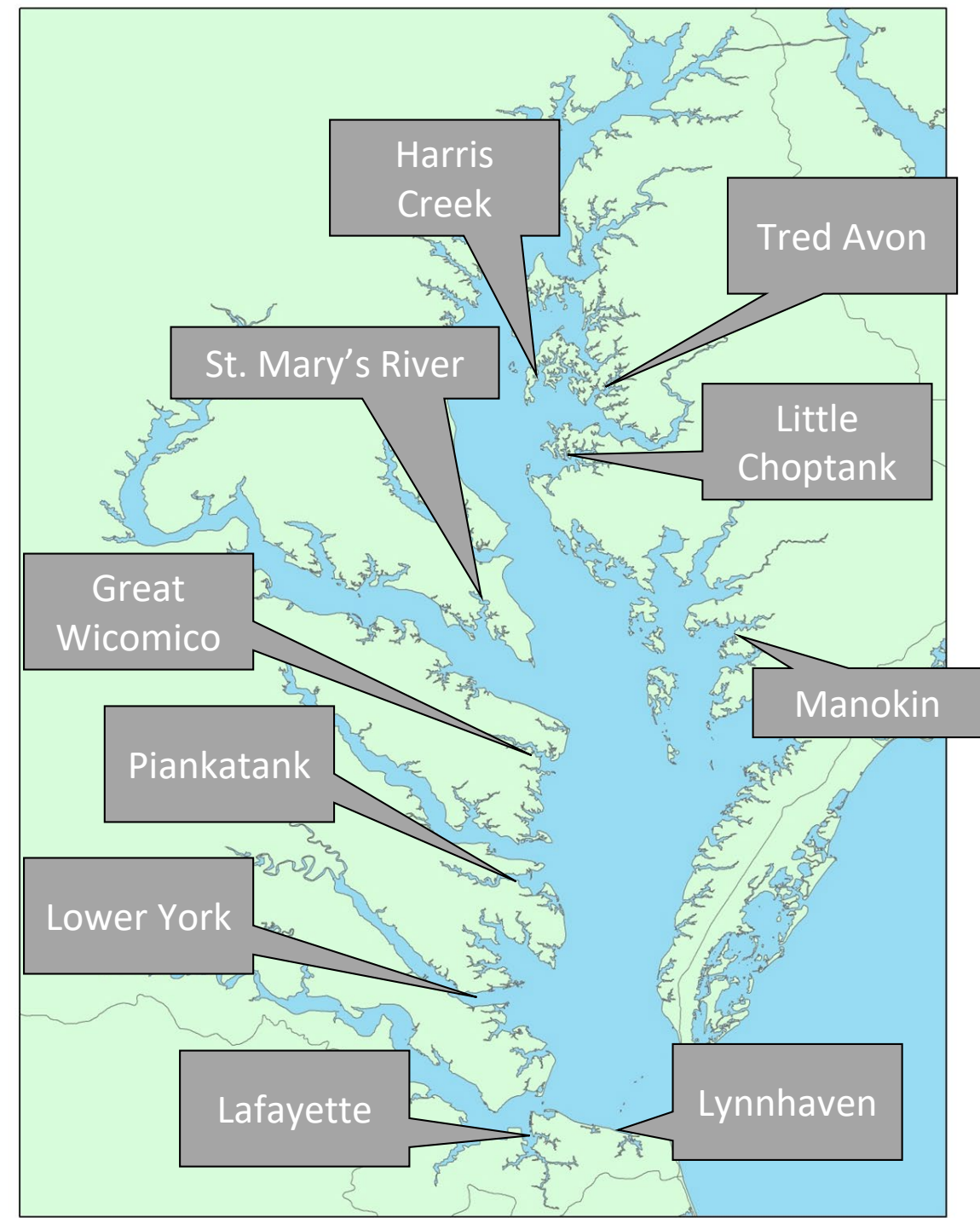


## Bay-Wide Progress toward the '10 Tributaries' Outcome

Planning: 100% complete

- Ten tributaries selected.
- Ten Blueprints (restoration plans) completed.

All numbers are DRAFT.





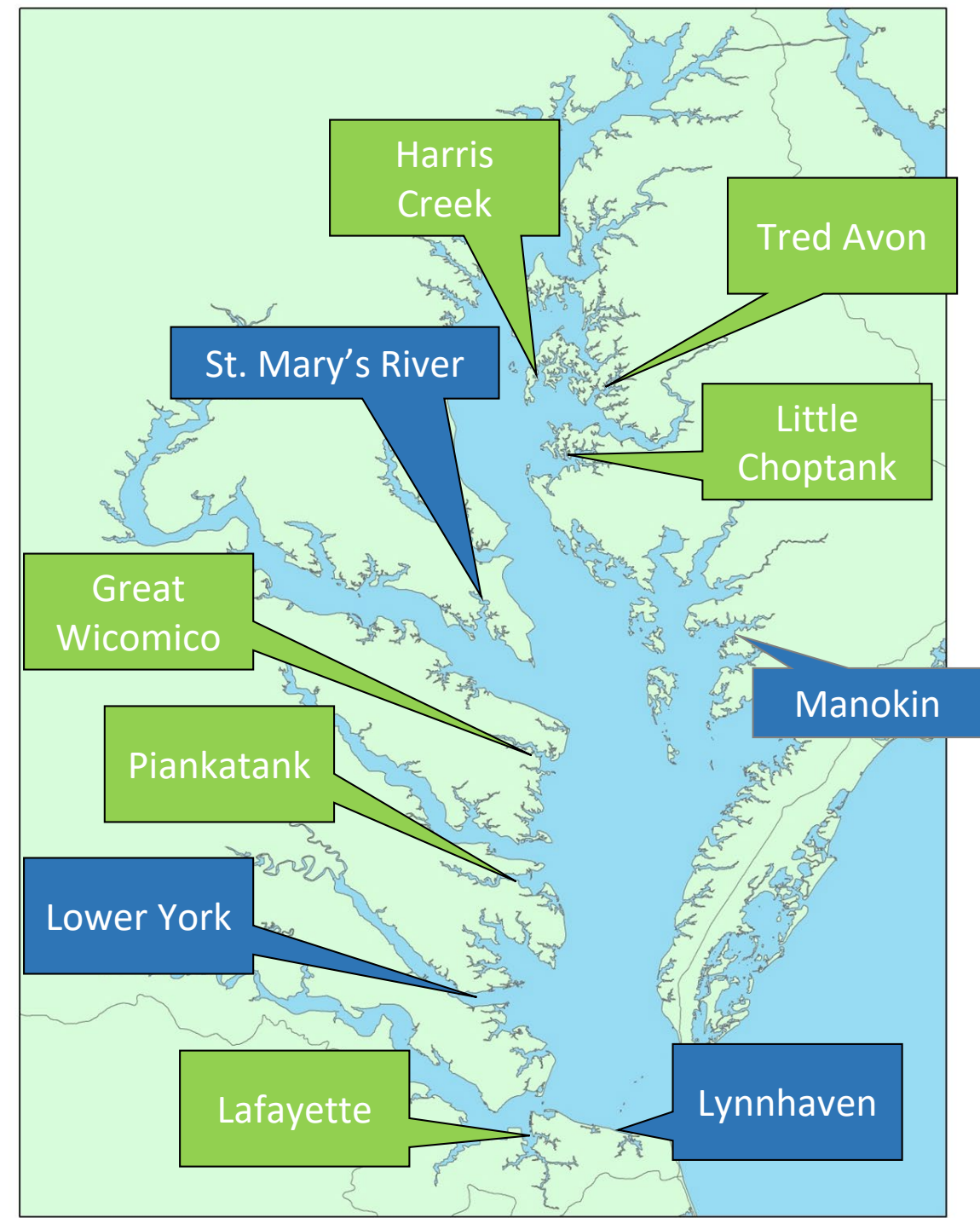
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- In-water restoration work is ongoing in the remaining four tributaries



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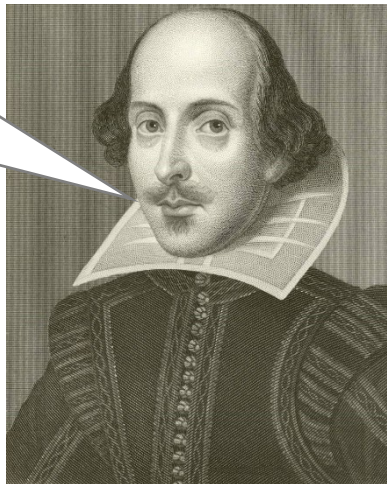
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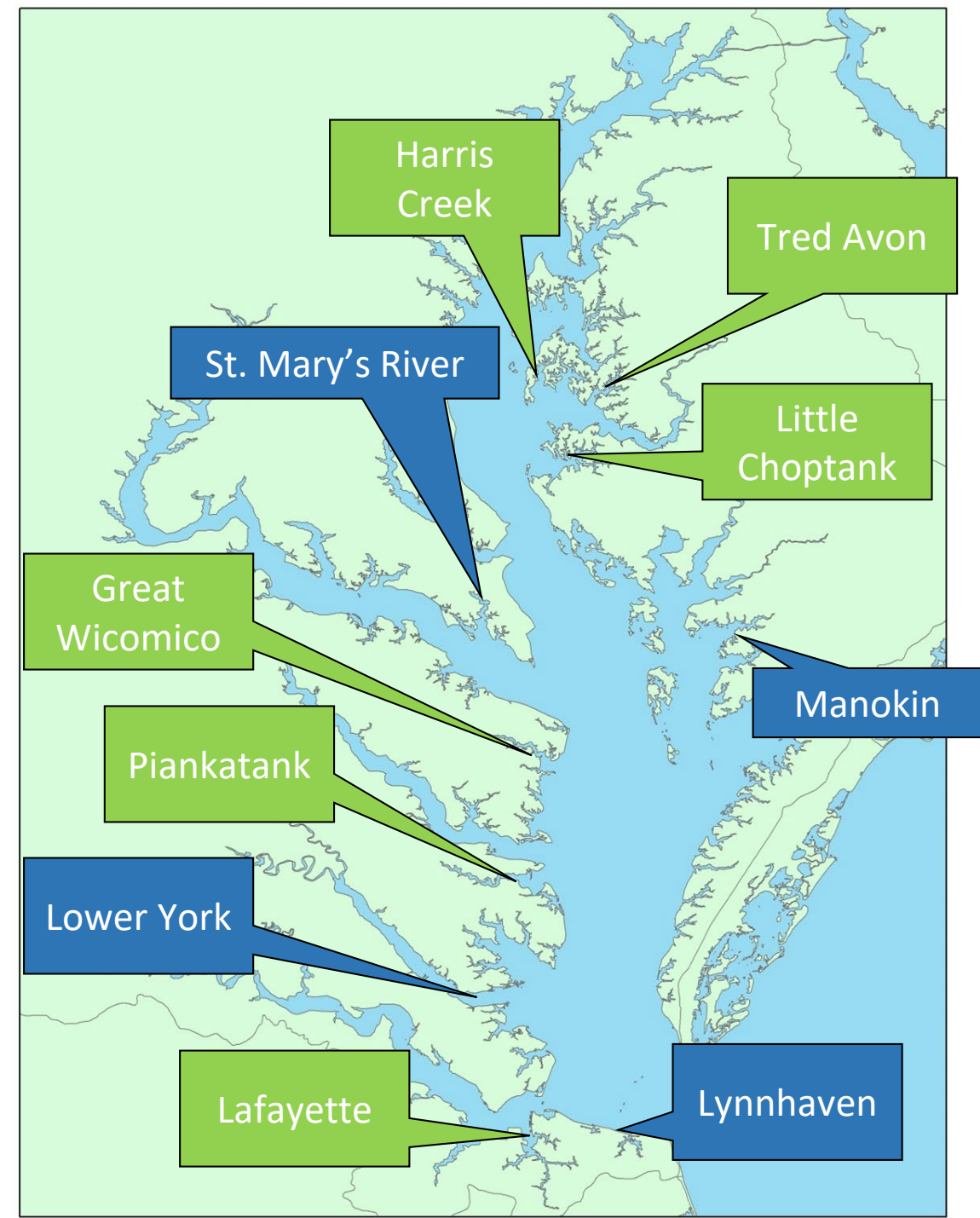
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An acre by any other name....

Are you seriously  
not using that  
'the world's mine  
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A Synopsis of Research on the Ecosystem  
Services Provided by Large-Scale Oyster  
Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay  
<https://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/TMOHC8.pdf>



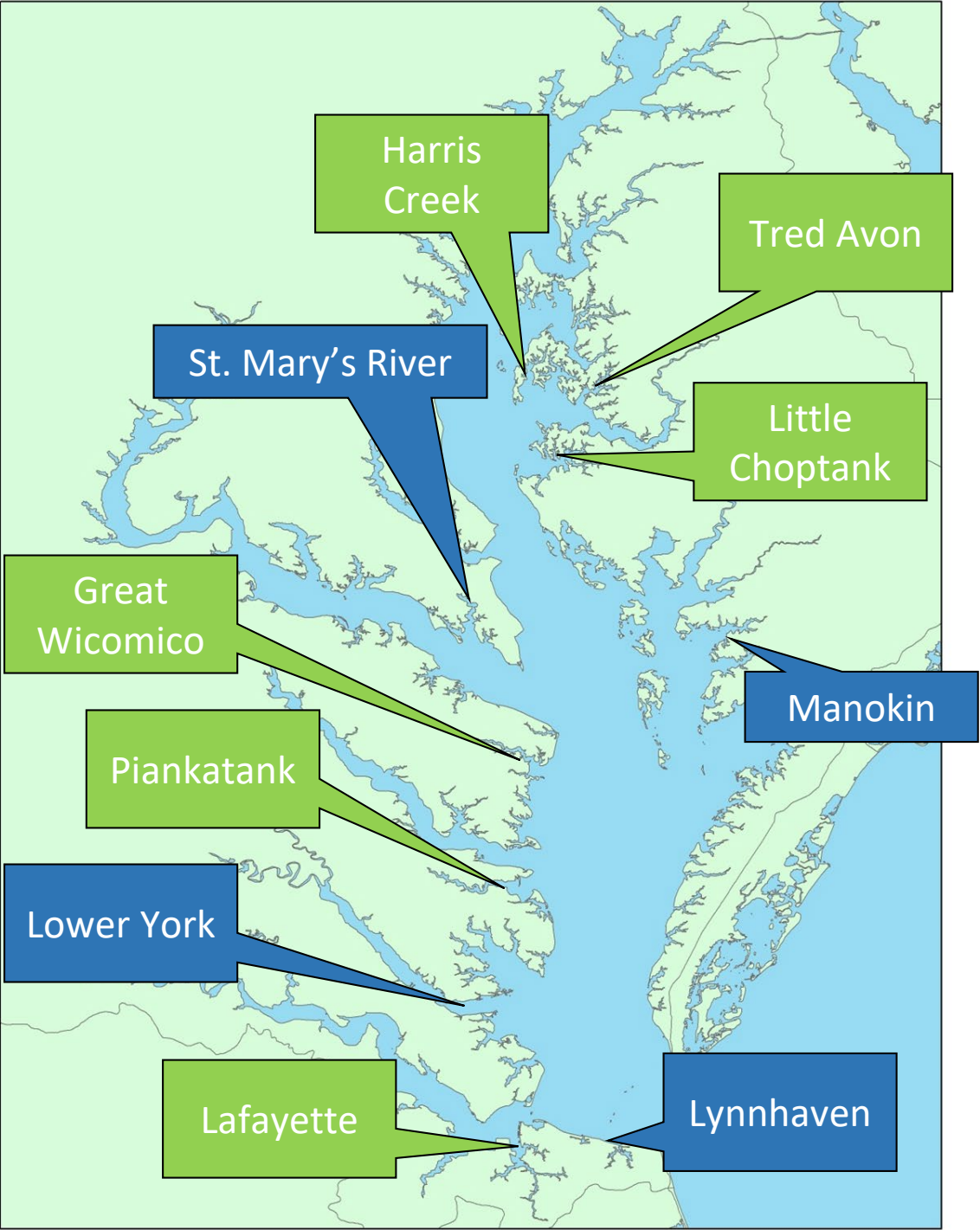
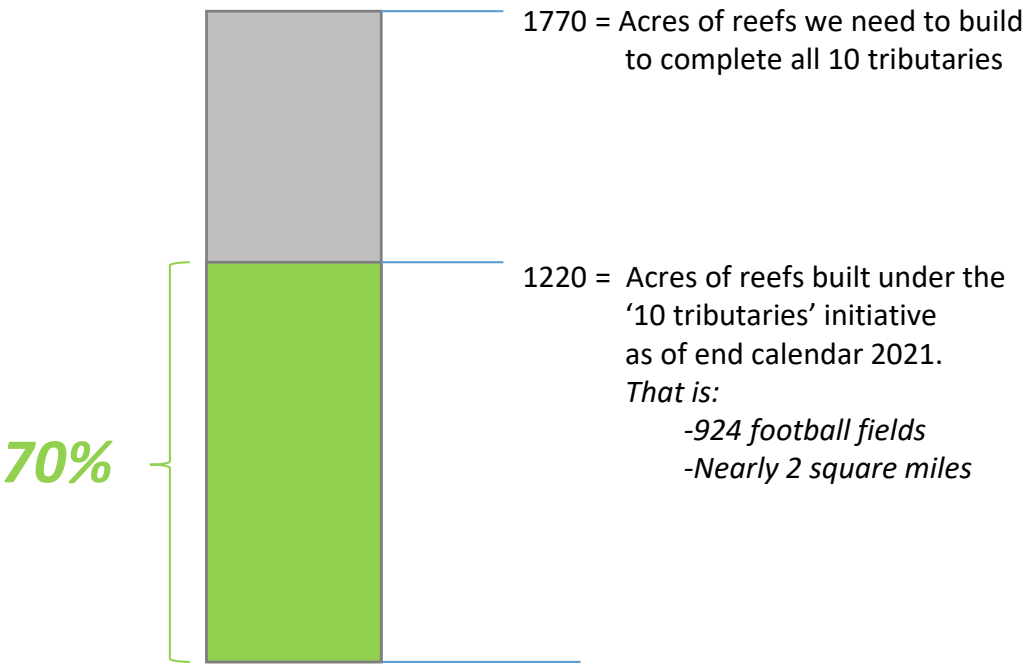
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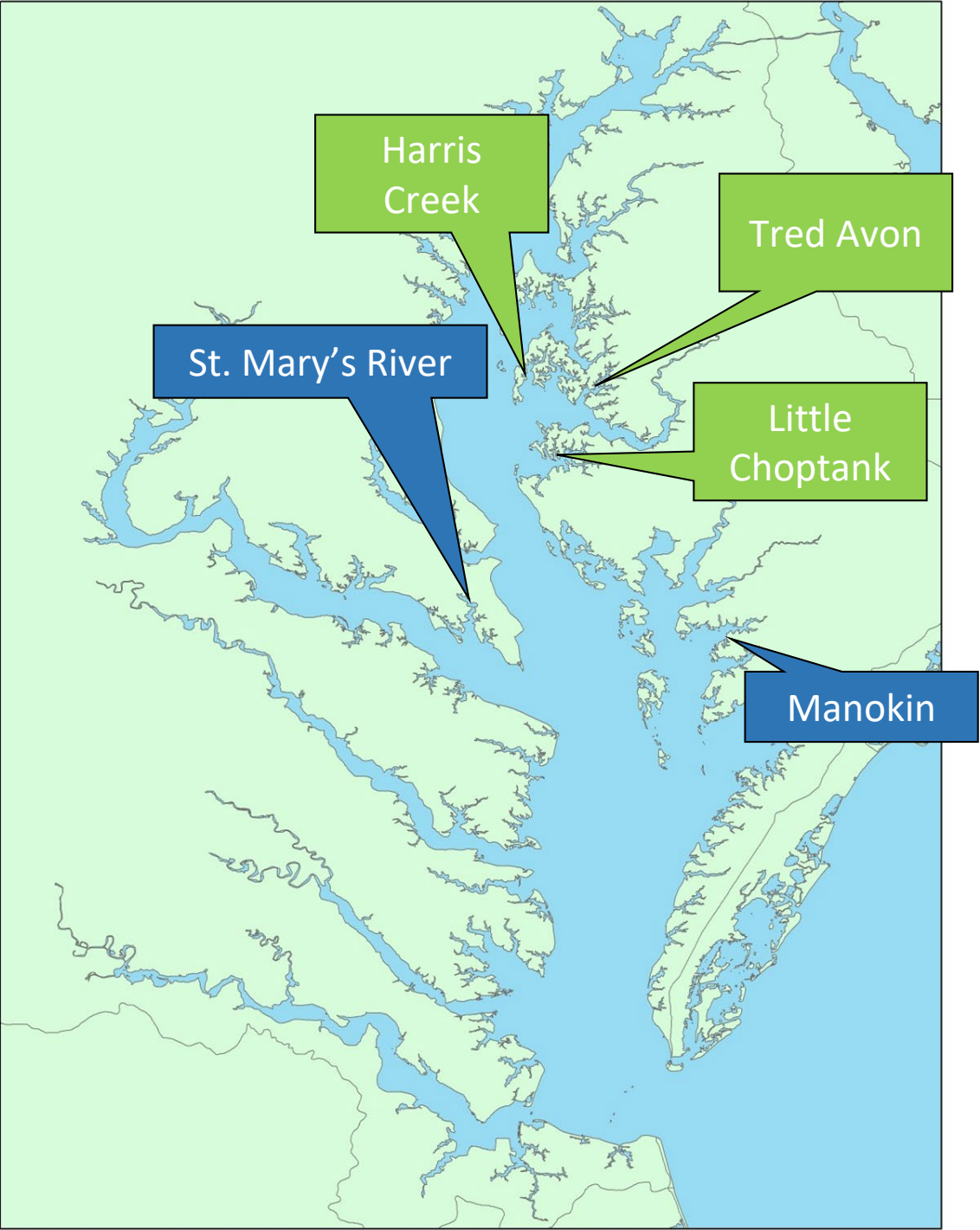
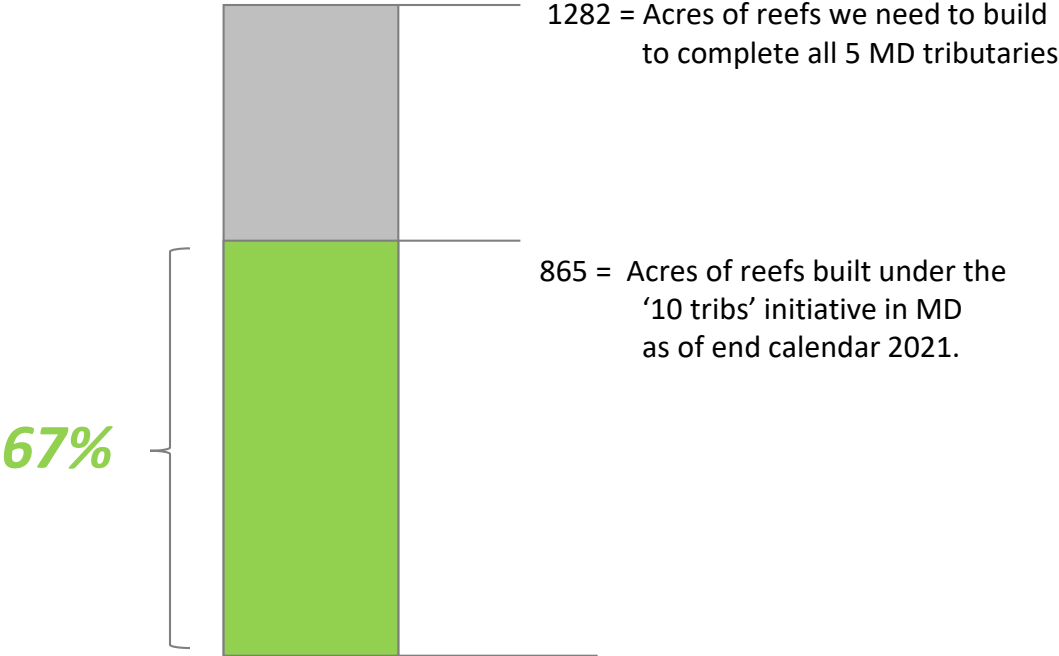
# MD Summary

## By Number of Tributaries:

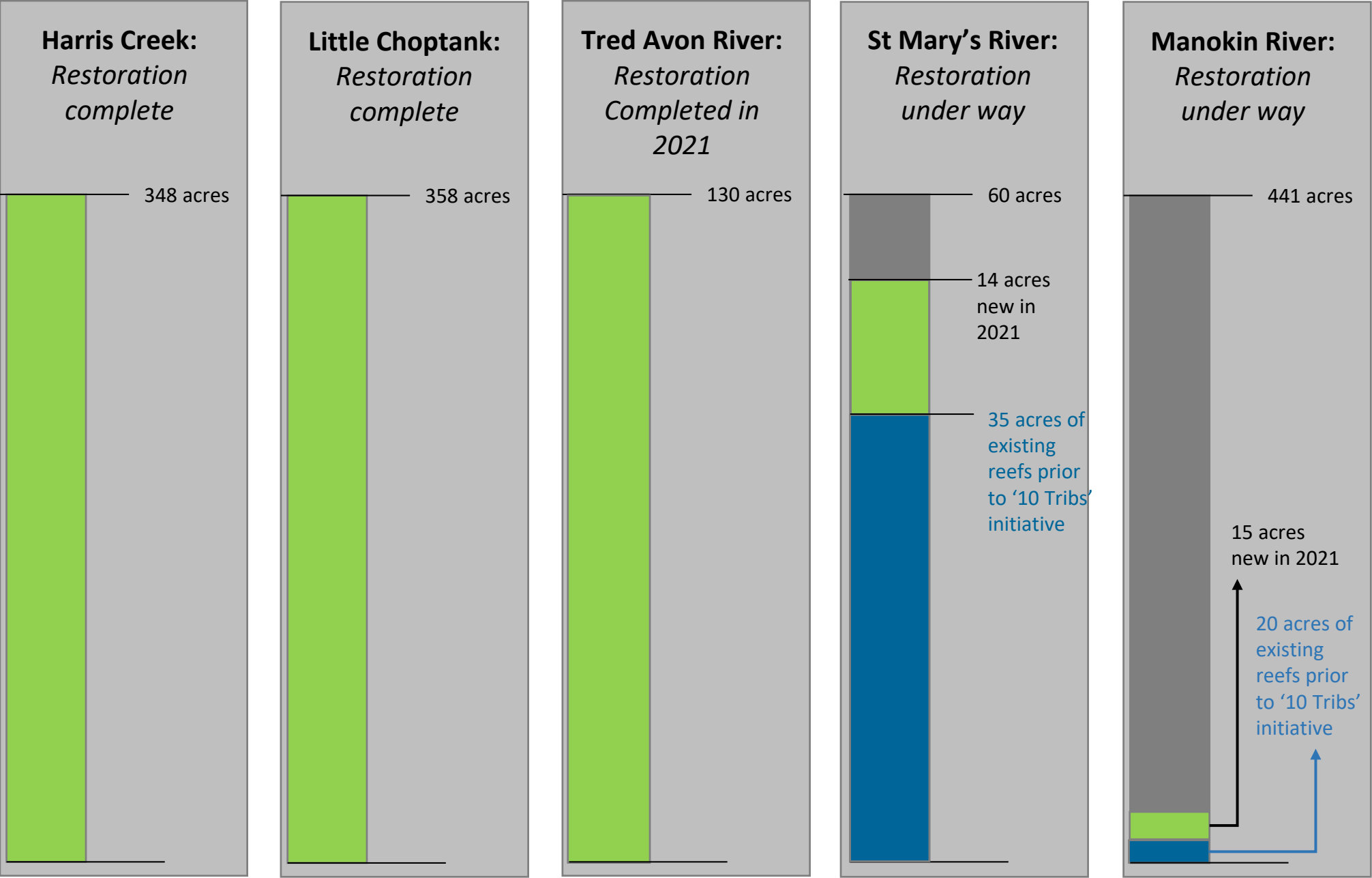
- 60% complete (3 of 5 complete)
- St Mary's: slated for 2022 completion
- Manokin: slated for 2025 completion

## By Acres in Need of Restoration:

- 67% complete  
(865 of 1282 in need of restoration are complete)



MD Summary by Tributary:





## MD Highlights and Challenges

### Highlights

- Good natural spat set in 2021- including in Tred Avon, which is a lower natural recruitment area
- Completed Tred Avon River
- Reef substrate placement complete in St Mary's– remaining oyster plantings should be complete in 2022.
- ORP Bay Paddle returned this year as a team relay
  - nearly 100 people participated in the 8 day journey from Havre de Grace, MD to VA Beach
  - proceeds were split between ORP and the Chesapeake Conservancy (funding used to seed Severn River reefs)
- U of MD Horn Point Hatchery produced nearly 700 million spat-on-shell for the five MD restoration sanctuaries.

### Challenges:

- Opposition from wild harvest industry
- Manokin is the largest tributary yet in terms of acreage.



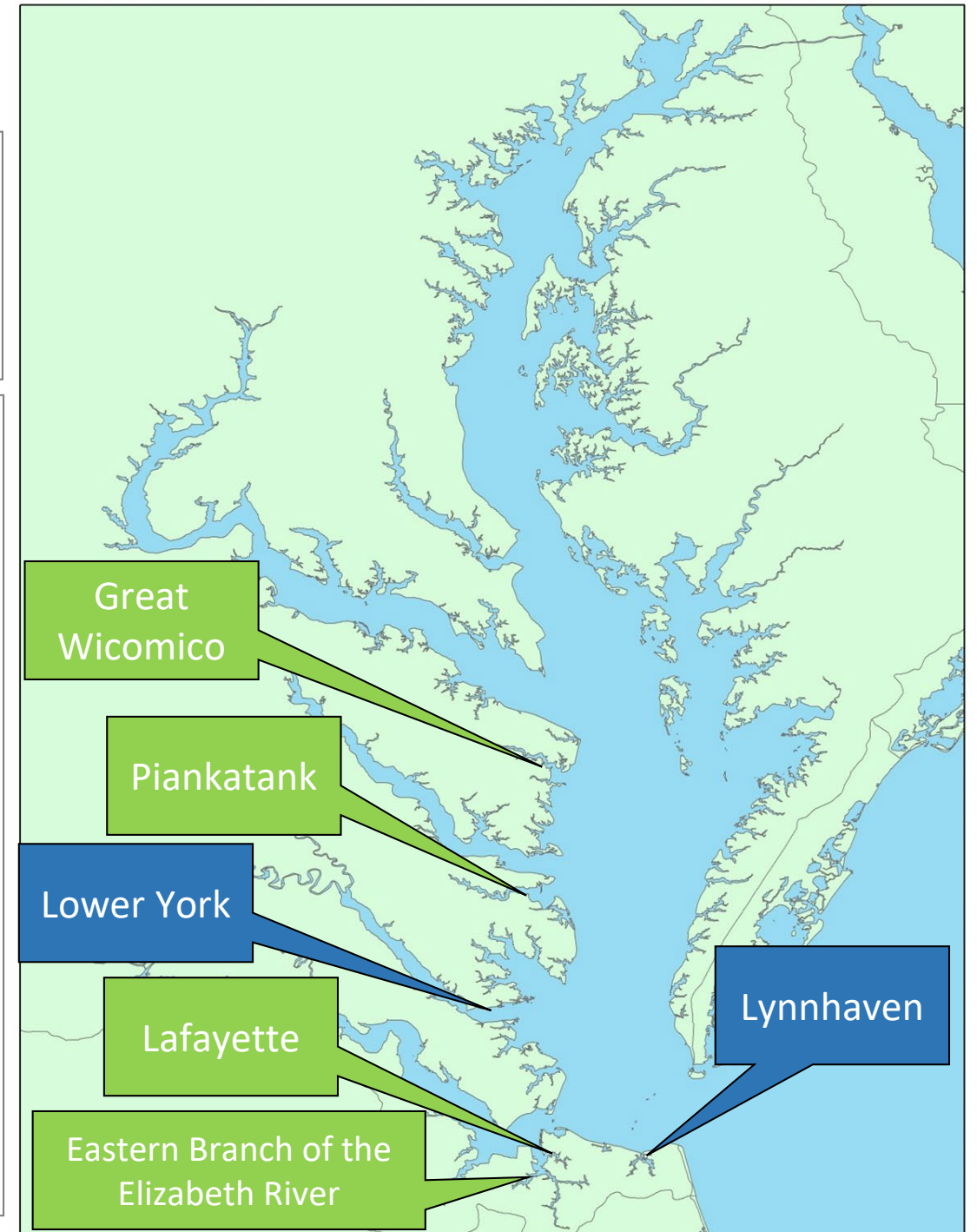
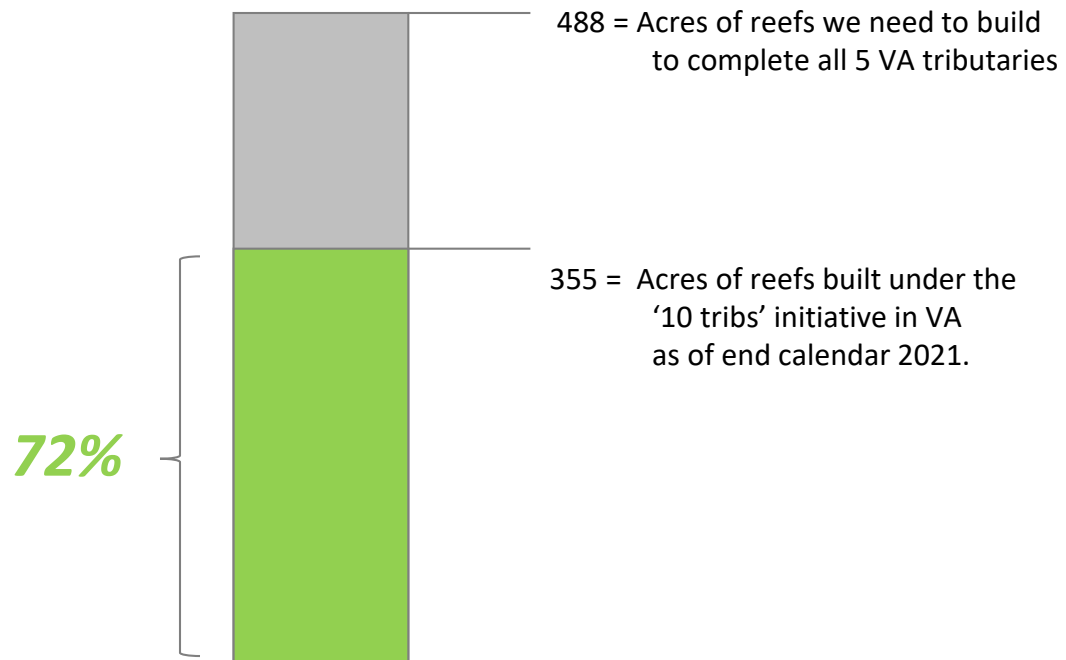
## VA Summary

### Progress by Number of Tributaries:

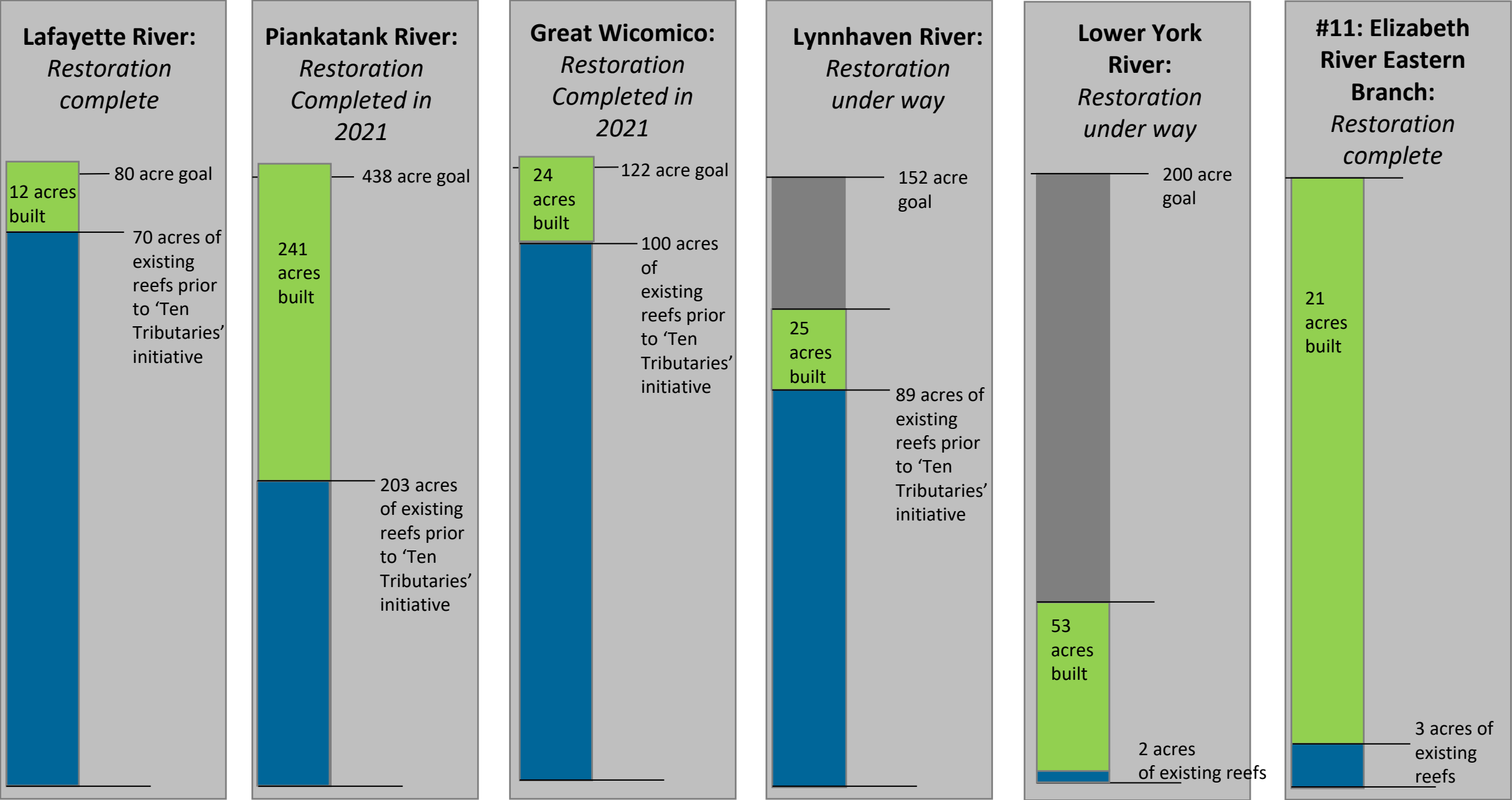
- 60% complete (3 of 5 complete)
- Lower York: slated for 2022 completion
- Lynnhaven: slated for completion by 2025

### Progress by Acres in Need of Restoration:

- 72% complete  
(355 of 488 in need of restoration are complete)



VA Summary by Tributary:



## VA Highlights and Challenges:



Gov. Northam places substrate onto a reef in the Piankatank River.

*photo: @governorVA*

### Highlights

- Completed two tribs in 2021 (Piankatank and Great Wicomico); Gov. Northam attended the celebration event.
- 30% of the '10 tribs' acreage in VA was constructed in 2021.
- Funding is in place to finish construction in the two remaining tribs (Lower York and Lynnhaven).
- Construction progress was made in both the Lower York and Lynnhaven, both are on track for completion by 2025 or earlier.

### Challenges

- Opposition to some proposed projects, by other user groups (ex: boating public, adjacent private lease holders, waterfront property owners, watermen).
- "Final Mile Delivery"- as targets are almost reached, the last remaining acreage may become more difficult and/or expensive per acre of restoration on some tributaries.



## Bay-Wide Highlights and Challenges



### Highlights

- Three tribs completed in 2021: Tred Avon, Piankatank, Great Wicomico.
- Partnerships remain strong and are a key element
- Monitoring shows success across the vast majority of three-year-old and six-year-old reefs.
- This effort remains a national and international example of large-scale restoration success.
- Infrastructure funding-- TBD

### Challenges

- People don't seem to know about this
- This is expensive. \$76+ million spent Bay wide under the '10 tribs' initiative (in-water restoration cost).
- Monitoring- likely could be streamlined
- The fickle nature of mother nature.
- Not every acre of every project will be a success.
- Need better inclusivity, and to better serve EJ communities
- What's next in oyster restoration?





For more detailed information:

## **2021 MD and VA Annual Updates**

*To be posted after receiving GIT input on this presentation, at [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/publications-archive/maryland and virginia oyster restoration interagency teams](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/publications-archive/maryland%20and%20virginia%20oyster%20restoration%20interagency%20teams)*

*(Also use this link to access all restoration Blueprints, technical reports, past Annual Updates, etc)*