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**Maryland Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes**

March 18 2024, 9:30am-12:30pm

-Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting

-Shout out to DNR for this [great piece on oyster restoration](https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2024/03/07/marylands-oyster-restoration-sanctuaries-show-promising-signs-for-shellfish-recovery/)

-All-but-finished 2023 Annual Update review. Stephanie and Andrew Button (VMRC) will be presenting this info to the Fish GIT on Wednesday.

-Manokin spat study update and discussion

* Miss Kay may be in the water soon; DNR will check
* DNR has sampling design done, and sample locations defined

-2023 monitoring data

-Planning for 2024 seeding season

* Hatchery will start spawning next week; seedings should start mid-to-late April.
* per previous discussions, these are the planting priorities, in order from highest to lowest:
  + Manokin seed-only – avoid sites near MN 84 & MN 85 until construction is complete
  + Manokin substrate & seed – pending results from spat study (to allow for results of the spat study to inform these plantings)
  + Tred reseed from 2021 (one site only)
  + Little Choptank reseed from 2022 (6 sites)
  + Tred & Little Choptank reseed from 2023 (7 sites- 1 in Tred, rest in LC)
  + Manokin study sites (if needed)
* Pending results of Manokin spat study, these will be the planting densities for Manokin:
  + For SO sites with average pre-restoration density < 25 oysters/m2, plant at 4M SOS/acre
  + For SO sites with avg. pre-restoration density >= 25 oysters/m2, plant at 3M SOS/acre
  + For all constructed (SS) sites, plant at 3M SOS/acre

-Planning for fall 2024 monitoring

* Consider having our next workgroup meeting focus on this

-Harris Retrospective:

* Standing agenda item should be check in on Harris retrospective
* Team Action item - each member review existing draft in full to enable a final draft/edit to start in June (once monitoring work is complete)
* What will final product look like?  What will review process need to be? Working assumption may be that this will be a peer-reviewed publication, likely targeting Restoration Ecology as the journal. But need to talk with the full team next meeting.

-St Marys:

* St Marys meets goal reefs need monitoring years- Jennica has draft assigned them- stephanie to review, and get them into the geodatabase. (St Marys reef due to 3 year in fall 2024).
* St Marys reef balls will be placed into St Marys this year by CBF and CCA. This group won’t monitor them.
* St Marys control- one of them was leased; what do we do with this? We knew this was a possibility when we laid out the controls; plan was to just lose that control reefs if the lease was let; so now we should just go down to tow controls. Have Paco make note in geodatabase that this happened; is no longer a control.

-Other business and updates

* NOAA & ORP will meet to go over monitoring year modifications based on the ‘last’ 2nd year class plantings, and related geodatabase edits needed.