



Maryland Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

March 17, 2025, 9:30am-12:30pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/nom-mebz-scp>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-588-0258 PIN: 876 171 300#

Agenda & Notes:

- Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting
- Reminder that all workgroup meetings, Blueprints, reports, annual updates, etc, are posted [here](#).
- Two recent analyses of sanctuary reef restoration economic impact : [here](#) and [here](#).
- Table below-- did we make the necessary corrections? And this is why we should have a [geodatabase correction log!](#)
 - Make sure that any Manokin sites that now won't need initial seedings are marked as such in the geodatabase.
- Hatchery update: how do things look? Spawning will happen next week; this week is UMD spring break; similar timeline as past years; late April/ early May is projected time for first seeding- similar to past years.
- Review Sarah's list of planting priorities- see email Feb 28. ORP asks that all partners review it to double-check that it reflects priorities and that all sites are listed.
- Review the draft MD section of the 2024 annual update. GIT report-out is March 25, but we just need big-picture numbers for that, not a final document.

-Reminder: new GDB changes needed log is here.

-Fall 2024 monitoring data summary. Of 61 total reefs monitored, 2 failed metrics (STM and LC), both 3 year reefs.

-For fall 2025 monitoring: ON LC site was monitored in 2024, but technically had a 2025 monitoring cohort. Large site; doing really well;

L092/SO_04 in Little Choptank needs to update 6-year monitoring from 2025 to 2024

-OAC meeting Monday (tonight): 2024 fall survey summary; spat set was good; low disease; low salinity; low mortality. Report will come out on May/ June; DNR may will press release after OAC mtg. Summary of shell and substrate task force report. Price of shell discussion.

-MD legislative overview:

- Bill to prevent use of fed funding in sanctuaries; DNR opposes
- DNR will chart clam bottom- hard, re ephemeral.

-Schedule next meeting for HC retrospective paper loose ends.

This table- from a previous meeting- is from DNR's plans to survey Manokin.

Site	Area (acres)	Construction dates	Correction dates	Seeded	Comments
MN-28	3.89	Aug. 2022-Sept. 2022	April 2023-May 2023	2023	
MN-38	2.32	Nov. 2022-Dec. 2022	April 2023-May 2023	2023	
MN-74	19.48	Sept. 2022-Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022-July 2023	Spat Set study July 2023- no additional seeding needed	areas with prop wash
MN-72	41.58	Dec. 2022-June 2023	May 2023-Nov. 2023	No initial seeding needed	
MN-73	29.22	May 2023 - Aug . 2023	Oct. 2023-Nov. 2023	No initial seeding needed	
MN-67B	6.99	Aug. 2023-Sept. 2023	N/A	Check April 2025	
MN-66	10.38	Sept. 2023-Oct. 2023	Nov. 2023	Check April 2025	
MN-63	3.78	Oct. 2023	N/A	Check April 2025	

MN-81	10.67	Oct. 2023	Nov. 2023	Check April 2025	
MN-85	3.46	Oct. 2023-2024		Check April 2025	
MN-84	4.54	Constructed 2024		Check April 2025	
MN-82	10.77	Constructed 2024		Check April 2025	

-**Monitoring: status update**

- Little Choptank SO_04 (L092) received a late reseeding in 2023 and therefore it's 6-year monitoring was pushed from 2024 to 2025. However, we forgot to remove it from our monitoring universe and monitored it this year as it was originally scheduled. It passed all metrics. If we kept 6-year monitoring as 2025, this would be the only site due for monitoring in 2025.
 - Decision: Keep 2024 monitoring results as 6-year monitoring. Geodatabase update need: L092/SO_04 update 6-year monitoring from 2025 to 2024.

-**2025 seeding plans: This is what we have on the table for this year:**

- Manokin initial seeding (~190M on SO reefs, up to 150M on SS reefs depending on 2025 DNR survey)
- LC 2023 reseeds (6M)
- Tred 2024 reseeds (estimated 100M)
- St. Mary's 2024 reseeds (estimated 75M)
- LC controls (10M) - we added these last year to add acreage, but I don't think it's necessary given our other needs for 2025. I would like to hear the WG's thoughts about this.
- Nanticoke is available for seeding if needed

We can send the WG a list of all the sites before the February touch base meeting and review specifics at that meeting if needed to make sure all the sites match up.

-**Other items of interest for the group**

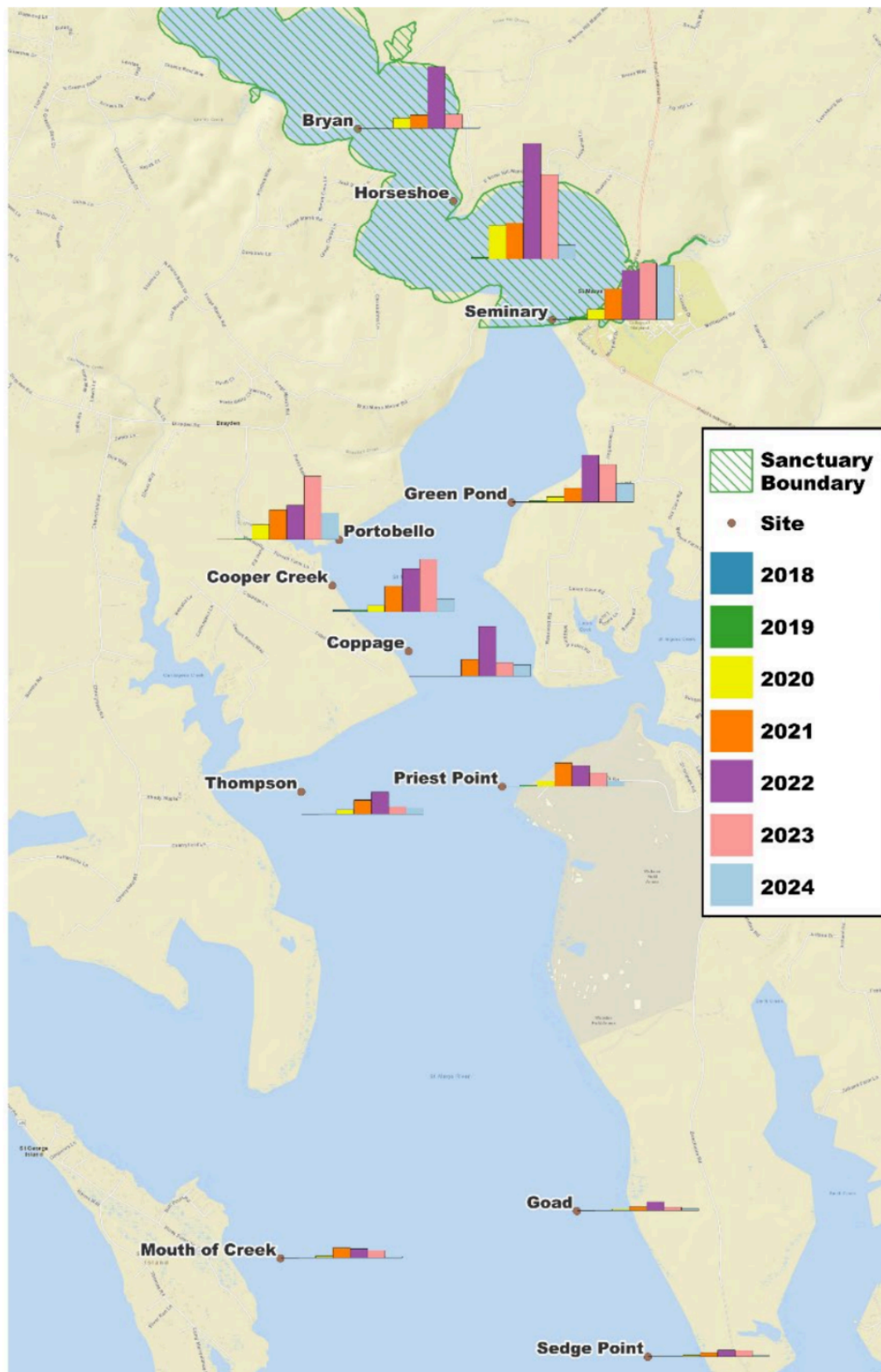


Figure 3. Locations of the 12 study sites with total spatfall for each year that the study was conducted at a given site. The map also includes the boundary of the St. Mary's River Shellfish Sanctuary.

For workgroup discussions, here are some numbers from a past meeting that might be useful:

- 2024 year-end seed/ acreage numbers needed; 340.32 seed into Big Five; about 74 acres- new + second seedings. Sarah should have it to us by the end of next week. Low salinity year meant lower production, but still did well.
 - Manokin: 240.87M SOS; 48.41 initial acres completed, 14.78 acres started (Jan 2024 GBD shows 63.19 acres, which is the sum of these two. Do we want to count the 14.78 this year, or next, since they are only partly complete, per the seeding layer and these notes? SO_41 and SO_42
 - Little Choptank: 67.69M SOS; 17.59 acres reseeds completed
 - Tred Avon: 31.76M SOS total (6.81M SOS on CONTROL_SO_02); 7.15 reseed acres completed, 0.84 initial acres completed