

Agenda and Notes

Bay Program Strategy Review System (SRS) where are we; next steps.

- Doc is here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_I5FWC7q-fkKUw2eN9jyradAoYUqddv0/edit#gid=2071853527
- Revised some of the text to include the suggestions of the work group
- Next step is to send the document to the Bay Program for formatting- it will become this MD and VA oyster workgroups' 2-year plan, and will be posted on the Bay Program website.
- Note that Bay Program also has an EJ screening tool:
<https://chesapeake-deij2-chesbay.hub.arcgis.com/#GettingStarted>

2022 oyster seed plantings: for second-year-plantings, where are these needed, how much is needed, and how to prioritize where they go? ORP presented a spreadsheet showing where second-year-class seeding are needed (Tred, Little Choptank) in 2022.

- DNR is planning to survey the 2019 and 2020 LC sites that need second-year-class seedings-- given the strong 2020 and 2021 spat sets, they might not need the second seeding.
- Priority order: complete plantings is St Marys first-- 7-8 million SOS would be produced at Piney Point, the rest at Horn Point; wait on Little Choptank until DNR's survey is done; meanwhile do Tred final site and second-year-class and Manokin (if able to)
- To achieve St Marys and Manokin seedings: could consider renting a refrigerated tractor trailer-- one DNR vendor uses for the public fishery already does this out of Rock Hall, and for them it is a savings-- might be worth exploring. Need to look at logistics, cost, etc. ORP has done some evaluation of this already-- likely there are some logistical/ staffing hurdles.
- Horn Point is planning for a full season this year re: covid-- but of course covid could still impact that. They have already started conditioning broodstock, in anticipation of an earlier start date than last year.

Fall 2021 3- and 6- year monitoring: what is the status of the data?

- All data have been collected and entered; they are doing QA/QC; plan is to get it to NOAA by end February so it can go into the report
- Overall, looks like another good year- along the lines of past years.

Bay-Wide Annual Update document-- where this stands, updates, edits.

- Contrast needs to be improved in the maps (grey tones)
- Corps and ORP are good with the doc; DNR needs more time to review. Timing TBD.

CBP - DEIJ Dashboard - <https://chesapeake-deij2-chesbay.hub.arcgis.com/#GettingStarted>

Eastern Bay- where does this stand?

- DNR- has funding to do some sanctuary restoration (70m spat on shell- backlogged due to covid; trying to do in 2022, assuming HPL output allows); BPW okayed doing another approx 70 million spat on shell there. Also DNR needs to flesh out what the OAC exactly meant with that recommendation. Also funding is not nailed down. Longer-term approach via the OAC is TBD. One idea is to have DNR propose something, then have OAC respond to it.
- NOAA hydro survey- didn't get into Eastern Bay. TBD when they will be able to get to it. NOAA has reasonably good bay bottom data in the sanctuaries.
- Last few years have been low spat set on E Bay; this year was higher.
- There are five sanctuaries in the Eastern Bay region.
- Opportunity to try something new, that brings together multiple partners.

Oysters as shoreline protection in MD

- There is interest broadly in the idea of oysters as shoreline protection.
- Are there locations within MD where this would work? (ex: good natural recruitment areas)
- Chester River- ORP gave an example of where fish & Wildlife used subtidal restoration for shoreline protection. Marsh restoration in concert with oyster restoration. Eastern Neck Island.
- DNR CCS (coastal service) gets interest in oysters as shoreline protection. Mostly research oriented.
- Maybe view it as shoreline protection projects that could have an added oyster benefits, rather than starting as an oyster project.
- Blog post:
<https://blog.nwf.org/2021/09/oyster-retrofit-a-wildlife-friendly-technique-to-green-grey-infrastucture/>
- If the goal is to be self-sustaining, then placing it in areas that leverage existing resources (ie, spat set) are preferable. A mixed approach might be needed to ensure this is successful.
- Barren Island restoration (west of Hoopers Island- near Tar Bay)- part of the mid bay island project. Corps is doing some sill work to protect habitat behind it. Discussing adding oysters to one side. Exploring where- if anywhere- on the stone sills it might make sense to add oysters (ex: at the foot of the sills, which are more subtidal). Sills will extend from subtidal to emergent.

Ongoing discussion: what is next in oysters? Share Fish GIT jam board.

- Clif note distillation of the jamboard for future use could be valuable
- Eastern Bay could be part of this- could be a number of ways to bring back more oysters. Mixed use approach. Ex: increase aquaculture; enhance public fishery in a new way.
- Setting goals ahead of time, and success metrics, and what do we want to get out of it- all important.
- DNR would make these decisions at a higher level.

