



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration Partnership.

Sustainable Fisheries GIT: Oyster Restoration

*Sean Corson,
NOAA and
Sustainable Fisheries GIT Chair*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

Goal: *Sustainable Fisheries*

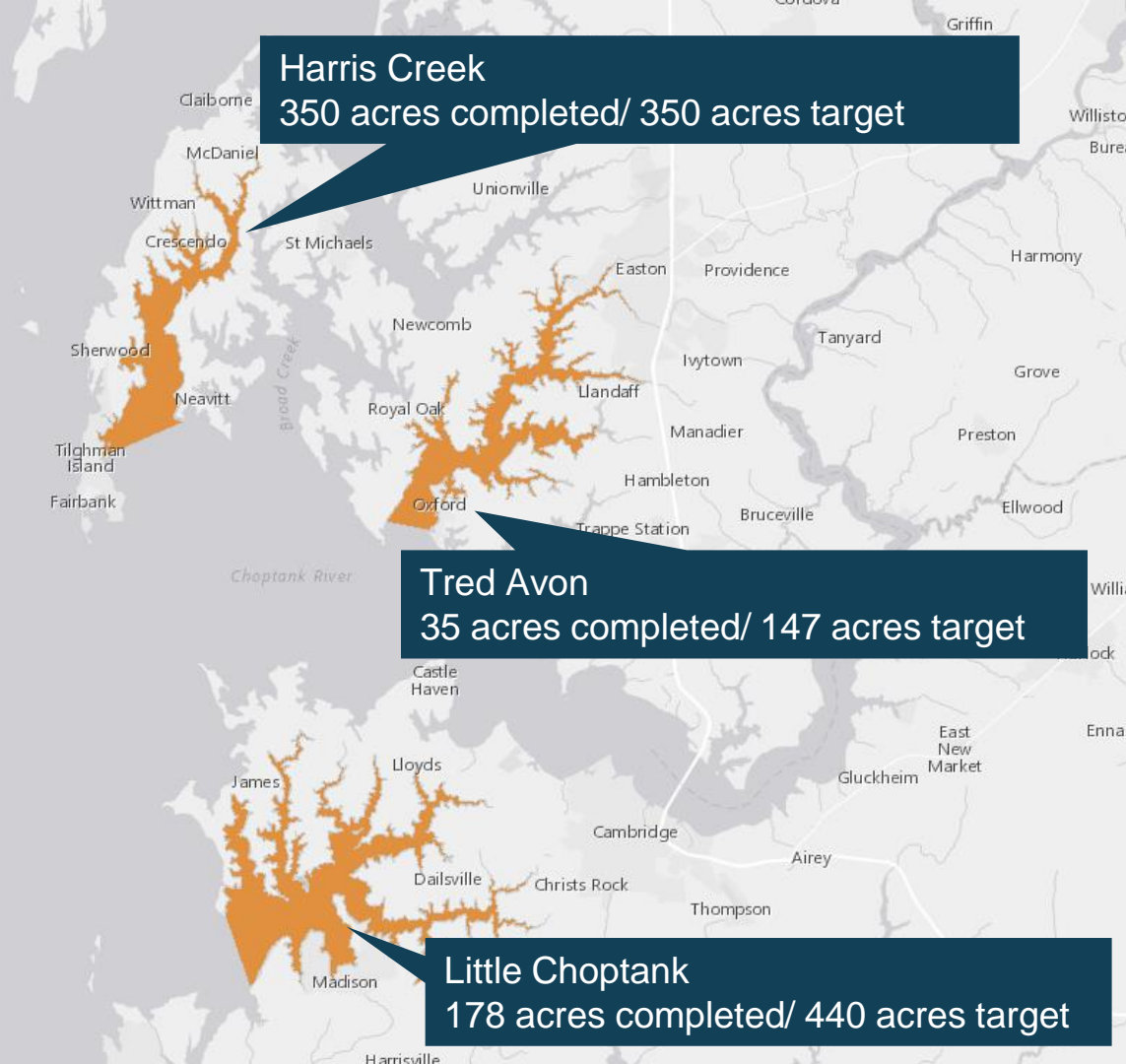
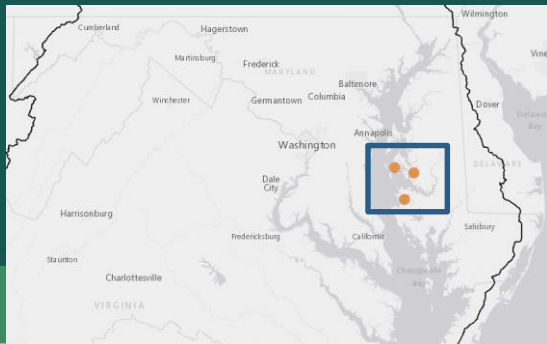
Outcome: *Oyster Restoration*

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.



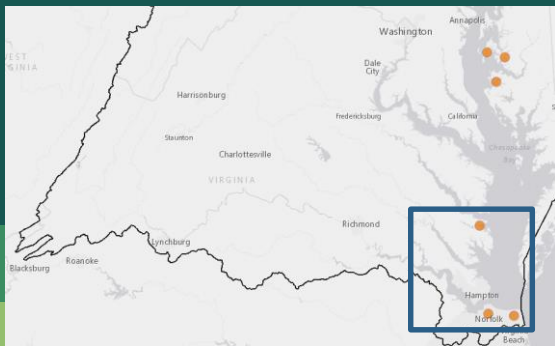
Maryland Oyster Restoration Map:

- Three selected tributaries
- In process of selecting next two tributaries
- Currently restoring/ monitoring



Virginia Oyster Restoration Map:

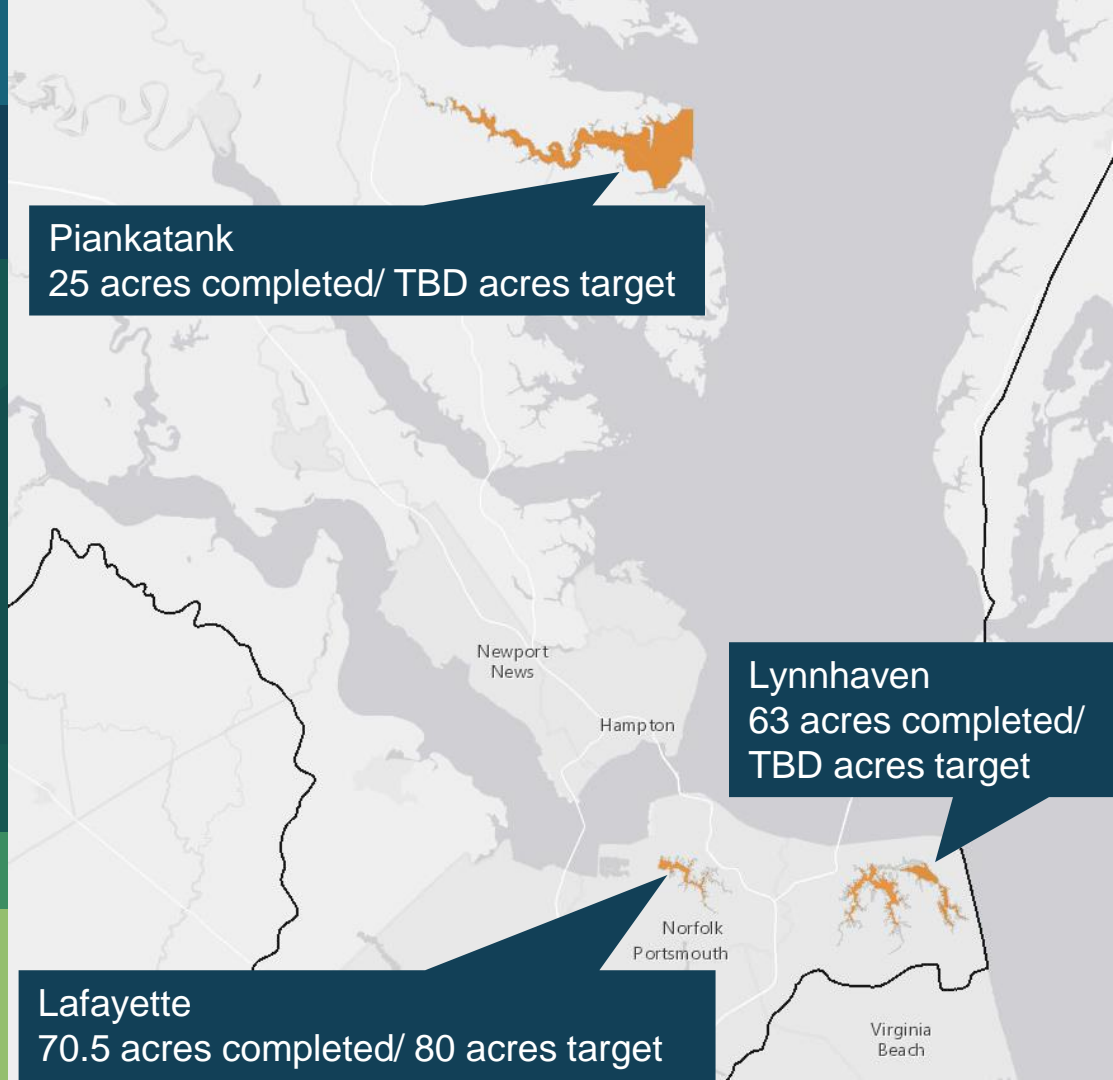
- Three selected tributaries
- Preliminary selection of next two tributaries: Great Wicomico and Lower York Rivers
- Currently conducting restoration



Piankatank
25 acres completed/ TBD acres target

Lynnhaven
63 acres completed/
TBD acres target

Lafayette
70.5 acres completed/ 80 acres target





What We Want



We want sustained support for oyster restoration efforts.



1

Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?



Logic Behind Our Outcome

Following the Decision Framework:

Factors

- Scientific/Technical Understanding
- Public Engagement
- Government Engagement

Current Efforts and Gaps

- Estimation of oyster population, ecosystem impacts and services
- Public engagement and support
- Agency coordination

Management Approaches

- Restoration planning and implementation
- Approaches targeted for local participation
- Securing support and resources
- Future Protection

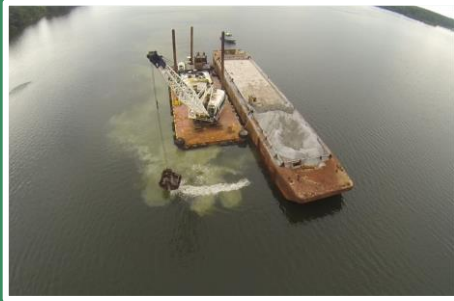
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Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



What is our progress?



Selected 6 tributaries for restoration in MD + VA

- Plan restoration
- Establish metrics
- Gather stakeholder input



Completed restoration in Harris Creek.



Conducting monitoring of restoration efforts and research on oyster reef ecosystem services.



What is our progress?

Tributary Goals

- Progress made in all six tributaries
- One completed tributary
- Three completed restoration plans



Oyster Reef Restoration Progress Dashboard

Tributary	Tributary Restoration Plan	Reef Construction and Seeding	Monitoring and Evaluation	Completed/Target Acreage (2016)
Harris Creek (Md.)	Complete	Complete	In Progress	350/350
Tred Avon (Md.)	Complete	In Progress		35/147
Little Choptank (Md.)	Complete	In Progress		178/440
Piankatank (Va.)	In Progress	In Progress		25/TBD
Lynnhaven (Va.)	In Progress	In Progress		63/TBD
Lafayette (Va.)	In Progress	In Progress		70.5/80

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Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

- Establishing restoration goals and targets has taken longer than expected in some Virginia tributaries delaying restoration.
- Restoration was put on hold for period of time in Maryland while some stakeholder concerns were evaluated.
- Funding and availability of substrate for reef construction.
- The process of selecting the other four tributaries (two in each jurisdiction) is underway and taking some time to finalize.

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Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

- Finalize tributary selection in MD and VA
- Develop refined approaches to facilitate establishing acreage goals and targets in VA
- Continue coordination and funding among key partners to fully implement restoration plans
- Continue monitoring efforts



What We Want



Management Board Commitment:

- Reaffirm commitment by state and federal partners to continue funding to achieve the outcome

Share Updates on Next Steps:

- Finalize selection of four additional Bay tributaries
 - 2 in Maryland
 - 2 in Virginia
- Identify options to finalize tributary plans in Virginia and complete Lynnhaven and Lafayette River restoration
- Develop options to address shell substrate limitations in Maryland

Discussion