

NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund: Funding Opportunities and Ongoing GIT Collaboration

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT
Executive Committee Conference Call
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Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund





A public-private funding partnership, administered by NFWF, that supports the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership through:

- Grants for implementation of local conservation and restoration projects (water quality, habitat, etc.)
- Grants and other tools and resources to increase technical assistance and capacity for local partners
- Networking and information-sharing opportunities for watershed partners

Awarded more than \$11 million in Federal and private funding for projects in 2016 alone



What Guides Us: Chesapeake Bay Business Plan

- NFWF's guiding conservation investment strategy for the Chesapeake Bay region, focus on overlap in water quality and species/habitat priorities (c. 2012)
- Extensive stakeholder engagement, including NOAA and select members of the Fisheries GIT in BP development
- Yielded measurable goals for NFWF's oyster restoration and migratory fish investments, based on 2010 Chesapeake Bay Executive Order outcomes:
 - Open 1,000 additional stream miles by 2025
 - Restore oyster populations in five tributaries by 2025



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Case Study: CBSF and Native Oyster Restoration

- Since 2012, \$2.1M in direct support for ongoing oyster restoration in Choptank and Lafayette Rivers
- Includes support for planning, implementation of 120+ acres to date, and ongoing monitoring of restoration success and associated water quality benefits
- Additional \$750k in awards for oyster restoration beyond identified priority tributaries (e.g. Urbanna Creek, Lynnhaven and Hampton Rivers)
- Leveraged \$2.5M in additional corporate in-kind contributions through the *CSX Oyster Express* project c. 2013/2014



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Ongoing Opportunities GIT Involvement

- January/February 2017: Help to inform NFWF's marine and coastal habitat/species restoration priorities for 2017 grant programs
- January-April: Inform updates to NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Business Plan to reflect 2014 Agreement outcomes:
 - Refined/revised goals and strategies for oyster restoration and migratory fish investments?
 - New goals or outcomes for other marine and coastal habitat/species priorities?
- May/June 2017: Participate in NFWF grants review and selection process (vis a vis GIT coordinators)



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Questions?

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