

In 2017 the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) continued efforts to restore oyster habitat and populations with various partners primarily in the targeted tributaries identified by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

In Maryland our efforts include the following:

- Planted 1-acre oyster reef at Ft. Carroll in the Patapsco River within view of the City of Baltimore with 3 million spat on shell oysters. CBF partners include Maryland Environmental Service, the Maryland Port Administration, Waterfront Partnership, the Abell Foundation. CBF looks forward to learning more about how the oysters will fare in this less salty, polluted environment.
- CBF partnered with CCA, to deploy 140 reef balls (70 set with spat and 70 unset) at Tilghman Island Reef.
- CBF is growing and planting 7.3 million spat on shell in the Little Choptank River and 13.2 million in the Tred Avon River.
- CBF continued its partnership with watermen transitioning to aquaculture by offering one of our setting tanks to the state as part of the Remote Setting Training program (RST).
- CBF transplanted just over 540,000 oysters through its Oyster Gardening program into to the South, Tred Avon, Patuxent, Severn and Patapsco Rivers. An additional 89,000 oysters were transplanted through the Baltimore Waterfront Partnership.
- CBF continued efforts to increase shell recycling by adding new locations and partners. We are currently working with the Coastal Conservation Association and a local farmer in Westminster, as well as our usual community locations and restaurants. We are planning to recycle over 1,100 bushels by the end of 2017.

In Virginia our efforts will included the following:

- CBF grew and plant 5.26 million spat on shell on new reef sanctuary reef constructed by the Elizabeth River Project in the Lafayette River.
- CBF transplanted over 65,000 adult oysters on existing sanctuary reefs in the Lynnhaven, Lafayette, York, Hampton, and Elizabeth Rivers.
- CBF staff deployed 200 reef balls on existing sanctuary reef constructed by the Elizabeth River Project in the Lafayette River.
- CBF's Maryland Oyster Restoration vessel, the *Patricia Campbell* transported 313 from MD to VA and deployed them on existing reef in the Lafayette River.
- CBF will plant 1.5 million spat on shell as part of a climate resiliency project in partnership with the city of Norfolk by the Hermitage Museum.
- CBF will recruit over 350 volunteer oyster gardeners for the 2018-2019 season (currently we have 322).
- CBF will maintain and recruit another 10 shell recycling restaurants (currently we have 53).

CBF also continued its efforts to restore submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) with partners in Virginia waterways. Partners for this project include staff from VCU's Rice Rivers Center, Rappahannock River Valley Refuge NWF, Chickahominy Riverfront Park, Mason Neck State Park, Westover State Park, Back Bay NWF, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, and VIMS. Through this program 194 growing kits were distributed to gardeners and 279 adults and students

attended training sessions including representatives from 14 foreign missions in Washington, DC.

In 2017, planting sites were expanded to include five locations:

- Westover Plantation (James River): hosted since 2000
- Mason Neck State Park (Potomac River): hosted since 2000
- Chickahominy Riverfront Park (Chickahominy and James): added 2017
- Rappahannock River Valley Wildlife Refuge, Port Royal Tract (Rappahannock): Added 2017
- Rice Rivers Center (James River): Added 2017