Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Indicator

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Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Watershed Agreement-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.

Watershed Agreement-Management Strategy

1. Selection
2. Data collection
3. Acreage target
4. Develop plan
5. Implement
6. Track progress
7. Manage adaptively
8. Work collaboratively to secure resources
9. Consider future protection

Chesapeake Progress

Chesapeake Bay Program
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CHESAPEAKE PROGRESS

www.chesapeakeprogress.com

Indicator Development

How can we communicate process and progress on oyster restoration to the public?

A good indicator is:

- simple and easy to understand by both experienced users and the general public
- representative, reflecting the current state of progress

Proposed Indicators

Process:

Where are we in the restoration planning and implementation process?

Output:

How much restoration (acreage) has been completed?

Major Steps in Restoration Process

Tributary Selection

Restoration Plan

Reef Construction and Seeding

Monitoring and Evaluation

Oyster Dashboard

Tributary	Tributary Restoration Plan	Reef Construction & Seeding	Monitoring & Evaluation	Completed/Target Acreage (2015)
Harris Creek (Md.)	Complete	Complete	In Progress	350/350
Tred Avon (Md.)	Complete	In Progress		2.6/147
Little Choptank (Md.)	Complete	In Progress		85.8/440
Piankatank (Va.)	In Progress	In Progress		211/TBD
Lynnhaven (Va.)	In Progress	In Progress		63/TBD
Lafayette (Va.)	In Progress	In Progress		70/80

This dashboard communicates progress being made on the Oyster Restoration outcome.

Oyster Dashboard

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Links in below text to more information (tributary plans, partner websites, reports, etc.)

- Current restoration implementation
- Previous restoration (Virginia)
- Naturally occurring reefs that meet Oyster Metrics density criteria (e.g. relict reefs in Virginia)

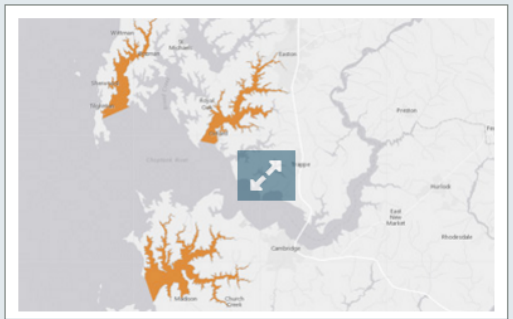
Chesapeake Progress

PROGRESS

Abundant Life | Clean Water | Conserved Lands | Engaged Communities | Climate Change

Progress

Six Chesapeake Bay tributaries have been selected for oyster restoration: Harris Creek and the Little Choptank and Tred rivers in Maryland, and the Lafayette, Lynnhaven and Piankatank rivers in Virginia. Each tributary that has been selecte oyster restoration is at a different level of progress.



Map: Oyster Restoration

View | JPG

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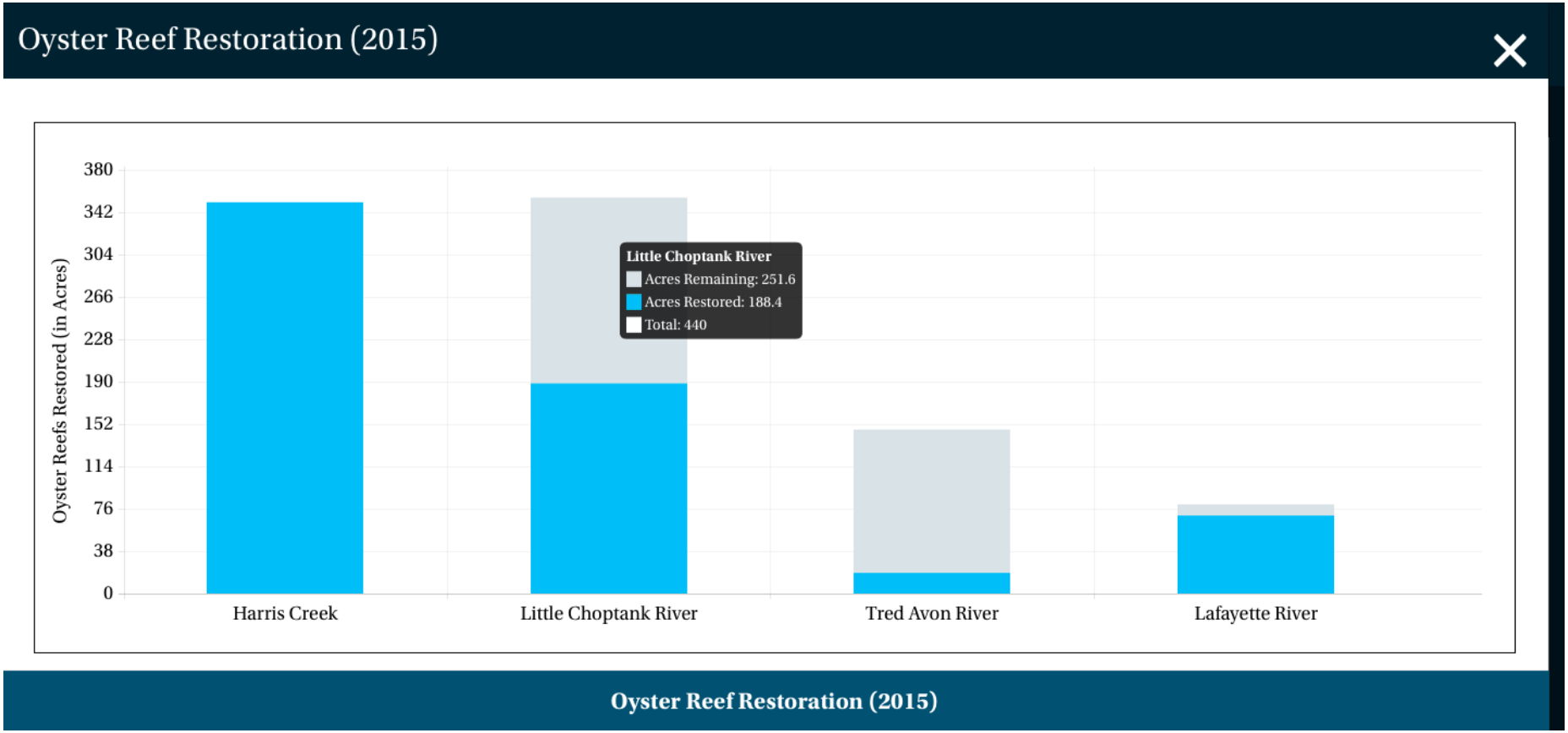
According to a 2015 **progress report** from the Maryland Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroup, 399.3 acres of reefs have been built and seeded in the Choptank Complex (which includes Harris Creek and the Little Choptank and Tred Avon rivers). An additional 118.6 acres of reefs have been built but are awaiting seed or have been partly seeded. Throughout the complex, 2.3 billion spat have been planted. About 380 acres remain to be built in the Little Choptank and Tred Avon.

- Between 2011 and 2015, 350.9 acres of reefs were built and seeded with 2.07 billion spat in **Harris Creek**, marking the completion of the initial restoration phase for this tributary. In late 2015, partners monitored the "first cohort" of Harris Creek reefs seeded in 2012. An **analysis** of oyster biomass and density shows that, of the 12 reefs seeded in 2012, 100 percent meet the minimum criteria for success in oyster density and oyster biomass (with 15 oysters and

Acreage Charts



Indicator Development

- CBP Status and Trends Workgroup
- Fisheries GIT Workgroups (VA & MD)
- Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
- Full Fisheries GIT

Fisheries GIT Feedback

- Comments on the oyster dashboard?

- Approval for the Chesapeake Bay Program website?