

# Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Nationally and Within the Chesapeake Bay

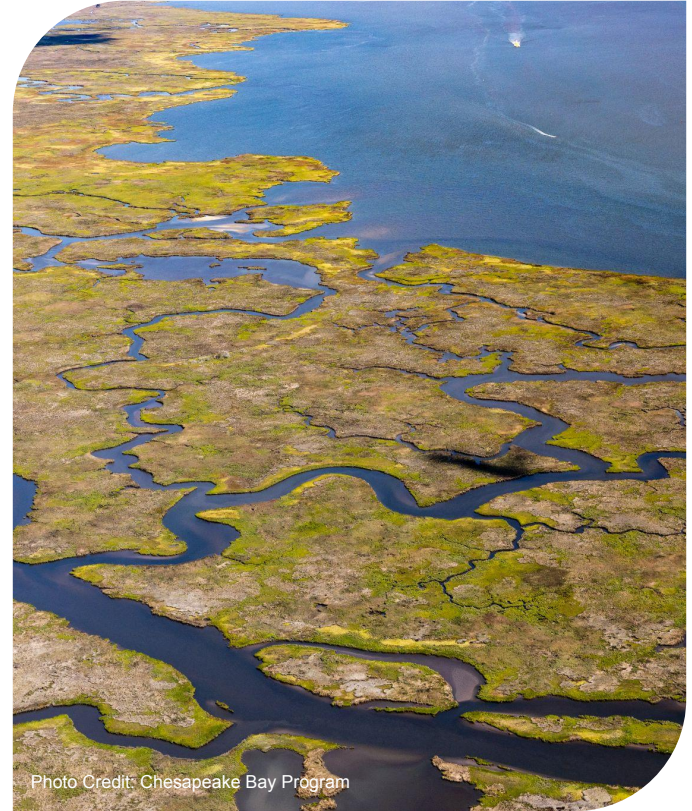


Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

# The Team



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**01**

**Purpose, Scope,  
Approach**

**02**

**Why are marine areas  
protected**

**03**

**Impacts on  
communities**

**04**

**Types of Designations**

**05**

**MPAs in the  
Chesapeake**

**06**

**Summary and Future  
Work**



01

# Purpose, Scope & Approach

Why and how did we take on  
this project?

# Why did we take on this project?

## Professional Interest

Interest in protected areas, their effect on natural resources, and impacts on communities

## Connection to the Bay Area

The team is living in and working to improve the Chesapeake Bay landscape

## Limited Existing Resources

We could not find a reference answering all of our questions about MPAs

# Approach



# Questions we wanted to answer

1

## Designation Process

What is the process of and entities involved in designation of an MPA?

2

## Political, Social, Economic and Other Considerations

How do you navigate the political, social, economic and other challenges associated with designation of protected areas?

# Questions we wanted to answer

3

## Laws and Regulations of Fishing in MPAs

What are the laws and regulations regarding fishing at the different levels of MPA designation?

4

## Urban Planning and Public Access in MPAs

How are urban planning and public access considered in the protected area field as populations continue to grow?

# Questions we wanted to answer

5

## Community Buy in

How does an MPA get designated with the nearby communities in mind?  
How do you ensure livelihoods are not harmed and ensure local voices are incorporated into the decision making process?

6

## Enforcement of MPAs

How does enforcement of MPAs work?



Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

02

## Why are marine areas protected?

# Why are Marine Areas Protected?



**Ecological Restoration and Preservation**



**Protect Threatened Species/Fisheries**



**Protect Cultural Heritage**



**Protect Historical Resources**



Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

03

## Impact on Communities

# MPA Impacts on Communities



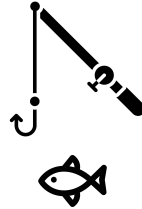
## Tourism

### Pros:

Increased tourism opportunities and benefits to the local economy

### Cons:

Increased development & crowding



## Fishing & Waterman Community

### Pros:

Spillover effects from MPAs could benefit fishery and increase harvest over time

### Cons:

MPA restrictions could impact accessibility to fishing grounds or increase regulation on fisheries → feelings of distrust



## General Public

### Pros:

Increased access, education, and research opportunities

### Cons:

Potential decreased access



Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

04

# Types of Designations

# Types of Designation / Affiliated Agencies

## National Wildlife Refuges

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

## National Parks

National Park Service (NPS)

Other MPAs managed by NPS include National Seashores, National Monuments, and National Recreation Areas

## Marine National Monuments

Varies between agencies

## National Marine Sanctuaries

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Other MPAs managed by NOAA include National Estuarine Research Reserves, Ecological Reserves, and Sanctuary Preservation Areas

# Federal Designations

## National Marine Sanctuaries

- Sites are scoped and managed by NOAA
- Designation requires demonstration of national significance, which may include:
  - living resources in need of protection;
  - historical, archaeological, or cultural resources in need of preservation;
  - the potential for educational or recreational value
- Currently 18 exist within NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System

## National Parks

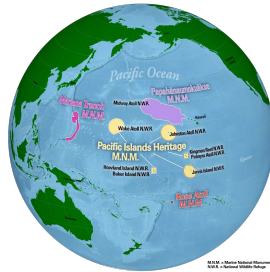
- Congressional direction needed for designation by NPS
- 10 sites with co-designation as an MPA and National Park
- Sites hold nationally significant resources that require NPS management of them



# Federal Designations

## Marine National Monuments

- Designation requires a presidential order which authorizes a specific federal agency to begin the process
- Often has highest level of fishing / activity restriction



## National Wildlife Refuges

- Sites are scoped and designated by FWS
- Prioritizes sites that conserve habitat



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge  
Photo Credit: Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

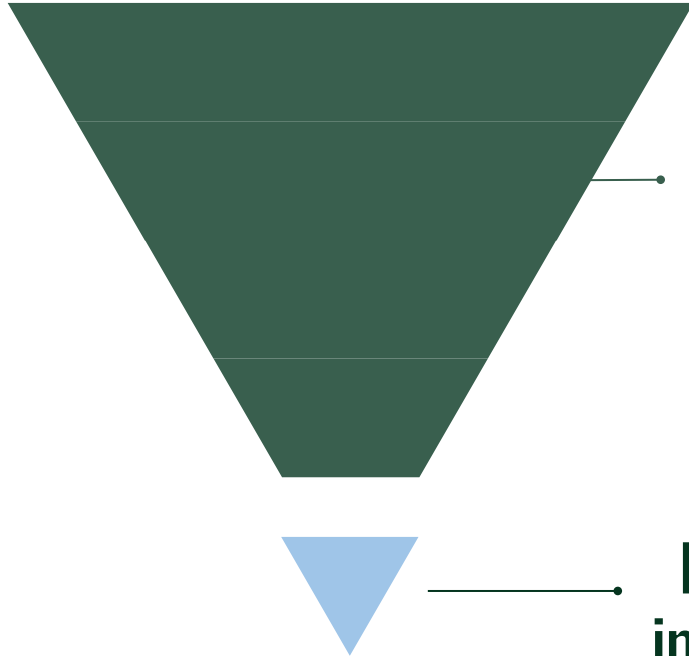


Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

05

## MPAs in the Chesapeake

# National Scope → Chesapeake



**Marine  
Protected Areas  
across the US**



National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Parks  
Marine National Monuments  
National Wildlife Refuges

**Marine  
Protected Areas  
in the Chesapeake**



National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Wildlife Refuges  
Oyster Sanctuaries

# MPAs in the Chesapeake

## National Marine Sanctuaries

- 1 in the Chesapeake Region, established in 2019
- Co-managed by NOAA, MD, and Charles County
- Protects the remains of the Ghost Fleet ships from WW1, which have become habitat for surrounding wildlife



## Oyster Restoration Areas

- MD: Oyster Sanctuaries
  - Restricting oyster harvest indefinitely
  - Fishing is not restricted
- VA: Oyster Reef Management
  - Temporarily restricts oyster harvest when needed
  - Not permanently restricted
  - Fishing is not restricted



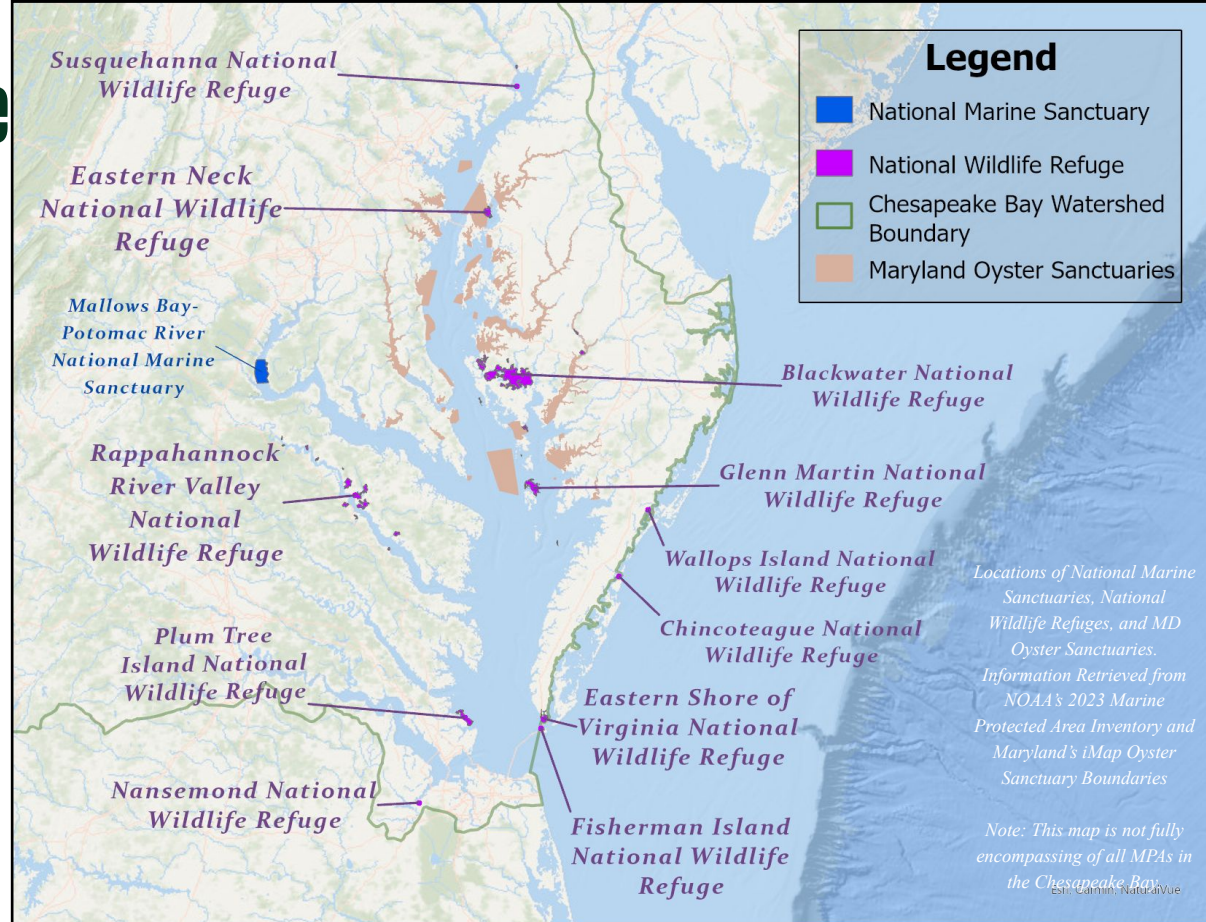
Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

06

# Summary and Future Work

# Summary of What We Learned about Chesapeake MPAs

- There is one national marine sanctuary
- There are several wildlife refuges that overlap marine areas



# Summary of What We Learned about Chesapeake MPAs

- There are other spatial management techniques that don't fall into the federal designations of MPAs but serve a similar purpose
  - Oyster Sanctuaries
  - SAV Protection Zones
  - Seasonal Blue Crab Spawning Sanctuaries
- There has been a recent Hope Spot designation from international non-profit Mission Blue.



Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

# Future Work

- Accurate picture of the % of marine area protected, amount of fishing restrictions, and the perception of fishermen & maritime business owners
- Does MPA and marine spatial management have a place in the Bay Program's protected lands or public access groups?

Based on NOAA's Marine Protected Area Inventory and Maryland's iMap Oyster Sanctuary Boundaries, within Chesapeake Bay Marine Areas:

**0.39%** restricts fishing\*

**0.068 %** prohibits all fishing\*

**8.6%** are oyster sanctuaries that prohibit extraction of oysters (but not other types of fishing)\*

**0.88 %** under some sort of MPA designation (excluding oyster sanctuaries)\*

\*Utilizing NOAA's Marine Protected Area Inventory, Maryland's iMap data on oyster sanctuaries, and the United States Geological Survey's Tidal Chesapeake Bay shapefile.

See [Appendix C](#) for detailed description of calculations and data sources.

# Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

Feel free to reach out to us:

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