Choptank Complex Habitat Focus Area

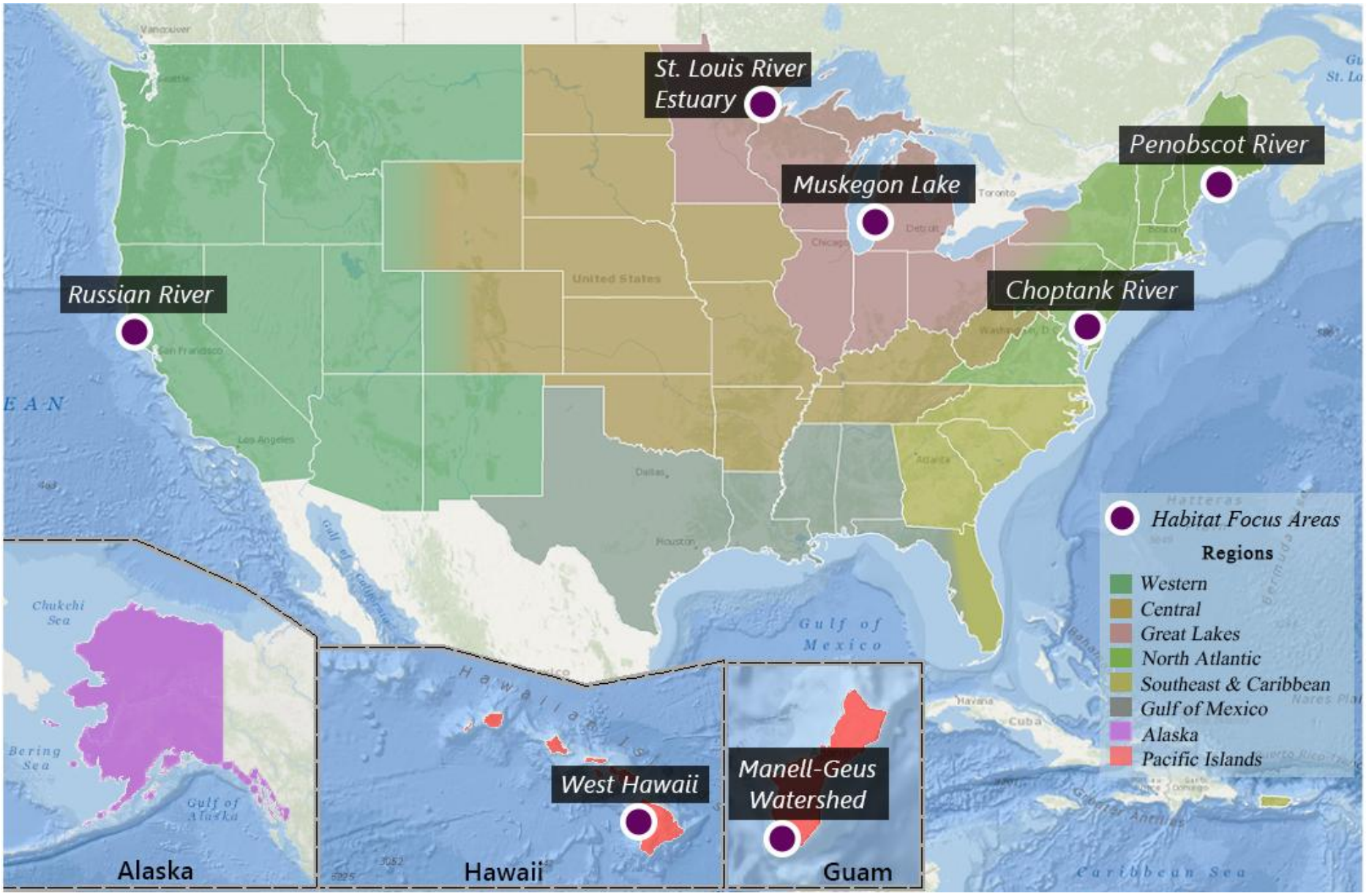
CBP Management Board– August 14, 2014

NOAA's Habitat Blueprint

Blueprint Guiding Principles:

- Prioritize resources and activities across NOAA to improve habitat conditions
- Make decisions in an ecosystem context and consider competing priorities
- Foster and leverage partnerships
- Improve delivery of habitat science to facilitate decision-making

NOAA's Habitat Focus Areas



Delmarva Peninsula: The Choptank River Complex







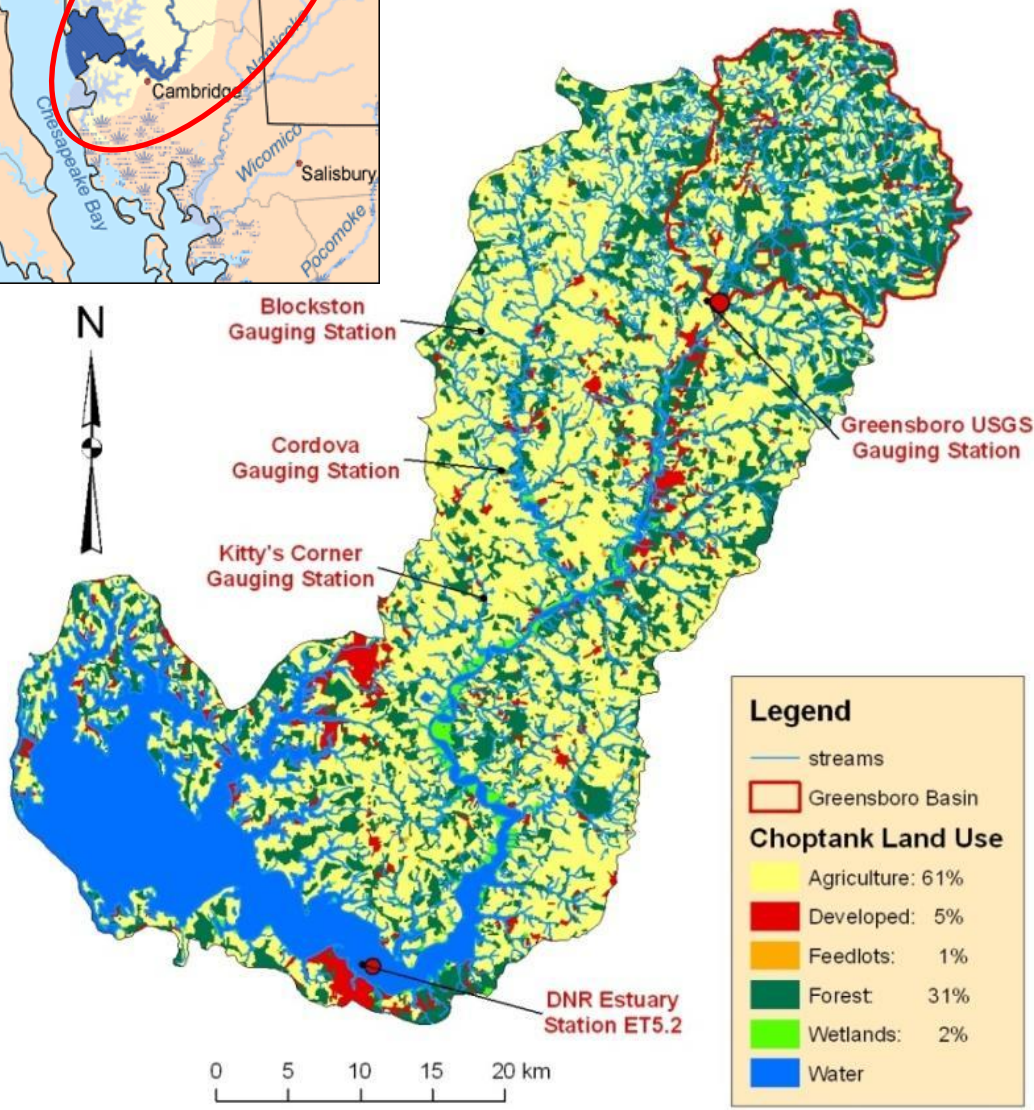


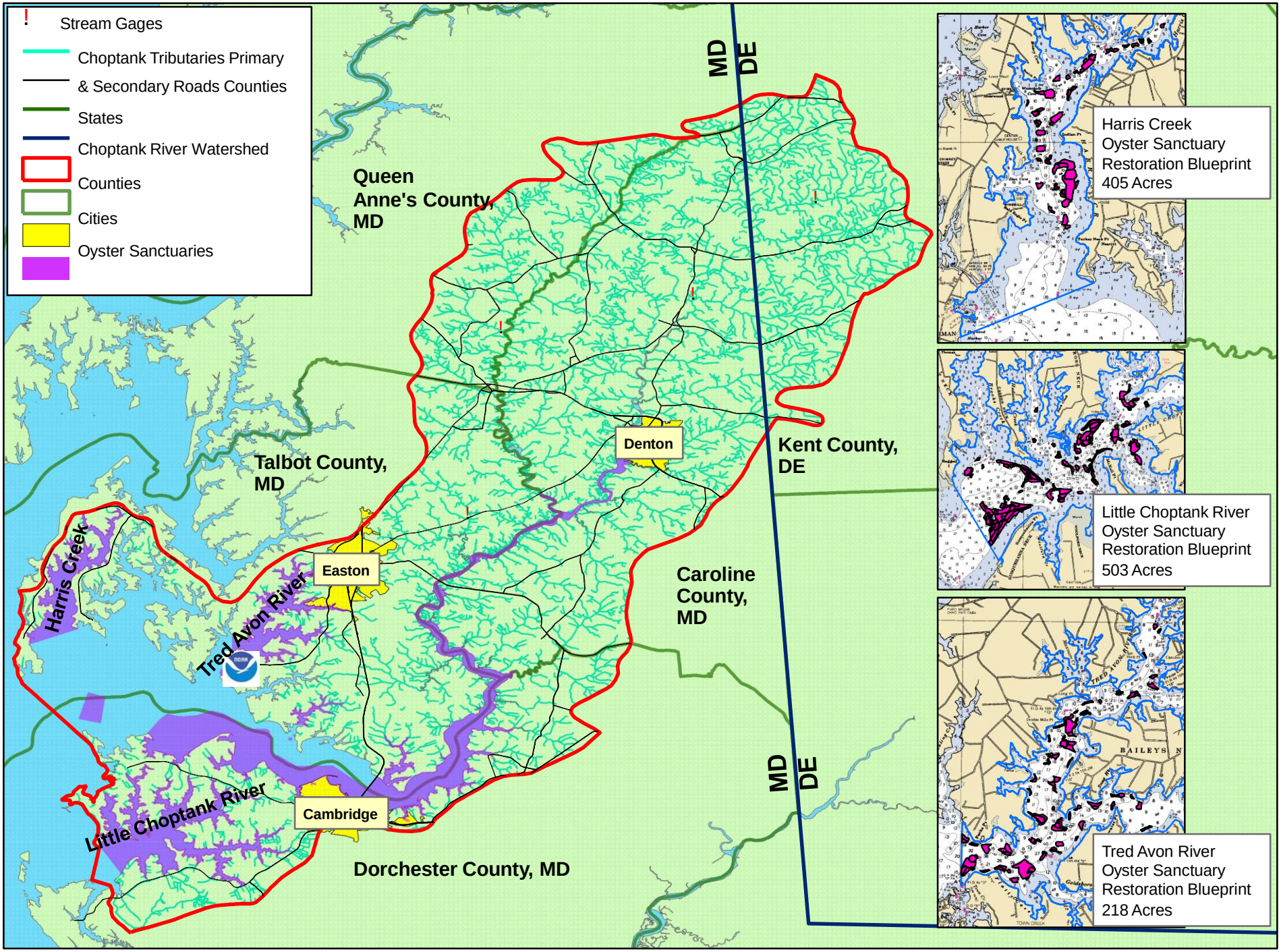




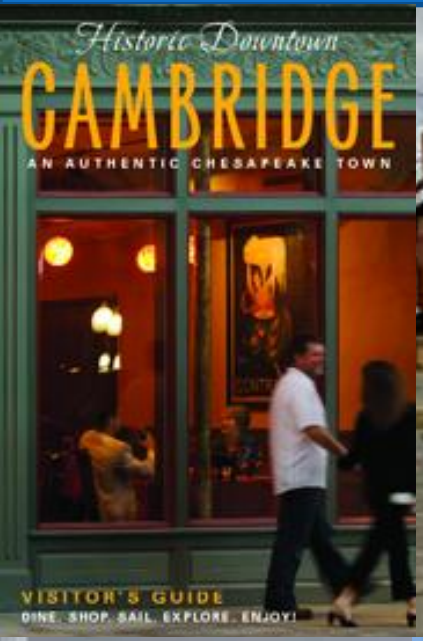


Choptank River Basin

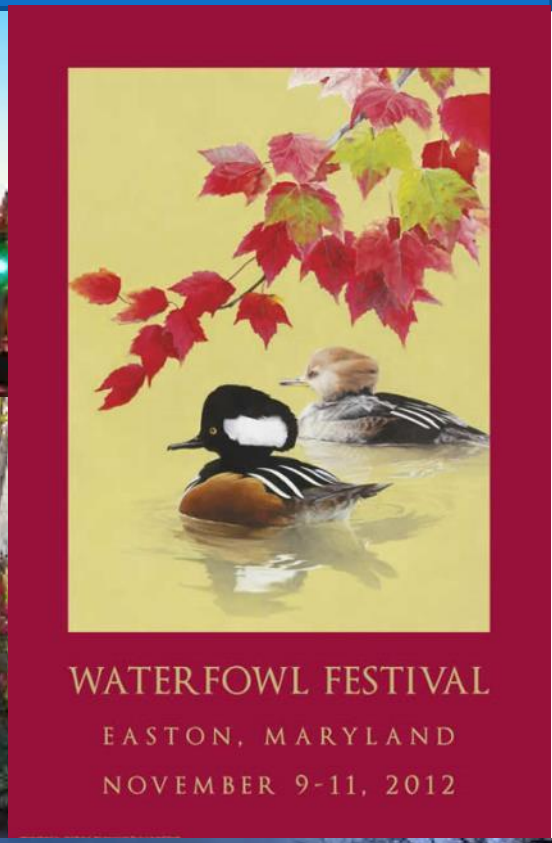



Stream Gages
Choptank Tributaries Primary
& Secondary Roads Counties
States
Choptank River Watershed
Counties
Cities
Oyster Sanctuaries
Queen Anne's County, MD
MD
DE
Talbot County, MD
Denton
Kent County, DE
Caroline County, MD
Easton
Harris Creek
Tred Avon River
Little Choptank River
Cambridge
Dorchester County, MD
MD
DE
Harris Creek Oyster Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint 405 Acres
Little Choptank River Oyster Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint 503 Acres
Tred Avon River Oyster Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint 218 Acres

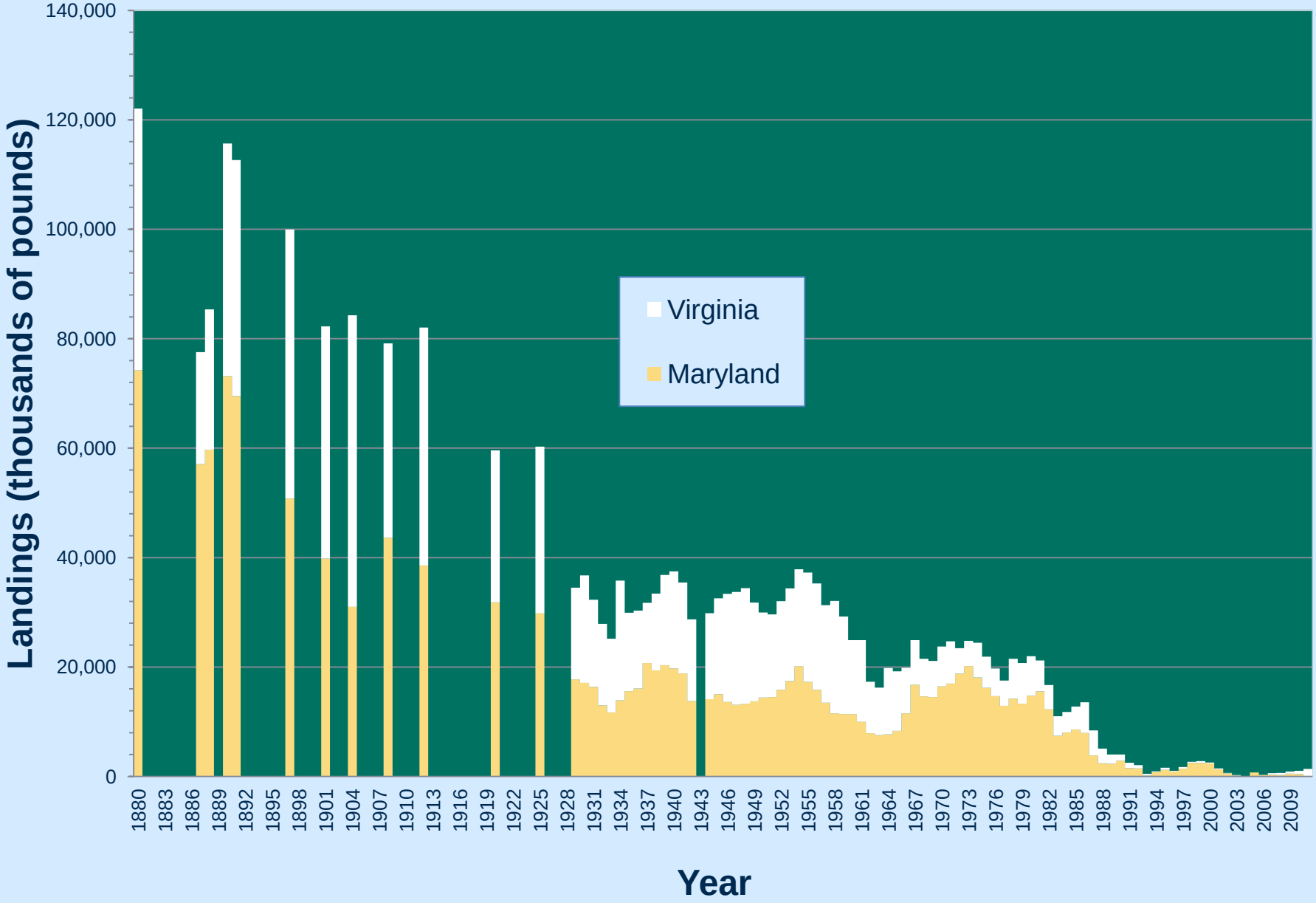
Choptank Places and People



Choptank Places and People

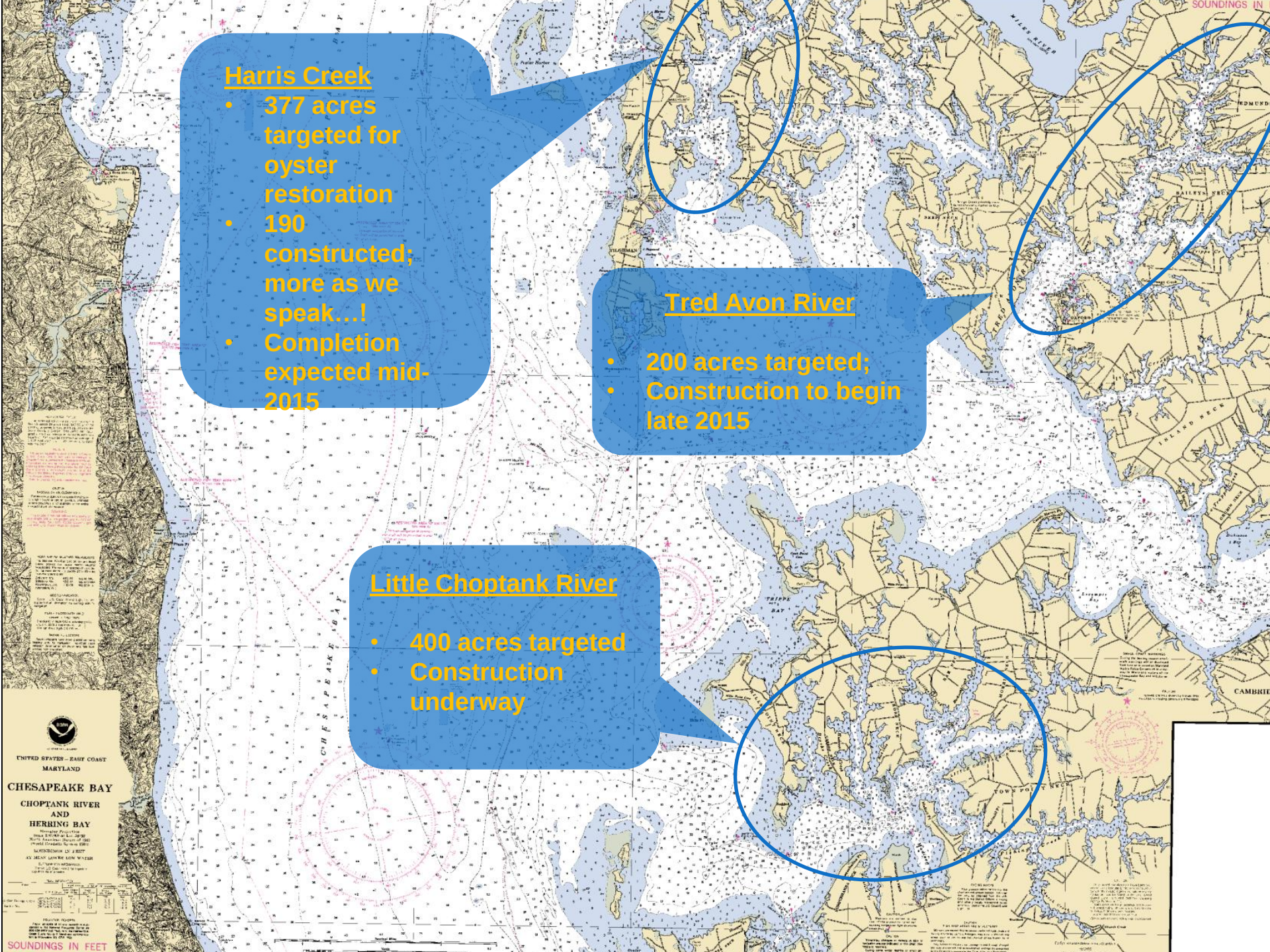


Chesapeake Bay Oyster Landings by State, 1880-2011



Choptank Complex Objectives

- Restore oyster reef habitat and significantly increase native oyster populations
- Document and quantify the benefits oyster reefs and associated habitats provide
- Improve the decision making and resilience of coastal communities by improving the delivery of NOAA's habitat and climate science
- Engage communities to ensure involvement and ownership


Harris Creek
• 377 acres targeted for oyster restoration
• 190 constructed; more as we speak…!
• Completion expected mid-2015
Tred Avon River
• 200 acres targeted;
• Construction to begin late 2015
Little Choptank River
• 400 acres targeted
• Construction underway
UNITED STATES – EAST COAST
MARYLAND
CHESAPEAKE BAY
CHOPTANK RIVER
AND
HERRING BAY
SOUNDINGS IN FEET

Fish Passage

Primary Objective:

Remove fish blockages in the Choptank River at priority locations as identified through the Chesapeake Fish Passage Prioritization tool

Wetlands/ Living Shorelines

Primary Objective:

Identify priority wetlands restoration sites in the Choptank River through a collaborative effort with The Nature Conservancy

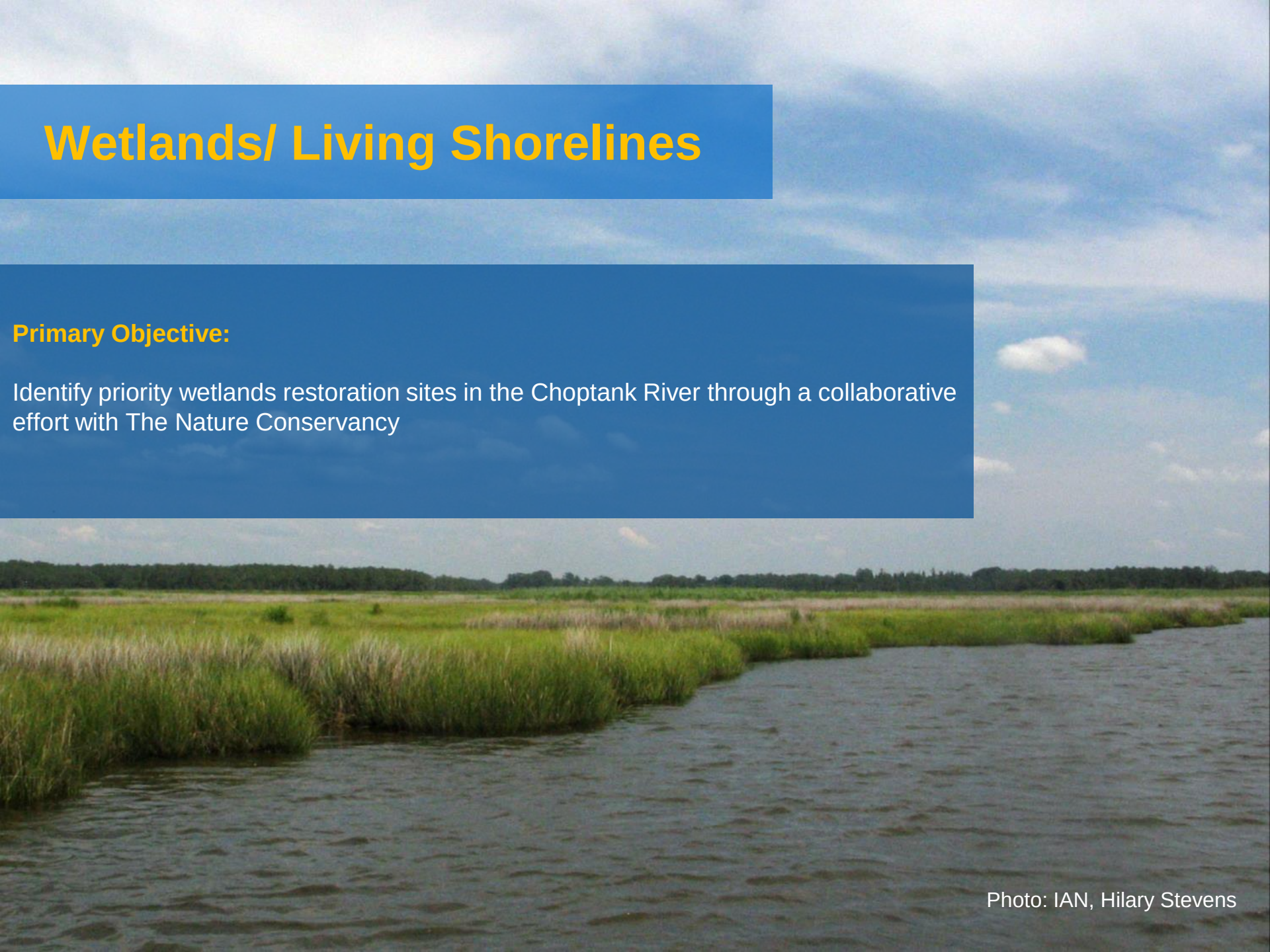


Photo: IAN, Hilary Stevens



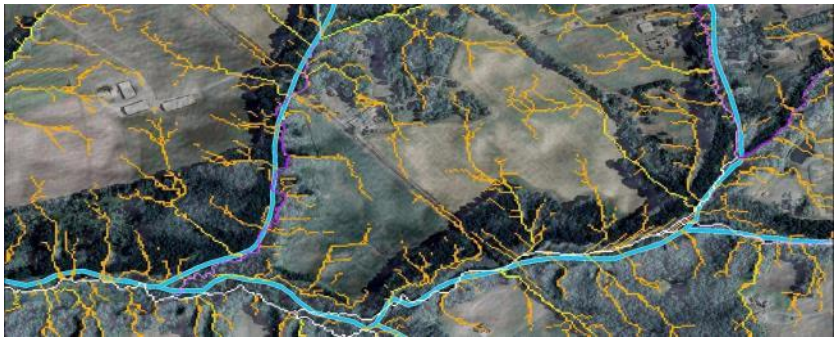
Ecosystem Services

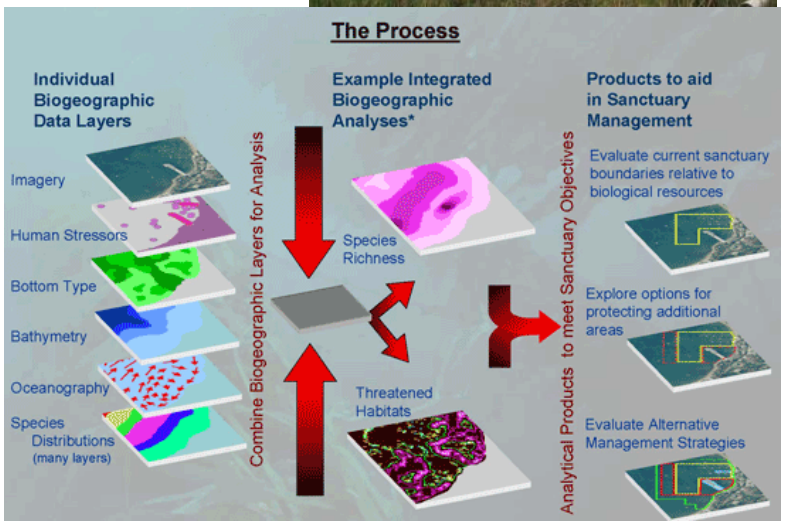
- *More Habitat = More Fish*
- *Nitrogen removal*
- *Economic valuation*



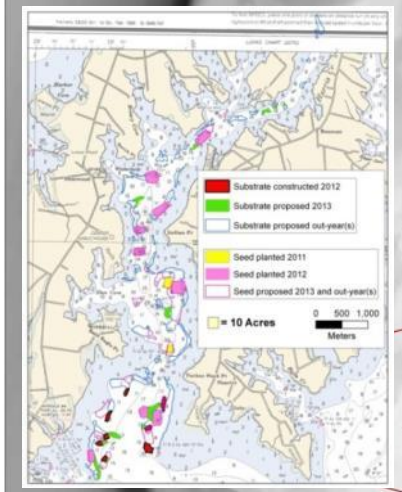
Integrating Science to Inform Management (science and monitoring)

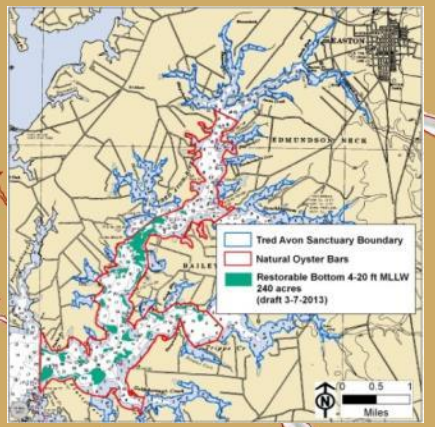
- Climate resiliency
- Water Column Habitat
- Biogeographic Assessment

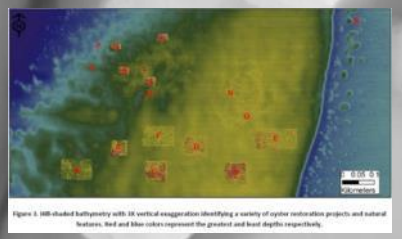




The Choptank River Complex Restoration Atlas

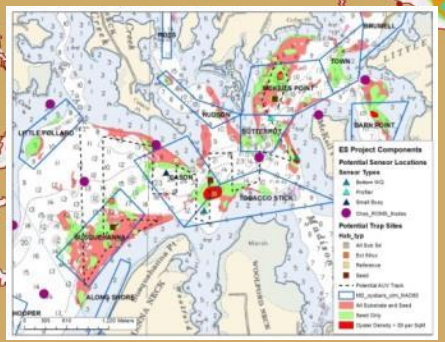






Little Choptank River

Chesapeake Bay
INTERPRETIVE BUOY SYSTEM



This Restoration Atlas covers the combined efforts of Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers-Baltimore District, NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation, Oyster Recovery Partnership, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the University of Maryland



Community Engagement

Engage coastal communities in a way that ensures their increased involvement in and ownership of the protection and restoration of coastal habitats, including making decisions on land use planning and management that will protect NOAA's investments in habitat restoration (i.e., oysters in Harris Creek, the Tred Avon and Little Choptank Rivers).

- *Collective Impact*
- *K-12 Education*
- *Community Outreach*
- *Climate Outreach*



Partnerships

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Oyster Recovery Partnership

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chesapeake Conservancy

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy

NFWF

Business Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

A strategy to guide conservation investments in the Chesapeake Bay region through 2025

Town Creek Foundation

You?



NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

July 13, 2012



Discussion/Questions

- How can we further leverage investment and interest in this geography?
- What key connections do you see to the new Agreement?
- Can we work through CBP/new Agreement to demonstrate real progress over the next 3-5 years?

Photo Credits

Jane Thomas, Ashley Samonisky, Caroline Wicks, Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/).