Oyster Restoration: Management Strategy Outline

Oyster Outcome: 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.

Management Strategy Definition:

- A single document that will outline the means for accomplishing each outcome as well as monitoring, assessing, reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders.
- The *audience* is the general public and CBP partners, so this strategy should be written in "plain English". The bold headings below are the key elements that all management strategies should include.

Strategy Team = Federal Agencies + Jurisdictions + Interested GIT Members

NOAA	MD DNR	CBC	SERC	VIMS
USACE	VMRC	TNC	MD Sea Grant	UMD

Executive Summary

Outcome and Baselines

1. Why 10 tributaries by 2025?
    a. Driving documents: Executive Order, USACE Master Plan, state plans, etc.
    b. Identify the 6 tributaries that have been selected for restoration and are currently undergoing planning and/or implementation
2. Discuss the role of oysters in the ecosystem (habitat, filter feeders)
3. Historical context of oysters in the Bay

Participating jurisdictions and stakeholders

1. Describe the role of major players:
    a. Jurisdictions and federal agencies
    b. Local restoration partners in each tributary
    c. Interagency Teams

Factors influencing the ability to meet the goal

1. Biological Factors
    a. Low population
    b. Spat set variability
    c. Oyster Disease
2. Physical/Environmental Factors
    a. Water quality

   b. Hard bottom availability
3. Resource Limitations
   a. Shell/substrate
   b. Funding
4. Social, Human Factors
   a. Permitting
   b. Bottom ownership/designation
   c. Poaching

Current Efforts and Gaps

1. Identify the selected tributaries for restoration and summarize past and current restoration efforts by tributary:
   a. Maryland
      i. Harris Creek
      ii. Tred Avon
      iii. Little Choptank
   b. Virginia
      i. Lafayette
      ii. Lynnhaven
      iii. Piankatank
2. Gaps
   a. Funding limitations and challenges
   b. Research needs/Information gaps

Management Approach

1. General approach for completing restoration once a tributary has been chosen
   a. Selection process and considerations
   b. Data collection
   c. Set acreage target
   d. Develop plan
   e. Implementation
   f. Monitoring (next section)
2. Discuss context of oyster reefs in these selected tributaries
   a. Sanctuary areas
   b. Harvest areas
   c. Enforcement issues

Monitoring Progress

1. Timeline and plan for post-restoration monitoring (Oyster Metrics)
2. Funding and resource needs for monitoring efforts

Assessing Progress

1. Describe the criteria for a “restored reef” (Oyster Metrics)
2. Considerations for the future (refer back to “Factors Influencing”)

Adaptively Manage

1. Progress and lessons learned from restoration implementation applied to future work, both leading up to and after 2025

Biennial Workplan

1. Discuss near-term actions for the next few years; workplan will be updated as necessary