

# Maryland Update

## Large-Scale Oyster Restoration in Support of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order & Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goals

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*On behalf of the Maryland Interagency Oyster  
Restoration Workgroup*



OYSTER RECOVERY  
PARTNERSHIP | ORP

## Policy Drivers

- Executive Order 13508
- 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement
- Restore oyster populations in 10\* tributaries by 2025

## Oyster Metrics

- NOAA, USACE, DNR, VMRC, Army Corps, UMD, VIMS + 17 consulting scientists;
- Developed Bay-wide, consensus definition of 'restored reef' and 'restored tributary';
- On-the-ground restoration is now being built to meet these metrics

## Fish GIT Established

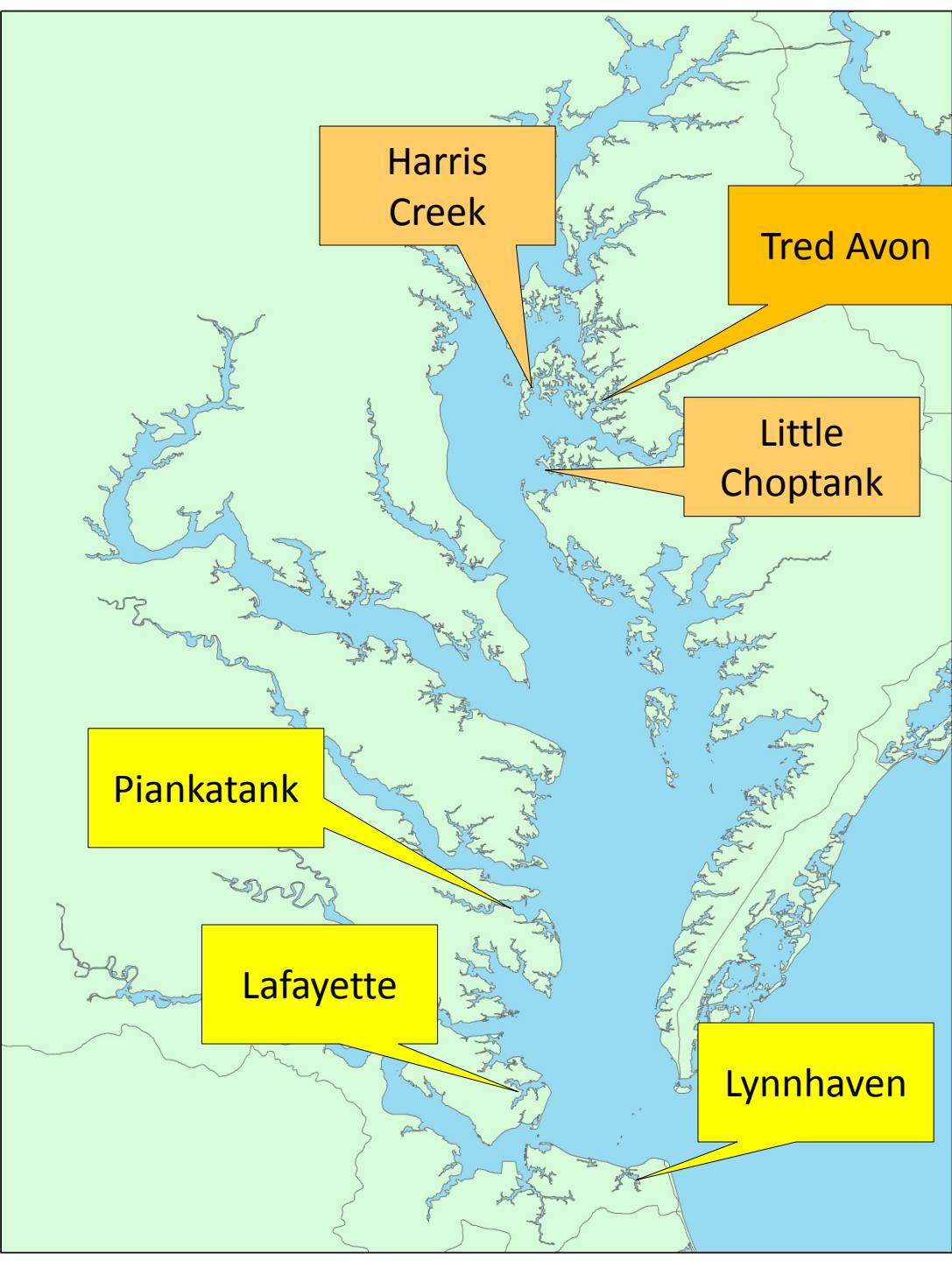
- MD & VA Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroups

## Maryland

- **Harris Creek**
- **Little Choptank**
- **Tred Avon**

## Virginia

- **Lynnhaven**
- **Lafayette**
- **Piankatank**

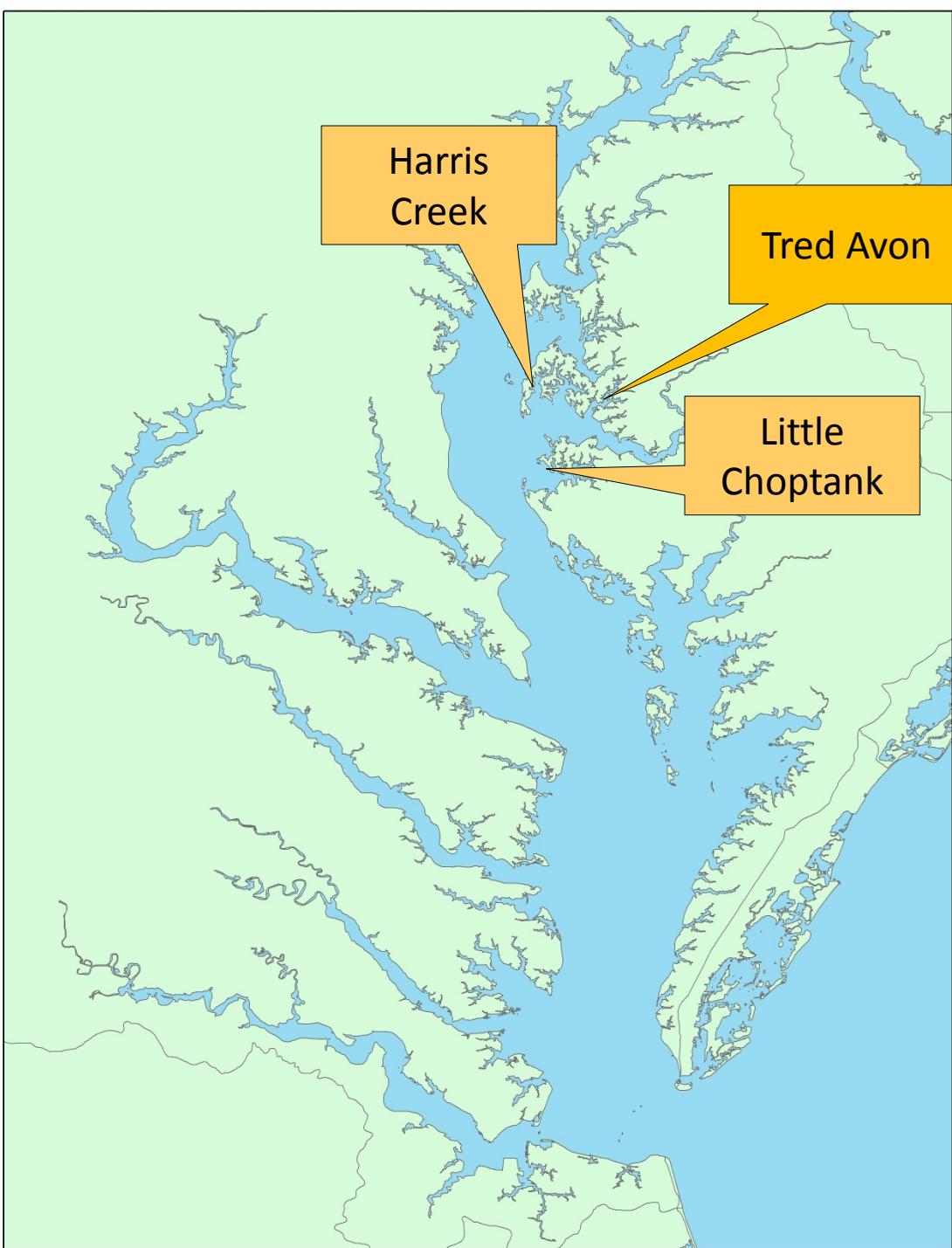


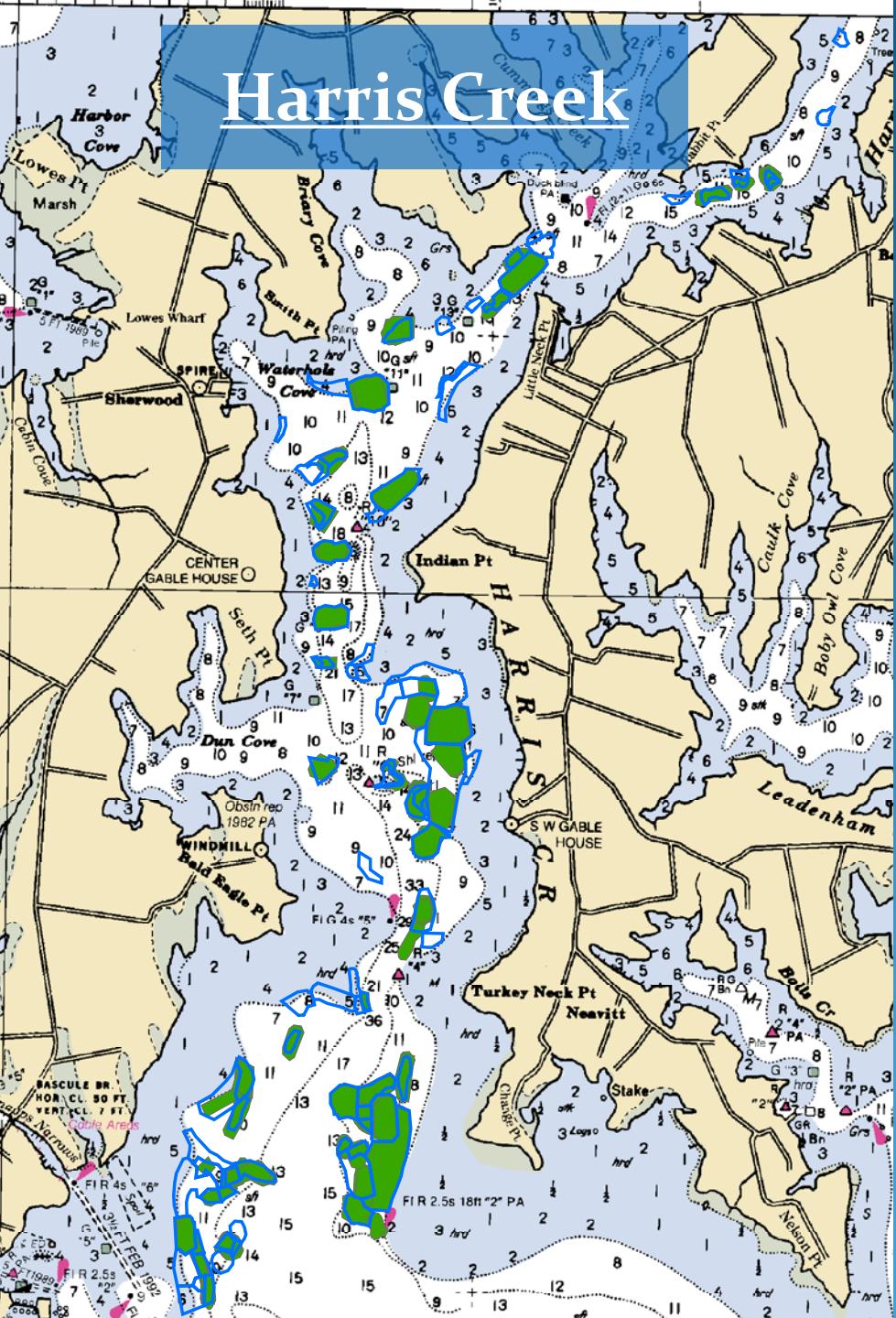
## Maryland

- **Harris Creek**
- **Little Choptank**
- **Tred Avon**

## Maryland Interagency Oyster Restoration Workgroup

- NOAA
- Army Corps of Engineers-  
Baltimore District
- MD Dept. Natural  
Resources
- Oyster Recovery  
Partnership
- Consulting scientists





## Harris Creek: So how's it doing?



- Creek-wide survey slated for fall 2015
- Meanwhile...
  - Spat surviving at twice the anticipated rate
  - Growth remarkably good (ex: many 2-year-old oysters are nearly 3 inches at one sentinel site)
  - Dermo is present, but at sub-lethal levels; could see an outbreak in a dry year
  - Continuous water quality monitoring (three stations) show no red flags
  - Ecosystem service studies (Harris; Little Choptank; Tred Avon) underway to quantify denitrification and fish utilization

Special thanks to Ken Paynter and staff at Paynter Labs, U of MD, for monitoring work



# Little Choptank River

## Draft Tributary Plan ('Blueprint')

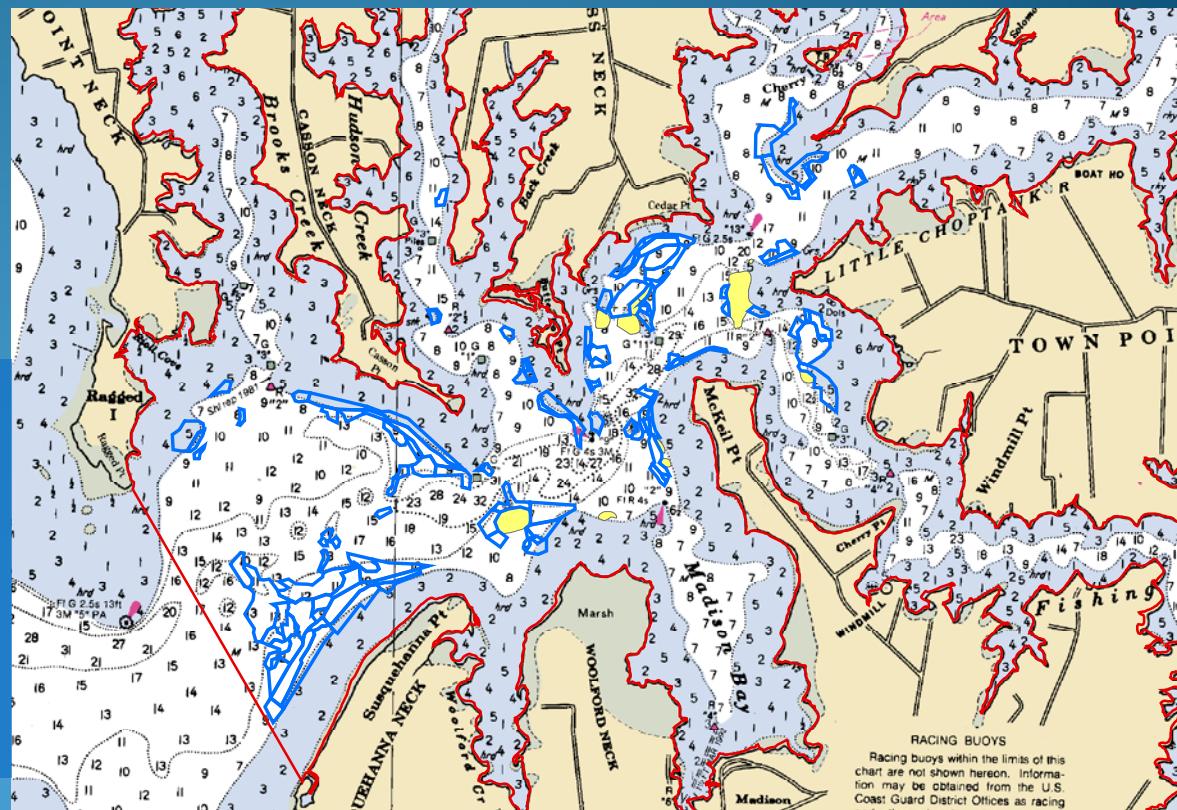
- Oyster Metrics goal = 340- 680 acres
- Plan targets 442 acres (45 of which already meet the Oyster Metrics oyster density target)

## Implementation

- MD DNR constructed the first 114 acres of substrate reefs in 2014

## Projection

- Seed some of the 114 acres in 2015
- Pursuing permit for remaining substrate sites



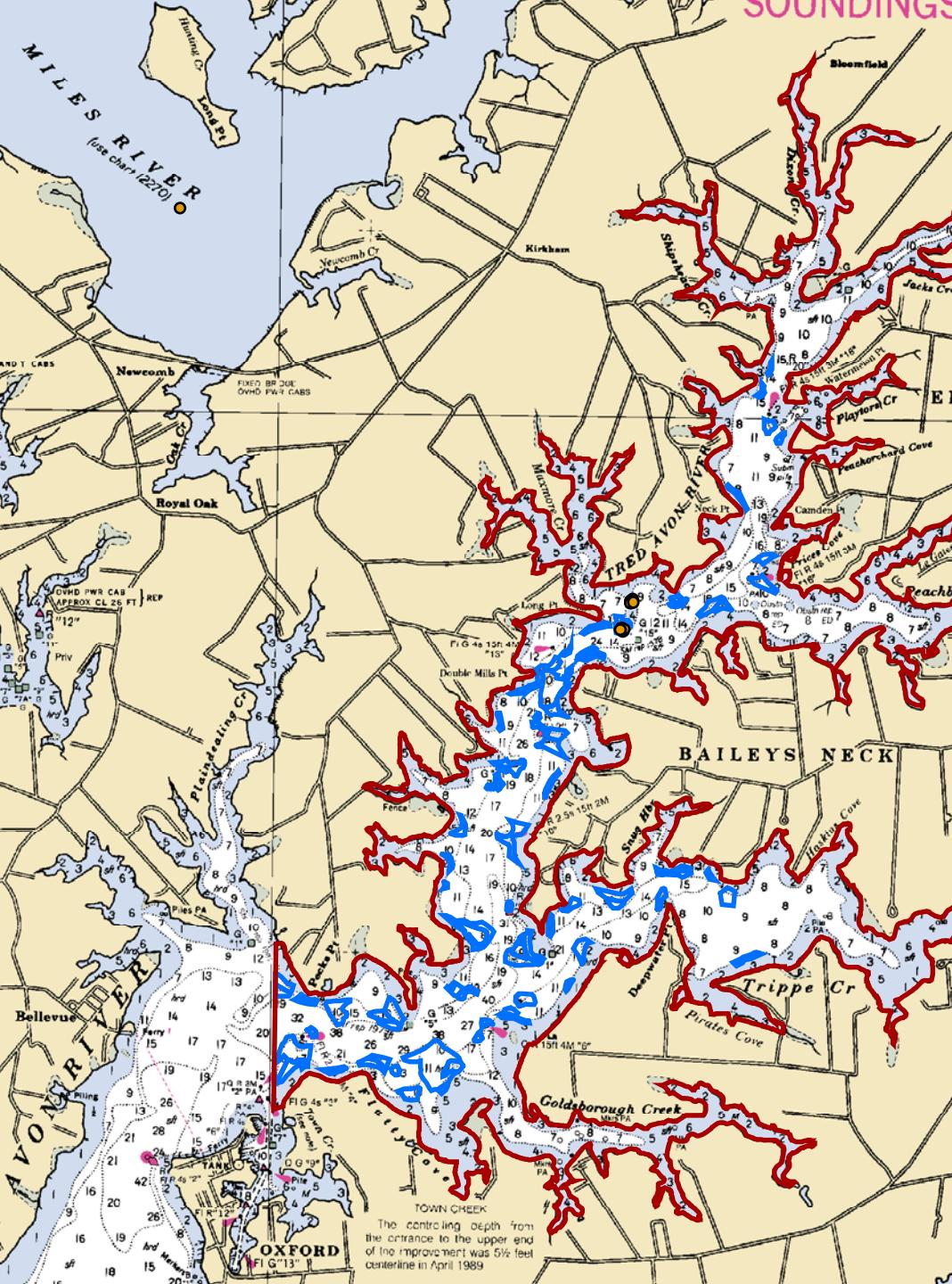
# Tred Avon River

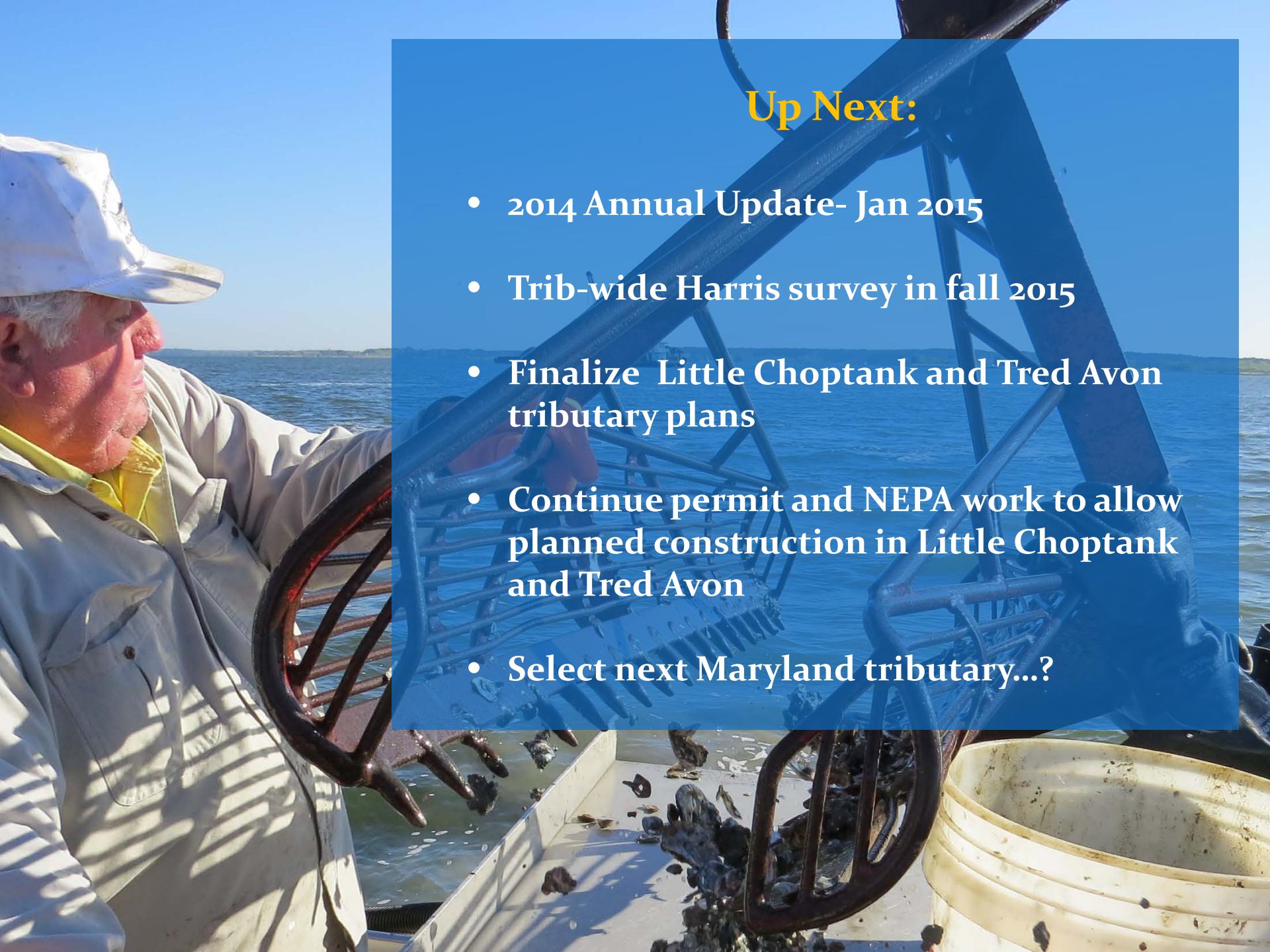
## Developed Draft Tributary Plan ('Blueprint')

- Oyster Metrics goal = 125- 250 acres
- Plan targets acres 185 acres

## Implementation

- First 24 acres contracted by USACE; to be built by spring 2015;
- Some may get seeded in 2015;
- USACE working on NEPA modification to build more sites
- Vertical profiler installed in 2014





## Up Next:

- **2014 Annual Update- Jan 2015**
- **Trib-wide Harris survey in fall 2015**
- **Finalize Little Choptank and Tred Avon tributary plans**
- **Continue permit and NEPA work to allow planned construction in Little Choptank and Tred Avon**
- **Select next Maryland tributary...?**

