

# Maryland Update

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

Stephanie Reynolds Westby, NOAA  
*On behalf of the Maryland Interagency Oyster  
Restoration Workgroup*







## 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

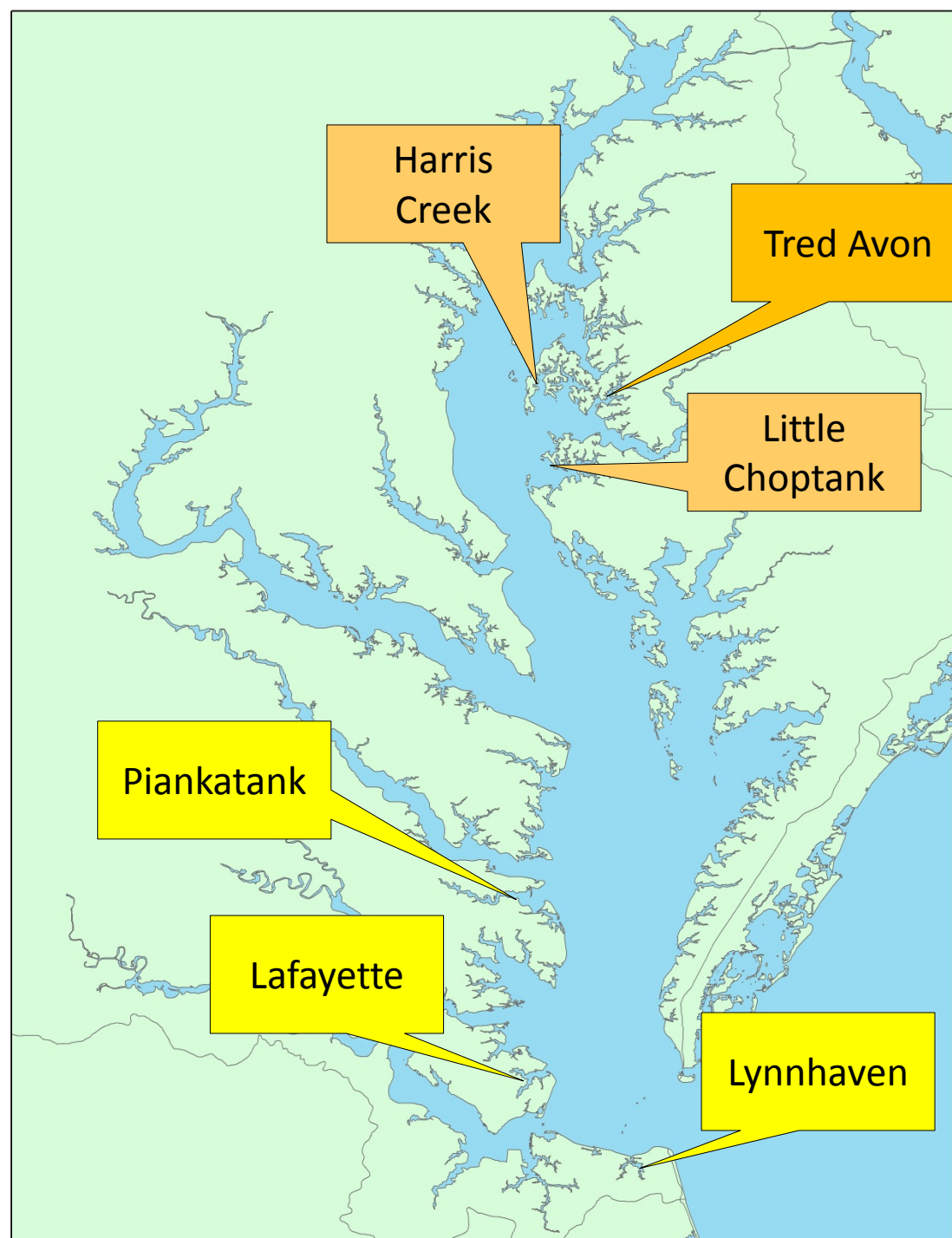
- MD & VA Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroups

## 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

## Tributary Plan ('Blueprint')

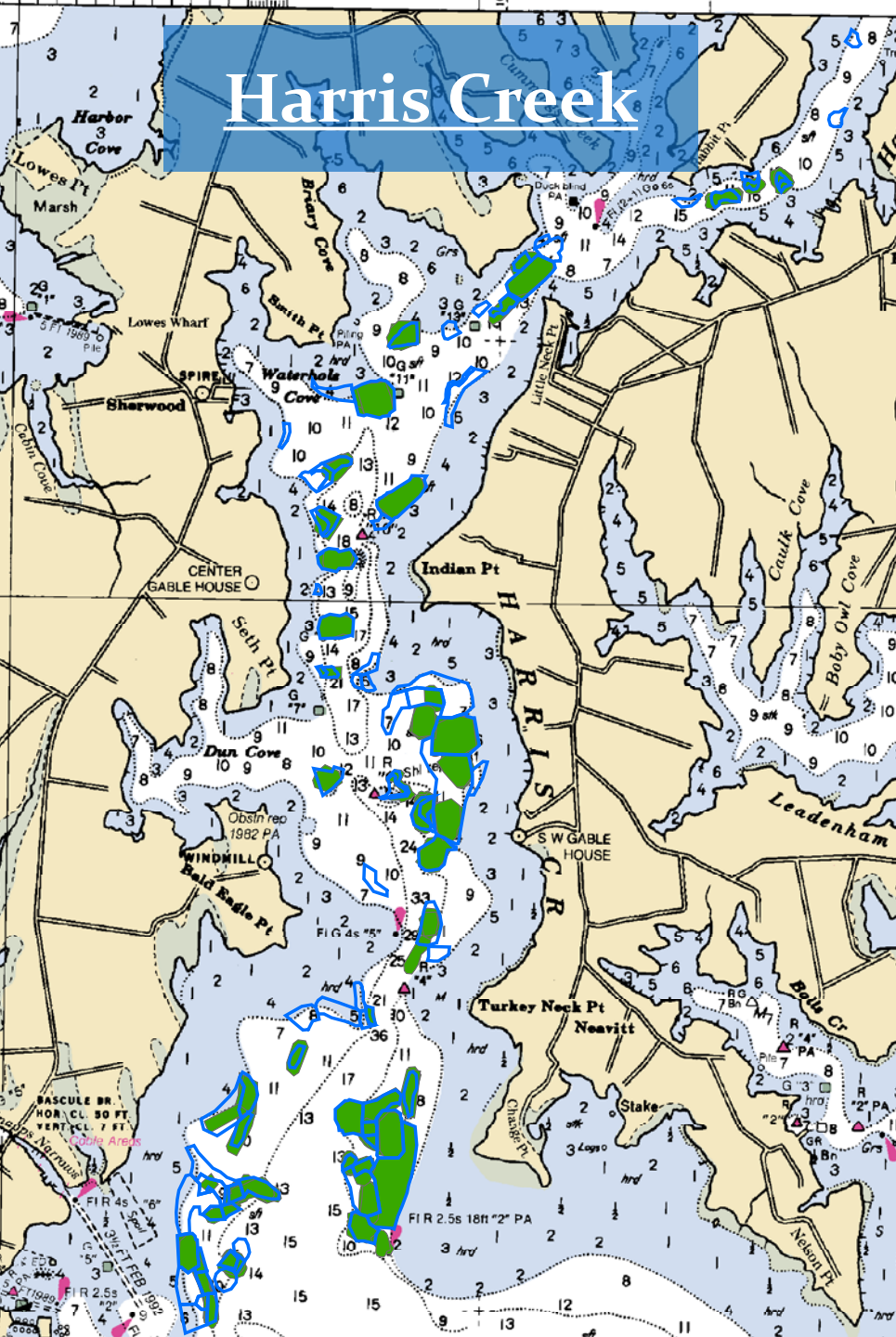
- Oyster Metrics goal = 300-600 acres

## Implementation

- 260 acres have been completed\*\*
- Includes: substrate construction by DNR and USACE; planting by ORP with seed from Univ of MD, with NOAA & DNR funding; CBF seeding with NOAA funding

## Projection

- All remaining substrate reefs are under contract; construction by spring 2015 (USACE & MD DNR)
- Just over 100 acres remain to be seeded; funding in place; planned for 2015
- Anticipated to be complete in 2015 = first restored trib under EO/ Bay Agreement





## 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')

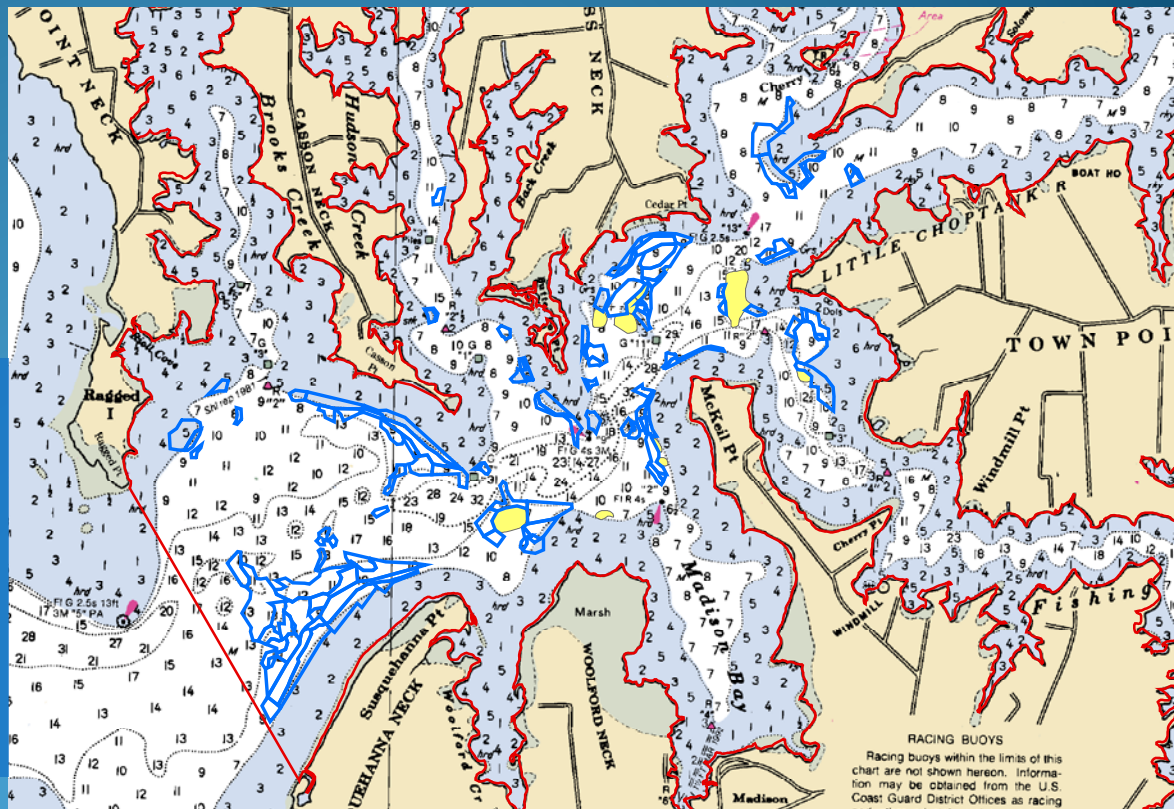
- Oyster Metrics goal = 340- 680 acres
- Plan targets 442 acres (45 of which already meet the Oyster Metrics oyster density target)

## 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





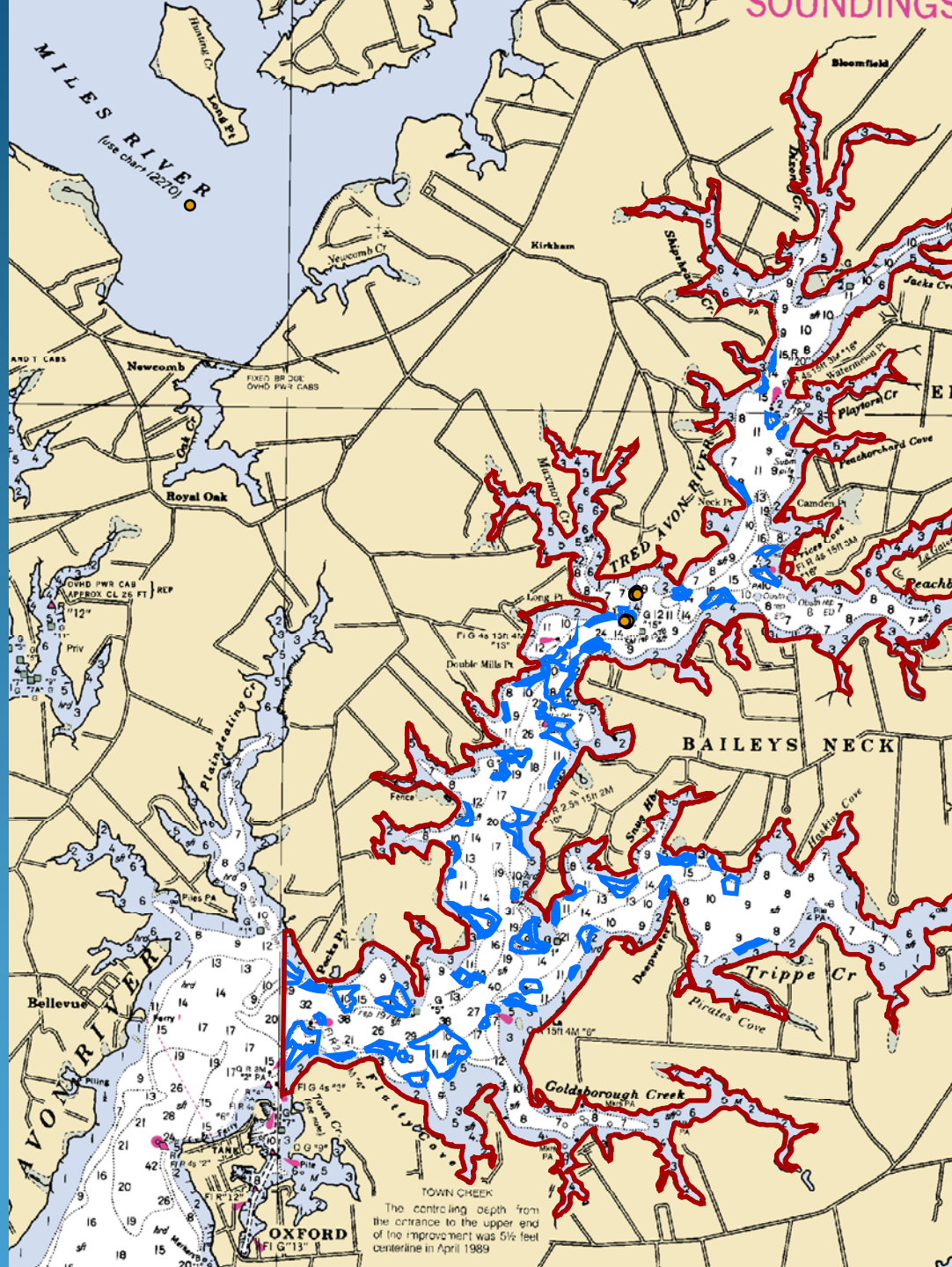
# Tred Avon River

## 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





A photograph of a man with white hair, wearing a white cap and a light-colored jacket, steering a boat. The boat's steering wheel is visible. In the background, there is a body of water and a distant shoreline under a clear blue sky. A large blue semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text. The text is organized into a list of five items, preceded by a yellow 'Up Next:' header.

## 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...?



