



Maryland Oyster Restoration Workgroup Notes  
9 19 2022 9:30- 12:30

**Agenda/ Notes**

- Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting
- St Mary's River monitoring discussion
  - Review draft control sites- determine if these are still suitable; no contention-- control sites stand as in table below.
  - Review the idea of lumping the 2021 and 2022 planting cohorts- draft decision was not to lump them- confirm. Given that there is no additional efficiency, it makes most sense to NOT lump these together.
  - For 3 and 6 year monitoring- discuss if this is an opportunity to implement that Rapid Assessment Protocol. Discuss when we need to determine this—does it influence fall 2022 monitoring methodology in St Mary's? Possible brief presentation on the use of RAP in Harris Creek, if needed to inform this discussion.
  - Sentinel sites discussion: determine the purpose of the sentinel sites, review the draft sentinel reefs and see if they suit the purpose, or if they need to be changed. Determine appropriate gear type for sentinel (and control) reef monitoring. Discuss when to start monitoring sentinel sites.

DNR has two fall survey (annual) sites in St Marys; one at Horseshoe bend, one at Paegan. Also, STM watershed group is active

and informs if there is mortality. ORP monitored SOAR sites (far upstream) this year; saw a lot of mortality.

Draft (strawman) framework for STM monitoring: Monitor the sentinel reefs as drafted in the table below; in addition to traditional dive/ PT sampling, also do RAP (Rapid Assessment Protocol- video monitoring) on these sites. This will: allow us to look for mortality events in any given year; calibrate RAP on STM; understand how well RAP equates to traditional monitoring data on this river. Then in 2024 (year when the first STM cohort is due for 3-year monitoring), we can look at the sentinel data (RAP and traditional), and determine if we are comfortable using RAP to replace some or all of the traditional 3/6 year monitoring.

From sub-workgroup meeting: below are draft control and sentinel reefs on STM:

**3 STM Control sites:**

- DNR fall survey site (Cont\_01, 2.01 acres)
- Draft control site 02 – southern portion of reef inside the lease buffer but outside the lease area
- Draft control site 03 – entire reef portion within the lease buffer (including within the lease area)

**6 STM Sentinel sites:**

Treatment	Site	Acreage	Year planted	Reef height
Substrate & seed	SS_03	1.43	Constructed 2021, planted 2022	12in
	SS_02	0.97	Constructed 2021, planted 2022	12in
Seed only	SO_09	0.56	2022	
	SO_08	0.39	2022	
Pre-met	EXG_05	1.77		
	EXG_07	0.67		

- St Mary's/ Little Choptank/ Tred Avon completion event: Oct 21
- DNR/ MGS presentation on Manokin coring data.
- Other updates, business, etc

ORP Restoration updates:

- Planted 441 million SOS to date
- Focusing on Manokin river SOS planting for remainder of season

ORP Monitoring updates:

- ORP completed Manokin groundtruthing backlog
    - Working on report, discuss results at the next meeting?
  - ORP preparing next (and final) round of Manokin groundtruthing, to be conducted this fall
  - ORP planning 3 & 6-year post restoration monitoring, anticipate starting in October
- Harris Creek retrospective- everyone needs to review, especially our respective sections. Needs to be done asap re: DNR field season starts soon.
- Eastern Bay: NOAA's survey vessel Thomas Jefferson will be working to survey this area this year; MGS is also planning to do work there; should coordinate.