



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration Partnership.

Sustainable Fisheries GIT: Oyster Restoration

*Sean Corson,
NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and
Sustainable Fisheries GIT Chair*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

Goal: *Sustainable Fisheries*

Outcome: *Oyster Restoration*

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.





What We Want



We want:

Work with Budget and Finance Workgroup to draft a finance strategy to support oyster restoration outcome.

Work with Communications Team to underscore international and regional significance of oyster restoration.

- **Brief Executive Council on oyster restoration success**

1

Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?



Logic Behind Our Outcome

Following the Decision Framework:

Factors

- Funding
- Public Engagement
- Government and Partner Collaboration
- Shell/substrate

Gaps

- Adequate funding for restoration and monitoring
- Public engagement and support of restoration
- Partner coordination
- Shell and alternative substrate availability/support

Management Approaches

- Securing financial support
- Stakeholder engagement
- Continued partner collaboration
- Efforts to explore alternative substrate, recycle shell, measure shell loss rates

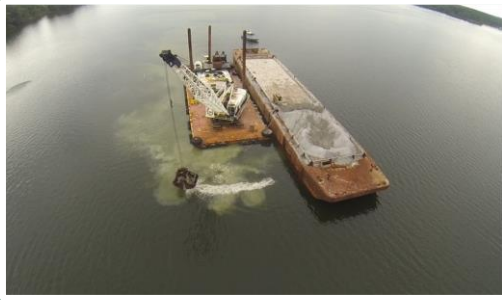
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Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



What is our progress?



Selected 6 tributaries for restoration

- Plan restoration
- Establish metrics
- Gather stakeholder input



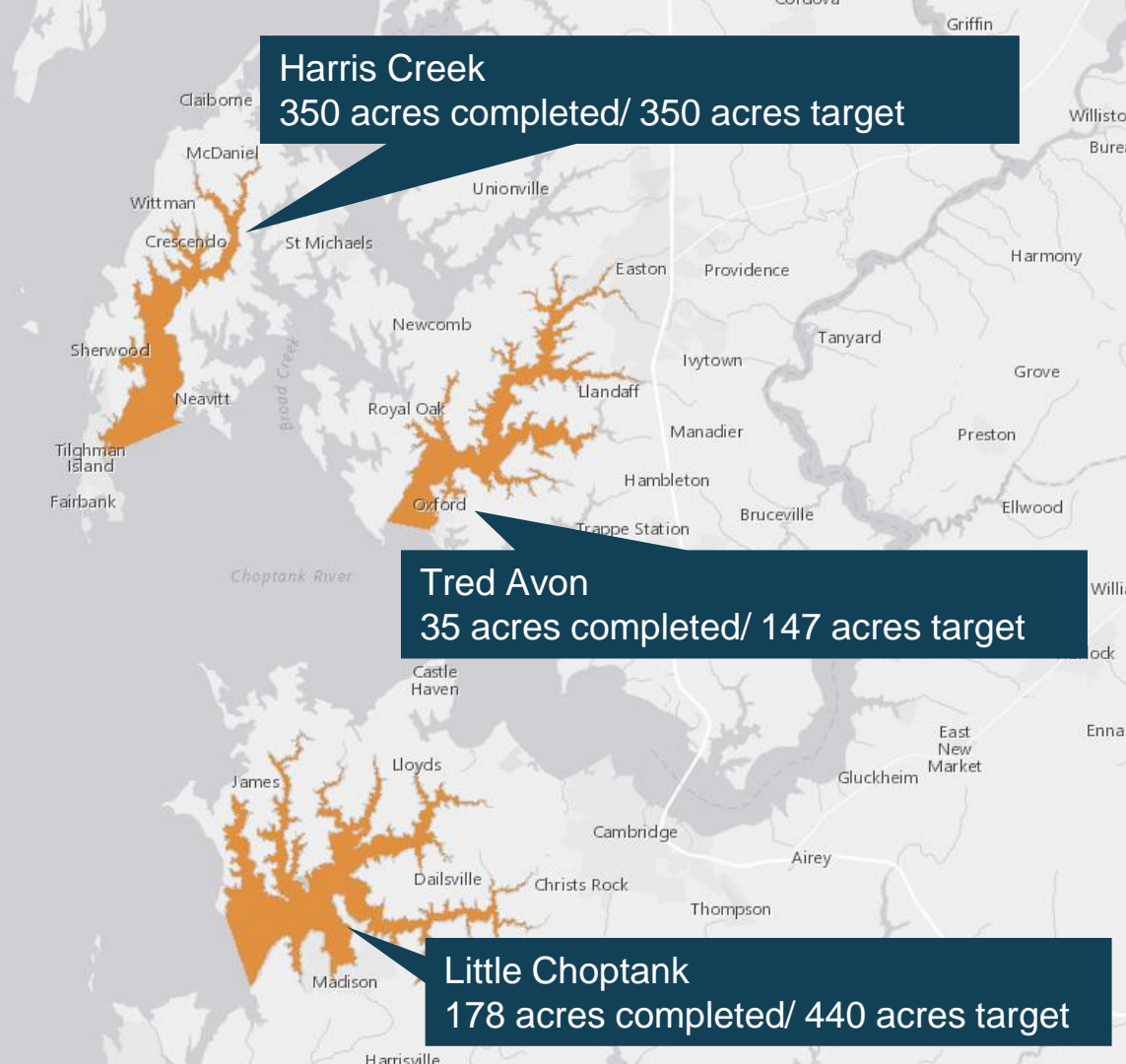
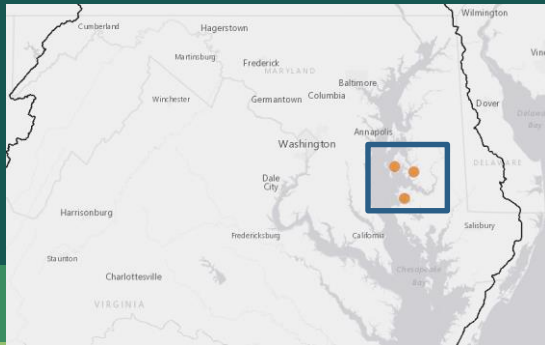
Completed restoration in Harris Creek.



Conducting monitoring of restoration efforts and research on oyster reef ecosystem services.

Maryland Oyster Restoration Map:

- Three selected tributaries
- In process of selecting next two tributaries
- Currently restoring/ monitoring



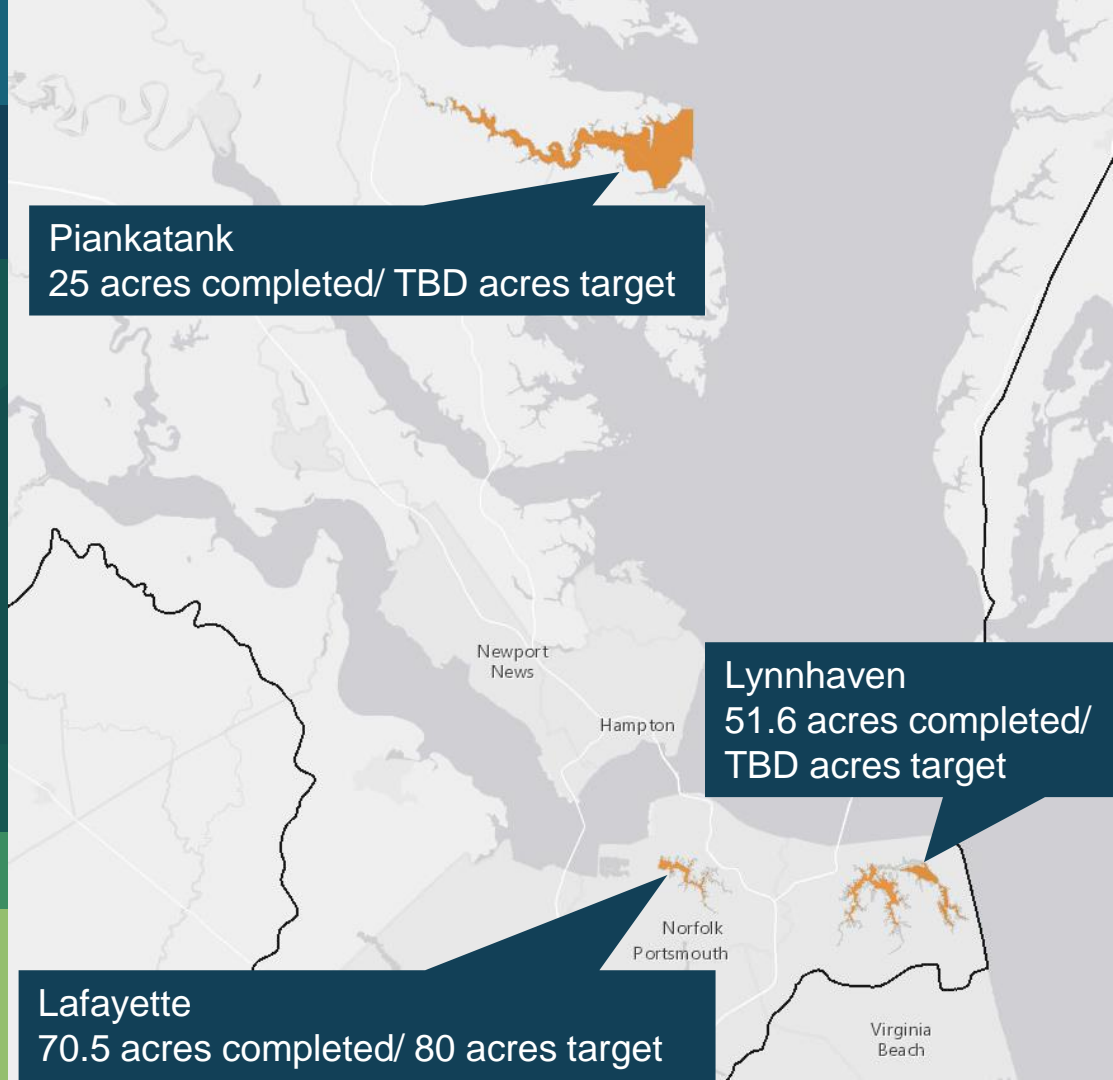
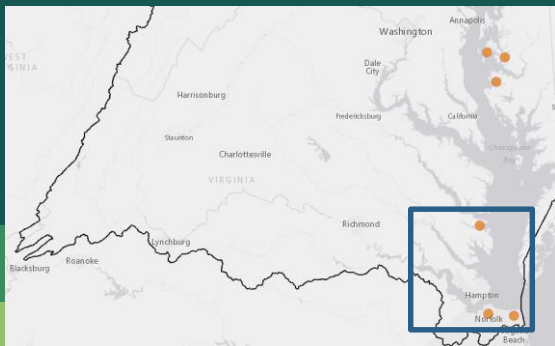
Harris Creek
350 acres completed/ 350 acres target

Tred Avon
35 acres completed/ 147 acres target

Little Choptank
178 acres completed/ 440 acres target

Virginia Oyster Restoration Map:

- Three selected tributaries
- Preliminary selection of next two tributaries: Great Wicomico and Lower York Rivers
- Currently conducting restoration



Piankatank
25 acres completed/ TBD acres target

Lynnhaven
51.6 acres completed/
TBD acres target

Lafayette
70.5 acres completed/ 80 acres target

3

Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

- Funding and availability of substrate for reef construction.
- Refining restoration goals and targets in Virginia.
- Restoration was put on hold for period of time in Maryland while some stakeholder concerns were evaluated.
- The process of selecting the other four tributaries (two in each jurisdiction) is underway and taking some time to finalize.

4

Adaptations:

How should we adapt?

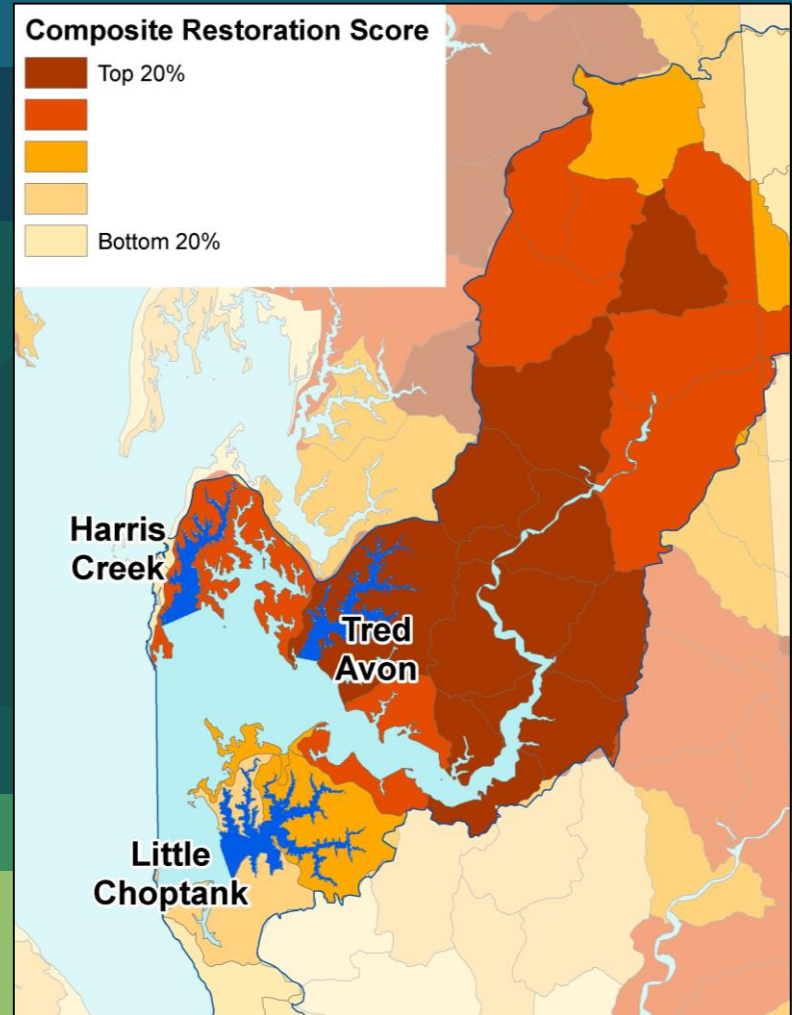
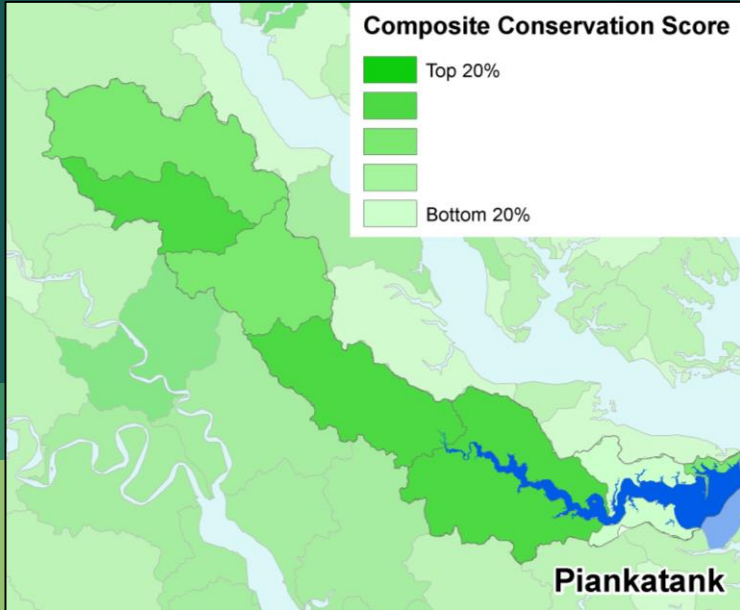


**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

- Continue coordination and funding among key partners to fully implement restoration plans
- Refine acreage goals and targets in VA
- Finalize tributary selection in MD and VA
- Protect restoration efforts through cross-GIT opportunities

Opportunity to Combine Oyster Restoration and Cross-GIT Collaboration:

- Combining Oyster and other ecological/living resource benefits
- Composite Conservation and Restoration watershed rankings





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Discussion

Extra Slides

Agreement Goals and Outcomes



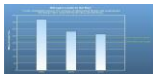
Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance
- Blue Crab Management
- Oyster
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat



Vital Habitats Goal

- Wetlands
- Black Duck
- Stream Health
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Forest Buffer
- Tree Canopy



Water Quality Goal

- 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)
- 2025 WIP
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring



Toxic Contaminants Goal

- Toxic Contaminants Research
- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention



Healthy Watersheds Goal

- Healthy Waters



Stewardship Goal

- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Diversity



Land Conservation Goal

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development
- Land Use Options Evaluation



Public Access Goal

- Public Access Site Development



Environmental Literacy Goal

- Student
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning



Climate Resiliency Goal

- Monitoring and Assessment
- Adaptation Outcome