



Maryland Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting

March 28, 2022 9:30 am- 12:30 pm

Meeting info:

meet.google.com/rmo-gwww-jgx

(US) +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 957 596 780 1588#

Agenda and notes:

-Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting.

-Comms: MD Annual Update progress; Bay Program video- meeting w comms staff next month.

-Little Choptank patent tong survey (DNR)

- DNR performed patent tong surveys on seed-only Little Choptank sites that were slated for second-year-class seedings as of the 3-year monitoring check in re: there has been a good natural set since then; upshot: of the 50 acres of seed only sites originally planned for second-year-class seedings, only 2 acres still need it. Woot woot!!
- NOAA will add these sites into the geodatabase as not seeding second year class seedings
- No new data on substrate sites; there were 27 acres from 2019, and 0 from 2020 that are slated for the originally-planned second-year-class seedings.

-Planting priorities for summer 2022

- From January workgroup meeting: *Priority order is complete plantings is St Marys first-- 7-8 million SOS would be produced at Piney Point, the rest at Horn Point; wait on Little Choptank until DNR's survey is done; meanwhile do Tred final site and second-year-class and Manokin (if able to)*
- Given the results of DNR Little Choptank patent tong survey, the clarified 2022 planting priorities are:
 - St Marys (10.5 acres)
 - Tred final site (approx 1/2 acre)
 - LC re-seeding: 2 acres of seed only that still need second seedings; then the 27 acres of substrate reefs
 - Manokin
 - Also Tred 48 acres needing second year class seedings
 - Target spat production is 500m spat on shell-- this is likely to get us through this list, including some Manokin acreage.

-Hatchery update- Horn Point first spawn of the season happened last week; first planting should be in about 3 weeks. Piney Point- still planning to set- they just got a few additional tanks so might be able to produce more than planned there.

-Continued discussion of data analysis from existing 3 and 6-year check in data

- NOAA summer field intern will be using the Rapid assessment Protocol (RAP- video sampling) on Harris creek to do post 6-year/ post restoration monitoring assessment. Request to focus on the Harris sites that were restored the earliest- that way we can learn how well the RAP does for beyond 6-year monitoring

-Oyster reefs as shoreline protection in mid-to-upper Bay?

- Corps- looking at this as part of their Barren Island project; they already have the design- question is does it make sense to add in oysters, could use various stone sizes; sills extend to 7-8 ft water depth.
- Could use direct larval seeing on existing rock structures (ex: Barren Island). One issue is that there tends to be higher wave energy in these areas- can a small batch of larvae stay in the breakwater area? Ex: Barren Island sills extend to 7-8 ft- maybe down that low there is a lot less wave energy?
- New York Harbor- they are working on reefs
- Matt Grey- UMCES- good resource; also William Nardin
- DELFT model- on option for modeling reef protection of shorelines
- Curtain boom was mentioned- probably not scalable, but maybe could be used to surround small, deep, low-energy breakwaters, the release larvae in it to set.

-DNR website shows info on restored reefs:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/oysters/harris-creek.aspx>

Other tribes: are updated periodically (Harris and LC gave monitoring info; DNR waits until a trib is initially restored, then starts adding monitoring info)

You can access any of the trib maps here:

-DNR Main Restoration page:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/oysters/eco-restoration.aspx>

DNR Restoration Projects page: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/oysters/projects.aspx>

-Other updates:

- 2021 3 and 6 year monitoring data analysis- ORP already produced the data set; will send the analysis this week.
- Welcome Joe Bieberich- Corps B-More -taking over for Katie