

Charting the Course: Oyster Policy & Management in Chesapeake Bay

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Terry Young/Air Aspects



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What We've Accomplished



PHOTO: ANNA MUDD/CBF STAFF

Maryland

- Oyster stock assessment
- Protection of restoration tributaries

Virginia

- \$10 million investment in restoration
- Mandatory electronic harvest reporting



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What We've Accomplished

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.



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A Decision Point

- Accelerate restoration
- Modernize fishery management
- Embrace aquaculture



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Charting the Course



PHOTO: LISA KELLOGG/VIMS



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Accelerate Restoration



PHOTO: DANIELLE MCCULLOCH

- Invest in Bay bottom survey
- Prioritize use of alternative substrates
- Identify shell and substrate sources for restoration
- Improve shell recycling and regional retention
- Increase regional capacity for processing & production



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Accelerate Restoration



PHOTO: JAMES HARDISON



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Modernize Fishery Management



Challenges:

- Historical overfishing
- Pollution
- Disease
- Environmental variation - salinity

Management Approach:

- Adaptive management
- Broodstock sanctuaries
- Dynamic harvest quotas
- Active enforcement – ‘black box’

PHOTO: THORNGREN ET AL. 2019



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Case Study: Limfjord, Denmark



- Develop oyster stock assessment for VA
- Implement adaptive fishery management based on assessments
- Manage to sustainable levels using harvest quotas
- Increase enforcement and accountability; electronic reporting

PHOTO: GREG KAHN



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Modernize Fishery Management



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Embrace Aquaculture



- Increase staff capacity to reduce lease processing times
- Implement active use requirements
- Invest in innovation & science on emerging industry concerns
- Address issues with user conflicts & protest process

PHOTO: GREG KAHN



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Embrace Aquaculture



PHOTO: ROBERT DILLER



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On the Horizon



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Coastal Resilience



- Opportunities for innovative financing with appropriate incentives
- Continued need to prioritize upstream pollution reductions
- Need for clear, coordinated processes across agencies for verification and credit generation



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Nutrient Credits for Restoration



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Innovative Partnerships



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