



OYSTERS

SRS 4TH CYCLE: 2024-2025 WORK PLAN

OUTCOME:

Continually increase finfish and shellfish habitat and water quality benefits from restored oyster populations.

Long-term Target:

Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 and ensure their protection.

Two-year Target:

Complete restoration work in the remaining two tributaries (Manokin River and Lynnhaven River), to complete the full suite of 10 planned tributaries. Additionally, Workgroups will continue scoping what a post-2025 oyster restoration goal might look like.

Management Approach 1: Restoration planning and implementation					
Action #	Description of Step	Performance Targets	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
1.1	Complete planned restoration work in Manokin river	Complete all planned restoration acreage in Manokin River	NOAA; MD DNR; ORP; U of MD Horn Point Hatchery; with support of all MD oyster workgroup partners	Manokin River	December 2025
1.2	Complete planned restoration work in Lynnhaven	Complete planned restoration acreage in Lynnhaven River	USACE- Norfolk District; CBF; Lynnhaven River NOW; with support of all VA oyster workgroup oyster workgroup	Lynnhaven river	December 2025

1.3	Continue scoping what a post-2025 oyster restoration goal will look like.	Complete initial restoration on all ten targeted tributaries	Various oyster workgroup partners (varies by state)	Manokin River; Lynnhaven River	December 2025
		Finalize Next Gen oyster goal (2026- 2035)	SF GIT	Bay wide	Mid 2025
1.4	Understanding and maintaining future restoration research topics	Maintain list of oyster restoration research topics critical to achieving large-scale restoration outcomes	SF GIT	Bay wide	ongoing
1.5	Monitor restored reefs	Complete monitoring post restoration, per Oyster Metrics success criteria.	All partners	Bay wide	ongoing
1.6	Determine Next Gen oyster goal, and begin planning work	Set a common oyster restoration goal for the next decade, and begin developing plans for implementation	All partners, with NOAA coordination	Bay wide	ongoing
How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?			What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
Completing all planned in-water restoration work, and scheduled monitoring, will complete the 2014 oyster outcome work. Scoping the next generation oyster goal will set us up for the next Bay agreement, or next oyster restoration goal generally.			Each tributary has an established restored reef acreage goal, as designated in its Blueprint. Individual reefs will be assessed based on Oyster Metrics success criteria. Research will help us understand what the ecological impact of the restoration work will be.	Reefs are scheduled to be monitored 3 and 6 years post restoration. Data will be used for adaptive management, and to determine whether each tributary can be considered	Via the Bay-wide Annual Update document, as well as communications by all partners. Indicators reported on Chesapeake Progress

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2: Coordinate and communicate oyster restoration progress and research

Action #	Description of Step	Performance Targets	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
2.1	Communicate results of oyster restoration for public audiences	Complete Bay-Wide Annual Updates to communicate progress toward the 'Ten tribes' goal	NOAA communications, on behalf of MD & VA oyster workgroups	Bay wide	Spring annually
2.2	Amplify success of the restoration effort to broader audiences, including environmental justice communities and the oyster industry. Incorporate the ecosystem services value of restoration work in messaging	Produce comms products geared toward these audiences in formats that resonate; include particular the ORES summary results: https://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/TMOHC8.pdf	Bay Program Comms team	Bay wide	Ongoing
		Increase/ improve/ broaden communications around the benefits of large-scale oyster restoration	all partners; Bay Program Comms Team	Bay wide	Ongoing
2.3	Apply science to ensure restoration is efficient and effective, and that its benefits are quantified	Streamline monitoring of restored oyster reefs	NCBO and Rapid Assessment Protocol Workgroup	Bay wide	End of 2024
		Understand where/ how/ if shoreline resilience benefits can be meaningfully incorporated into large-scale oyster reef restoration in the Chesapeake region	NCBO; all partners	Bay wide	Ongoing
		Continue to quantify ecosystem services of restored oyster reefs.	NCBO; all partners	Bay wide	Ongoing

<p>How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?</p>	<p>What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?</p>	<p>How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?</p>	<p>How will we communicate the results?</p>
<p>Communication products should engage a broader audience, and communicate progress, success, and benefits. Research will help us understand the broader ecosystem response of the restored reefs in the target tributaries.</p>	<p>All partners.</p>	<p>Communications products will be disseminated to the public. Research results will inform future restoration work and be utilized to understand ecosystem impact and response.</p>	<p>Communications products will be disseminated to the public. Research results will inform future restoration work and be utilized to understand ecosystem impact and response.</p>

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 3: Securing support and resources

Action #	Description of Step	Performance Targets	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
3.1	Ensure partners remain committed to Ten Tributaries completion, including implementing funding commitments	Annually track restoration implementation progress; identify and overcome obstacles to timely outcome completion	MD & VA Workgroups/Sustainable Fisheries GIT	Bay wide	Ongoing
How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?			What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
Partnerships have been key to successfully implementing large-scale restoration work, and maintaining support and commitment will be critical for completing the ‘Ten Tribs’ goal and beyond. The states, in particular, are key, as they manage the oyster resource and Bay bottom.			Success is when we have the resources and political clearance to implement all planned work.	N/A	Success will be communicated annual via the Bay-Wide Annual Update document, and associated communications products.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 4: Cross-outcome collaboration and multiple benefits

Action #	Description of Step	Performance Targets	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
4.1	Support DEIJ Efforts	Coordinate with Diversity Workgroup and Education/Stewardship team to explore DEIJ opportunities in Maryland and Virginia communities proximal to restoration tributaries.	MD & VA Workgroups; Diversity Workgroup; Education/Stewardship Team	Bay wide	Ongoing
		Better incorporate DEIJ into all aspects of oyster restoration			
How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?			What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
DEIJ remains a gap in the way we have planned and restored reefs. These actions may help improve engagement with underserved communities.			TBD	TBD	TBD