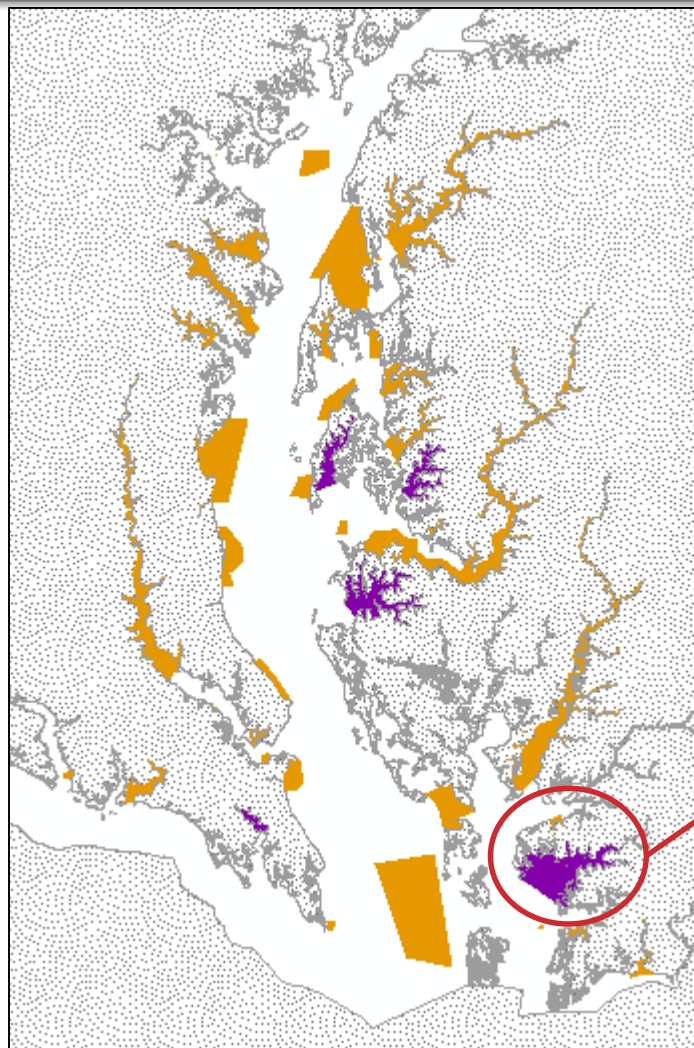




Maryland's Recommended 5th Large Scale Restoration Tributary

Jodi Baxter
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
6/27/19

Location



Large scale restoration sanctuary Sanctuary

Maryland has 51 sanctuary areas of which five are large-scale restoration tributaries:

- Harris Creek
- Little Choptank
- Tred Avon
- Upper St. Mary's
- Manokin (recommended)

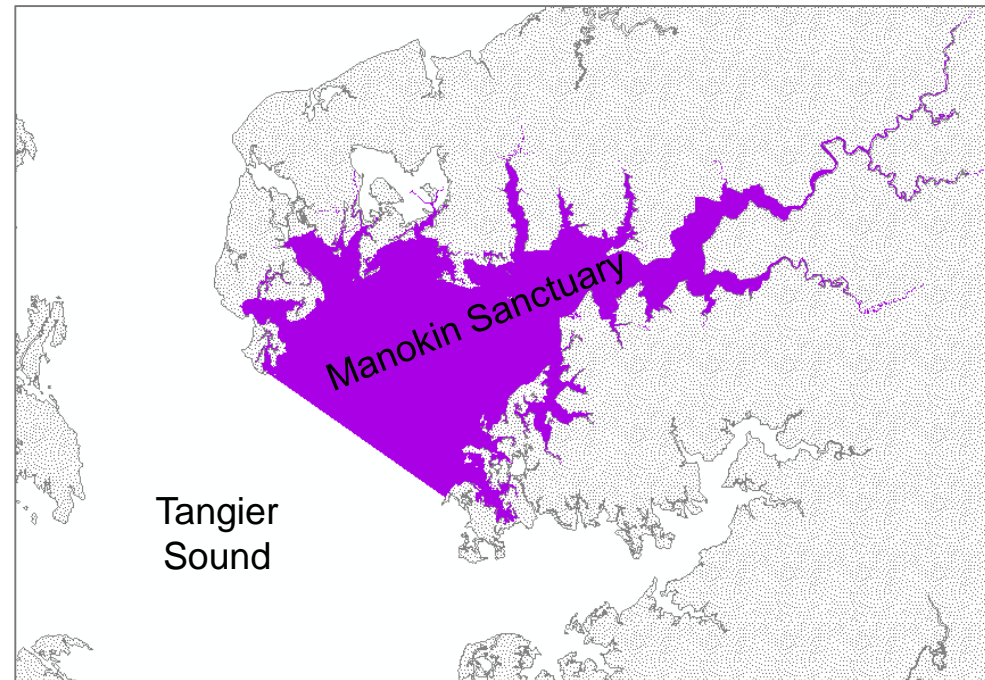
Manokin Sanctuary

Background

- Surface area = 16,320 acres
- Historic Yates oyster bottom = 4,984 acres
- Sanctuary area since 2010

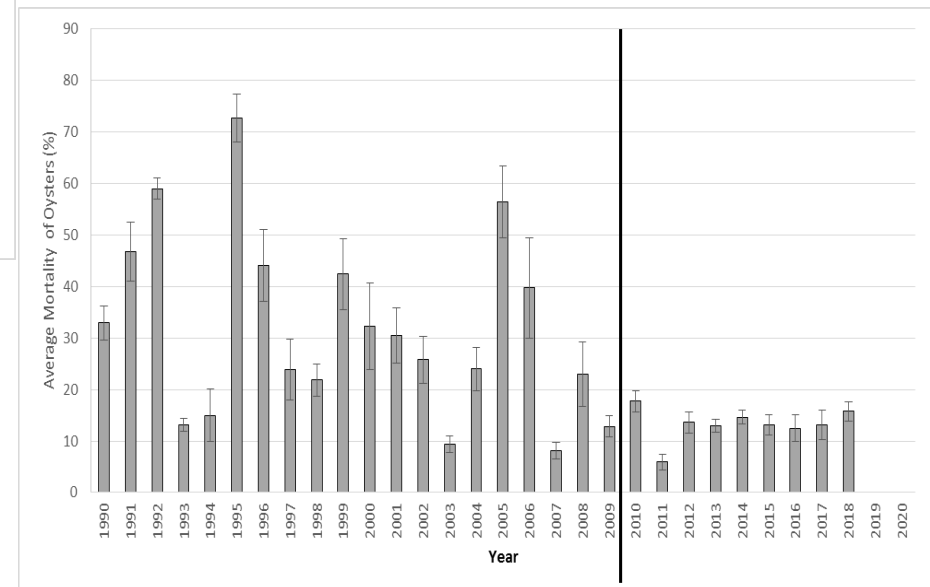
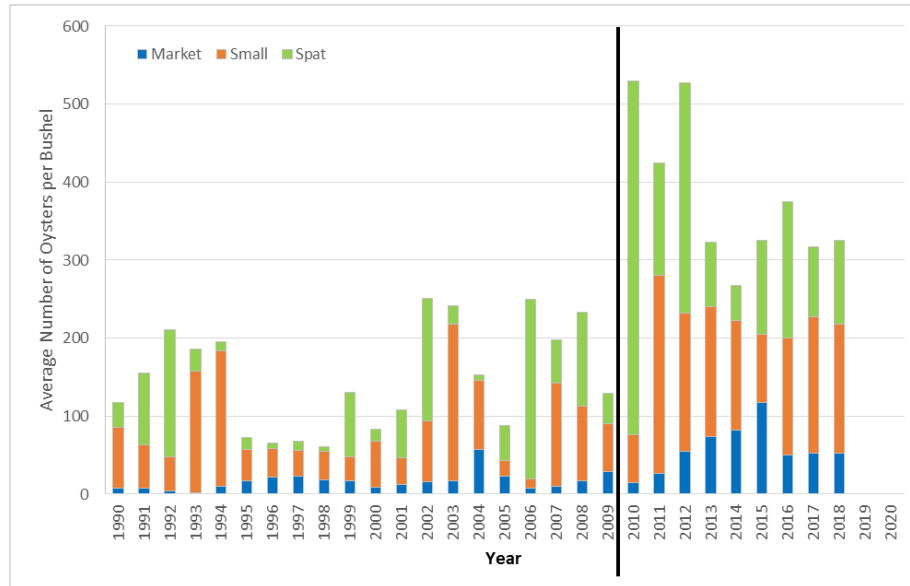
Recommendation Factors

- Tier 1 sanctuary for restoration
- Oyster Advisory Commission votes tied with St. Mary's for 2nd choice for selection
- Good biological and ecological conditions to support restoration



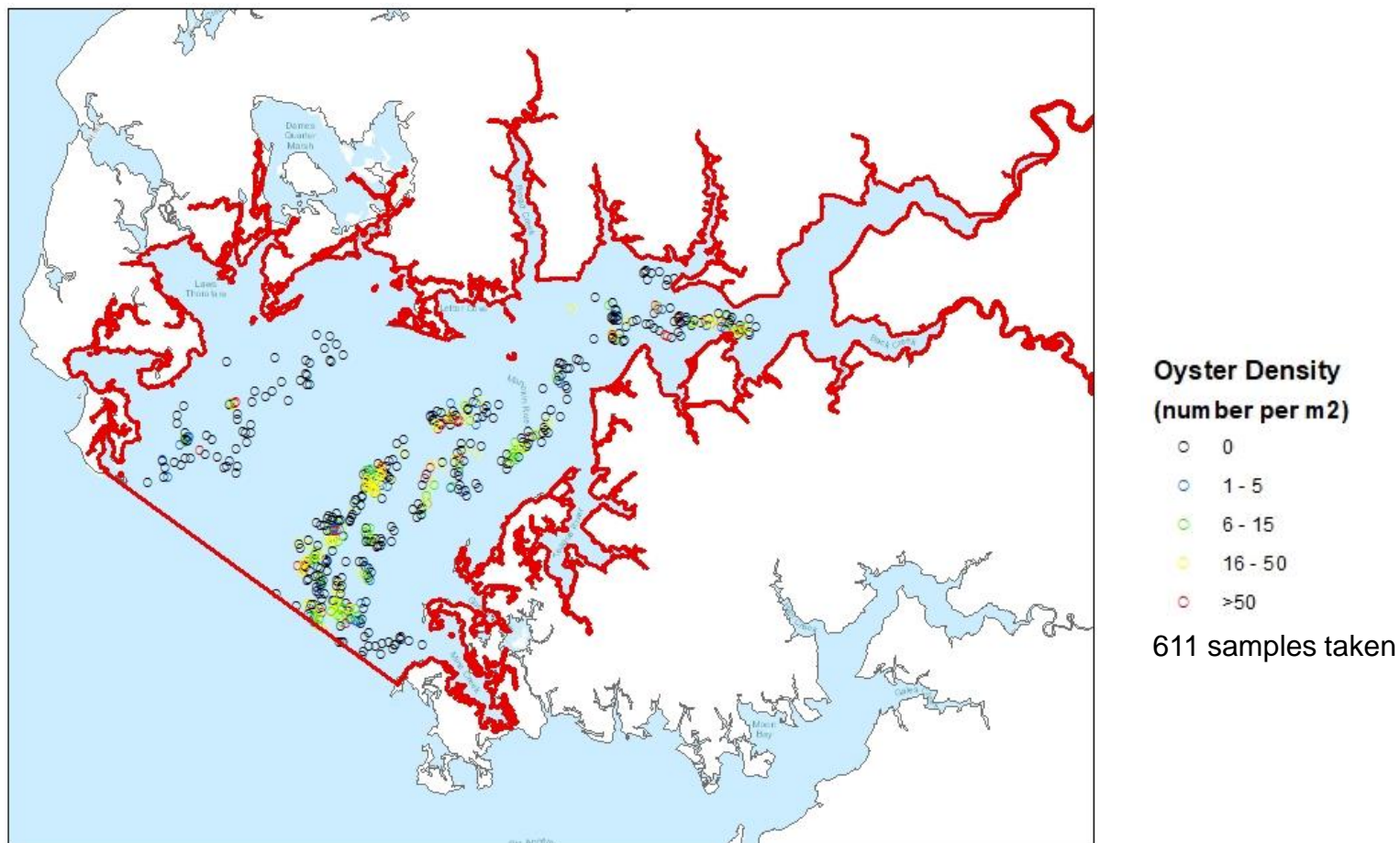
Manokin Sanctuary

Annual Oyster Fall Dredge Survey Data



Manokin Sanctuary

Oyster Patent Tong Surveys



Random site selection surveys in non-mud habitat occurred in 2012, 2015, 2017, and 2018 by MD DNR

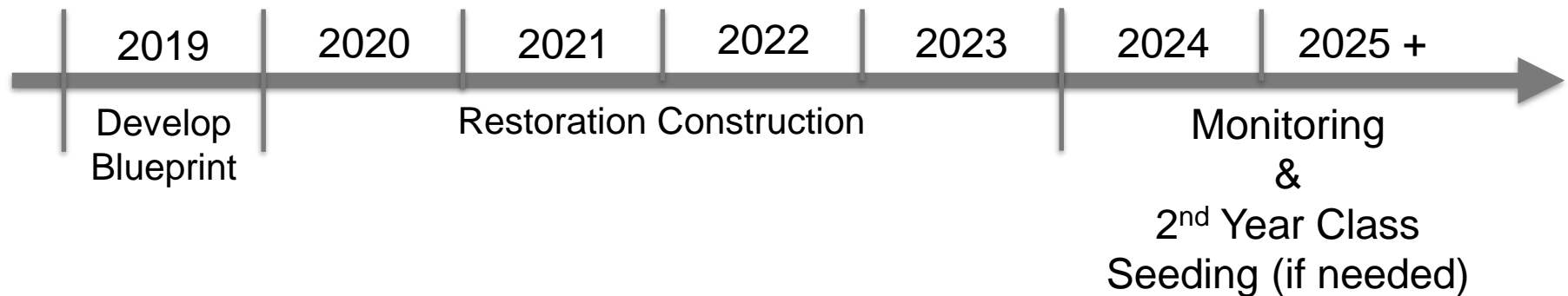


Manokin: Next Steps

1. Side scan sonar bottom survey – potential bottom suitable for restoration
2. Determine the acreage of currently restorable oyster habitat and define the restoration goal (target acreage)
3. Oyster patent tong groundtruth survey (multiple systematic surveys required)
 - Determine exact acreages
 - already exceeds target thus no restoration planting needed
 - suitable for seed only construction
 - suitable for substrate & seed construction
4. Develop a draft blueprint (plan) for restoring the sanctuary
5. Consulting scientists review draft blueprint
6. Public comment period on draft blueprint
7. Finalize living blueprint, obtain substrate planting permits (if applicable), and implementation



Manokin: Proposed Timeline





Questions or Comments ???