



OYSTERS

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES GIT

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Increase ecosystem benefits from oysters through reef habitat restoration, sustainable harvest, and aquaculture.

EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

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.

PROPOSED TARGET (SMART, Directional, etc.). (Suggested time horizon of 2040 for achievement of draft output.)	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
Restore or conserve at least 1800 additional acres of oyster reef habitat managed as non-harvest reefs, concentrated primarily in restoration focus areas [under construction]	new target	2025
Maintain sustainable oyster abundance and enhance their capacity to improve water quality through the oyster fishery and aquaculture practices [under construction]	new target	2025
Maintain reefs established under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement to achieve restoration success metrics [under construction]	new target	2025

*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:

- The current outcome to restore 10 tributaries by 2025 will be successfully met. The Partnership has learned a lot from this effort and there is a strong desire to keep the momentum of restoration going
- Partners have agreed there is a need for additional oyster restoration and conservation. Additional projects are already being planned or underway.
- An update outcome allows for the partnerships and “secret sauce” to continue around a common target. It
- The novel fishery target engages the oyster fishery and aquaculture industries, groups not previously engaged in the Bay Program oyster restoration effort
- This will support the sustainable management of oysters in an effort to improve water quality

Topics/challenges for Management Board guidance (Optional):

Methodology for data collection and tracking of each Target (Optional):

Links to documentation that provide Target justification/context and/or rationale (Optional):

March 27 MB novel outcome 2 pager [Oyster Abundance Novel Outcome Review.pdf](#)