



Maryland Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

July 15 2024, 9:30am-12:30pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iot-pnfh-zre>

Or dial: (US) +1 405-346-8270 PIN: 725 207 669#

Notes

-Jodi- no longer w/ shellfish as of Aug 1; SRW- remove from notifications and wkgrp list.

-Hatchery update: HPL salinity is still at 8 ppt (low salinity); some algae issues; planting in Manokin today; 200M SOS (350M remaining) on Manokin as of this week; 22m in LC; 10m in Tred; SB830 HPL oyster experimented are ongoing and going well. Plantings every week; lower than last year, but that is to be expected given last year's banner production.

- Manokin construction is on track to be completed next month.

-DNR \$10 million press release, <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2024/07/18/noaa-announces-10-million-grant-for-oyster-sanctuary-reef-construction-in-maryland/>

-OAC meeting next month Aug. 19, is a special meeting that will focus on sanctuaries. The NOAA grant will be discussed at this meeting.

-Review outstanding comments on the 2022/23 monitoring report, https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eb_zXLOkCmo22tJL4lqDQXaG_OJD0s95lqWsm4FmY1c/edit

-New USACE Baltimore Colonial: Col Frank Pera - new as a district commander; engineering background;

-ORP has invoiced for the new set of reinforced patent tongs.

-Other business: RAP for fall 2024 monitoring; Harris Retrospective (Stephanie plans on drafting manuscript as priority)

- Tred Avon plane crash- not on a restoration site, but close to a seed only site that was not restored due to failing groundtruthing. The plane was brought to the surface and then moved to the shoreline until it could be removed. No visible oil/gas leakage at the time of the crash. DNR helped with the recovery of the plane. One fatality.

- Reminder, please get your reviews of the ICSR Harris Creek presentation back to Laurinda by COB tomorrow. At that point it will be sent on for internal reviews.

- Restore America's Estuaries - More details on panel? Olivia received an automated email from RAE; Jay had started a google doc; CBF/ Doug Meyers had originally led the charge.

- Tred Avon Control site reshaping to 1 acre for 2024 seeding: CONTROL_SO_02/T032. Who is doing this? Polygon needs to be reconfigured for aid to navigation.
SRW- send this info to Paco for geodatabase change; copy whole workgroup

- 2024 Monitoring - St. Mary's 2021 cohort or merge and monitor in 2025?
STM- 2 cohorts 2021 and 2022; should we merge them for monitoring? Lots of ~~seed only~~ exceeds goal, so flexibility to assign year zero. **Decision to keep it as is, meaning two cohorts.**

-Jane's Island- Corps projects- engineering with nature element- involves oysters.

-Calvert County (public in the meeting, Ryan St Laurent with Calvert Soil Conservation, ryan.st.laurent@calvertcountymd.gov) wants to line the shoreline with oyster reefs to attenuate wave action/shoreline stabilization. Working with Matt Gray and SERC people, gabion baskets filled with concrete or granite. Considering options 3'-8' below MLLW line. They have a potential pilot project in North Beach.

-Reef ball deployment in the St. Marys by CCA/CBF site 1 has started. I went to observe the first deployment. There are 2 more deployments planned for this summer.