



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The goal of OysterFutures is to develop recommendations for oyster policies and management that meet the needs of industry, citizen, and government stakeholders in the Choptank and Little Choptank Rivers.

With funding from the National Science Foundation, we will hold a series of workgroup meetings with a representative group of stakeholders. Through these meetings, the stakeholders will produce a collective vision for the future of oysters in this region and build consensus on policy and regulatory options which will be informed by stakeholder and scientific knowledge and by the joint development and use of a modeling tool. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has agreed to evaluate the consensus recommendations that result.

The stakeholders participating on the workgroup will be representatives from the key interest groups that affect and are affected by the oyster fishery. Researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science will serve as consultants to the stakeholders. Professional independent facilitators with experience in fisheries issues will convene the stakeholder meetings. The facilitators will ensure that a consensus-based approach which includes the input of diverse stakeholders is used to develop the collective vision and recommended actions for a sustainable and profitable future for the oyster industry in the Choptank and Little Choptank Rivers.

Scientists and facilitators:

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