



Maryland Interagency Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

Jan 23, 2023 9:30 am– 12:30pm

Agenda and Notes

-Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting.

-Video clip of Tred Avon restored stone reef

- Review the final Fall 2022 groundtruthing data; some acreage may be converted to spat-on-shell from substrate and seed; no areas that qualify as premet. Goal is to finalize treatment type for all remaining Manokin reefs. Final acreages: premet- 0 acres, Seed Only- 308 acres Substrate and Seed- 133 acres, total restored- 441 acres

-Review draft of the MD section of the annual update. Last year's version is [here](#), for reference. Review: LC, TA, STM-- do these look correct? On Manokin- need to figure out premet acreage to inform this; also, how to describe \$\$ spent on stone base that has not yet been seeded.

- Bay wide slide: bracket for 'to be restored' should go to top
- Need legend on MD-wide map; change Harris to ex: dark green- 'all monitoring complete' / 'fully, successfully restored per OM
- Manokin: 12/19 geodatabase shows all of the stone reef bases that were constructed in 2022 (reefs MN28, MN38, MN 74); need to add these to the map; remove all the premet acreage; Paco-- needs to remove the monitoring year from these three reefs re: they have not yet been seeded. Map: no premet; planned should show only the current DNR planned reefs-- not the others in the Blueprint; DNR will send Paco shapefiles for their reefs that they are planning.

Dollars: not yet sorted out.

-Fish GIT meeting: March 1-2, UM Eastern Shore

-Manokin seeding discussion: what is the best way to get this trib seeded by 2025? Can we rely on natural set, and to what extent? Also discuss research possibilities: direct set, natural set, shell only, quantify natural set, etc.

- Hatchery plan: will focus on Manokin in 2023; the hope is to knock out a large portion of the Manokin needs in summer 2023.

- Ideas for reaching the huge number of seed required?
- Point made that though Manokin is a high spat set area, it could also see more disease mortality.
- Ideas put forward to explore more:
 - Do a data collection/ research project to determine to what extent we can rely on natural recruitment. Ex: treat a reef or reef or parts of a reef with different treatments: direct setting, shell only, spat-on-shell, stone only. Use results to inform how much seed various reefs get.
 - Seed at a lower density in year 0, re: Manokin is a high spat set area; then after 3 year monitoring,
 - Seed at 4 million instead of 5 million?
 - Seed at half density?
 - Do stone or seed only reefs need more/ less spat? The same amount?
- From Manokin Blueprint: *Since the Manokin is a high spat recruitment area, one potential approach, pending funding, would be to perform natural recruitment studies on areas that receive substrate construction. This could help determine if natural spat set is sufficient to reduce or eliminate the need for initial hatchery seeding. Natural spat set would need to produce initial densities similar to those achieved by planting hatchery seed to reduce or eliminate the need for initial seeding.*
- 670 SOS/ year for the next 3 years to complete Manokin seeding as initially laid out in the Blueprint.
- Next meeting/ homework for next meeting: workgroup members should put thought into what a reduced seeding amount might be/ how we can determine what that should be; what might research/ data collection exercises look like.

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Harris Creek Retrospective notes: note that HC controls many meet metrics as well

Didn't get to this agenda item; address at the next meeting:

-2 sites in the Little Choptank that were never monitored. Also, 2 in the Tred that weren't monitored. These were designated as premet and were missed. Also, the last monitoring report had some errors in one of the charts. Another question as to when the reef footprint calculation was changed and how? (Laurinda)