

Developing a Draft Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Goal for 2035

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*The Maryland and Virginia
Oyster Restoration Workgroups under the
Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team
were instrumental in developing this content.*



Why do we need a Next Gen/ Post-2025 oyster goal?

- Prep for next Chesapeake Bay Agreement
- Prep for gap between current and next Bay Agreement/ initiative
- Maintain momentum, partnerships, progress
- Build on success

So we had a think...



2025
(current Bay
Agreement goal
deadline)

Next
Bay Agreement
(or not...)

2014 Bay Agreement Oyster Goal:

*Restore oyster habitat and populations in 10 Bay tributaries by 2025,
and ensure their protection.*

Operating Principles for Developing Next Gen Oyster Goal/s

Goal



- **SMART goal**
(specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time bound)
- **Ambitious**
(maintain or increase scale)
- **Understandable/ Concise**
- **Ecologically Sound**
(Scale; clustered; recognizes climate impacts)

Goal setting & restoration implementation process

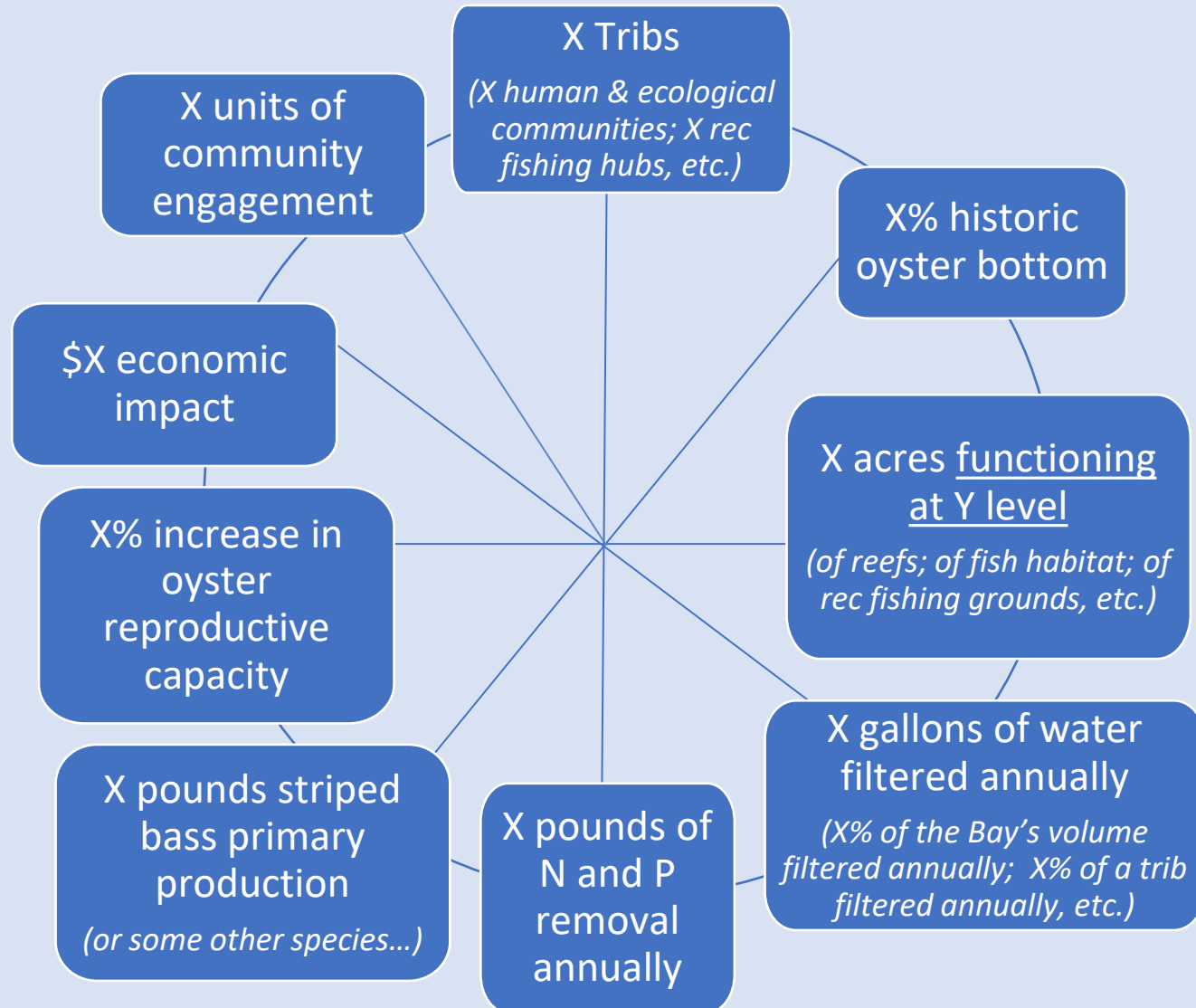


- **Inclusive**
Human community is important (“Oysters are easy; people are hard”)
- **Partnerships are key**
 - Collective: goal, metrics, planning, implementation, tracking, monitoring, adapting
 - States manage the oyster resource, so they are critical partners; we need them as champions
- **Maintain momentum:** need to set this goal now-ish
- **Rebuilding networks (clusters) of sanctuary reefs, at large scale, will likely remain a key tool.**
- **Recognize & communicate the value of ecosystem services, beyond the SMART oyster goal****

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'Goal Translator'



Goal Translator User Guide

- Pick a box
- Pick a value for X
- Recognize, quantify, and message around all boxes
- Additional, out-of-the-box boxes welcome and encouraged
- Some boxes are the 'what'; some are the 'why'; some are the 'how'

Draft 2035 Oyster Goal Structure

DRAFT Oyster Goal

(analogue to '10 Tribes' goal)

- **Restoration goal:**
 - *restore oysters in 15 Chesapeake Bay tributaries**
 - *totaling at least 2700 acres of high-functioning** reefs*
 - *and ensure their protection.*
- **Oyster stewardship goal:**
 - *Maintain, and/ or continue to improve upon, the restoration work under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.*

** Large, targeted, clustered, distinct geographic areas- could include, ex: a slice of a larger river, or a segment of Bay mainstem/ clustered geographies*

*** Per current GIT Oyster Metrics definitions, or as modified for the Next Gen oyster goal*

Additional Co-Goals

("Oysters and...")

("Oysters with a side of...")

("Oyster pairings...")

Potential Examples:

- **Oysters & SAV**
- **Oysters & shoreline protection/ wetlands**
- **Large-scale oyster restoration in conjunction with meeting water quality goals (BMP).**
- **Sanctuary restoration in conjunction with wild fishery and aquaculture**
- **Oysters & Environmental justice/ community engagement**
- **Using next gen restoration as a research platform:**
develop the research questions alongside the restoration plans; ex: do we see a tributary-level system response to large-scale oyster restoration?
- **Engaging more citizen/ community scientists**

...in some specific tribes/ areas