

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

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

EXISTING 2014 AGREEMENT 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	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

- The current outcome will be successfully met.
- 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.
- The novel fishery target engages oyster fishery and aquaculture and allows for sustainable management of these fisheries to count toward water quality enhancement.