



Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Success Stories

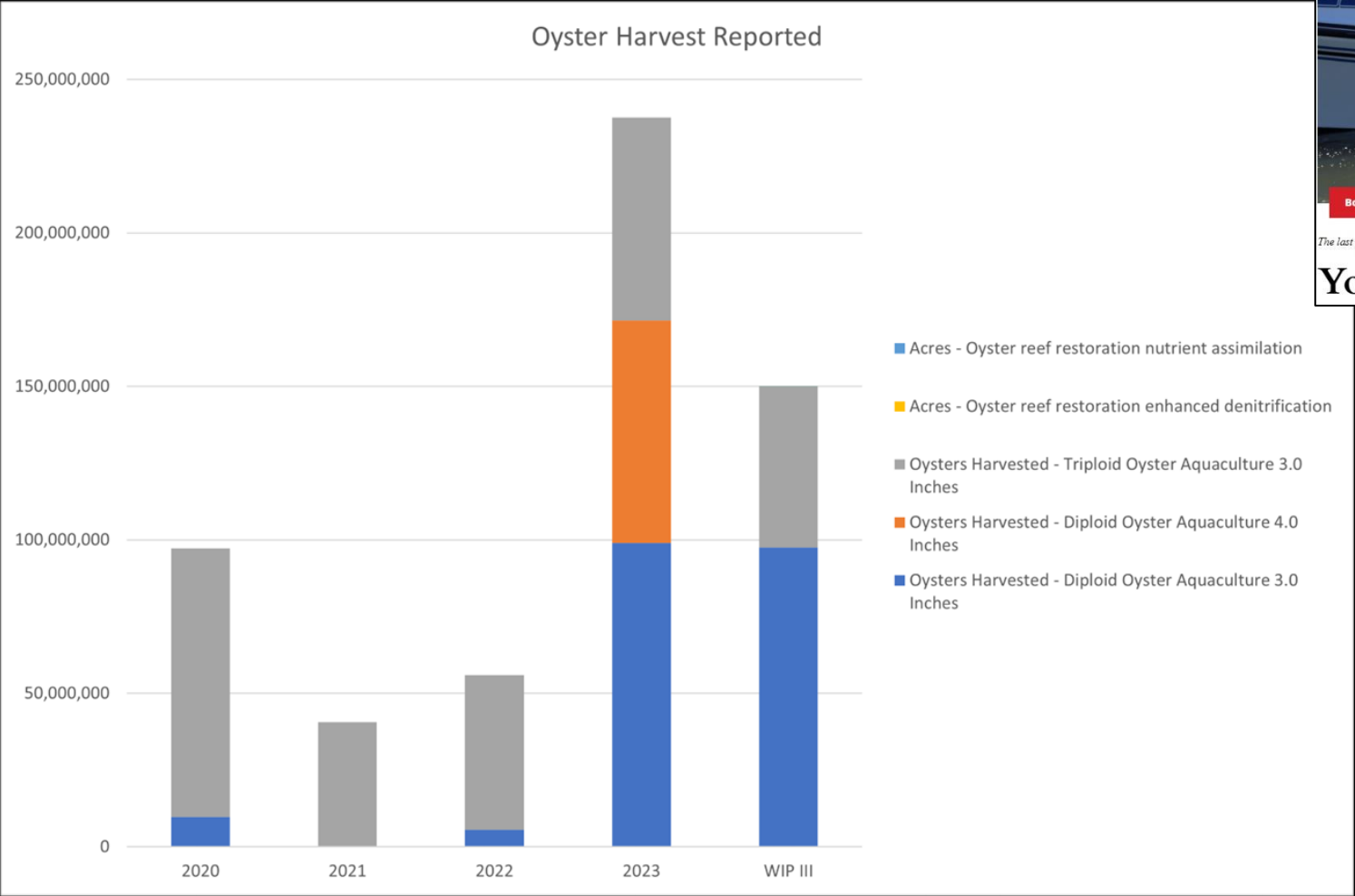
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
May 13, 2024

DEQ Chesapeake Bay Program Office - Background

- Coordinates all federal Bay efforts in Virginia
- Works with the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and partners to meet Bay nutrient and sediment reduction goals
- Manages all Bay data reporting through the DEQ BMP Warehouse
- Represents VA on the federal Chesapeake Bay Program level on work groups and through reporting to the National Environmental Information Exchange Network



Virginia Successes – Oyster Restoration



The last oysters of the reef are tossed overboard to settle into their new sanctuary. Photo: VMRC

York River Oyster Restoration Goal Reached

- 2023 was the first year for reporting private oyster bed harvesting.
- Prior to 2023, including during WIP development, we couldn't get spatial information from VMRC on oysters and were only getting public beds harvested.



Virginia Successes – Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

- \$6,709,974 has been disbursed or obligated in cost-share since 2016
 - Homeowner contributions total \$12,419,848
 - Operational dollars are used for technical assistance to districts for implementation, training and operational costs, marketing, and staff
- VCAP has approved 929 projects, of which 844 have been completed

Virginia Successes – State Lands

- Enhanced BMP implementation and nutrient/sediment reductions on state-owned lands
- \$495,487 in State Lands WIP funding from CBIG III federal funding used for design and implementation costs
- \$1 million approved by General Assembly in Water Quality Improvement Fund
- Progress continues at Lake Anna State Park, State Farm and Augusta County Correctional Centers, Longwood
- Also pursuing interest at WWRC, UVA, Community Colleges and additional state funding



Looking Forward

- VA (like several Bay jurisdictions) has seen unprecedented population growth and land use change
- More federal funding leads to expanded programs and new pilot efforts
- Questions?

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