

Maryland Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroup Meeting Notes 9 20 21

Agenda/ Notes:

- Welcome, and note that this meeting is open to the public
- Intro and welcome to new Oyster Recovery Partnership staff member
- Tred Avon: planting update; discussion of completion event: one more planting on a small Tred (0.4 acre) site still needs to be done, and some additional seed needs to go on the old MGO site-- then it is done! Hatchery is still producing larvae, so likely to get done soon; one more planting. October/ fall in person event is not likely in the cards due to Covid. Ideas for completion event: virtual; on-water in spring 2022; or fall 2022 bigger event celebrating all the competitions to date. Corps notes that some sort of video or similar to post on social media this fall is desirable. Plan is for agencies to bring these options back to their comms people/ leadership and re-convene the discussion at our next meeting.
 - Lessons learned from construction meetings/ discussion - potentially next month
- Manokin: patent tong update:
 - Reviewed sites from Spring 2021 patent tong survey: most cells scored 0 with sandy bottom and no oysters
 - Likely will change SS_08 to seed only
 - Will select a portion of SS_37 and SS_26 to be converted to seed only
 - Hope to finish all pre-restoration patent tong groundtruthing by fall 2022
 - Fall 2021: plan to sample 79 acres of seed only/exceeds goal sites
- Manokin and St Marys: contract/ reef construction timeline/ status: reef construction starting in St Marys by end of this month; 8.8 acres in St Marys- hoping to construct by end of fall 2021. Manokin construction- will start after St Marys; can work through sometime in Feb 2022 re: time-of-year restrictions. Murtech is the contractor.
- Hatchery update: 643 m SOS to date in the Big Five MD tribs- a little more expected in Tred;
 - 68million spat-on-shell in LC- all re-seeding
 - Tred 428 million- 35 acres was new acreage
 - St Marys- 72 million SOS to 14 acres
 - Manokin- 75 million SOS to 15 acres
 - discussion of timeframe for getting that information into the GIS geodatabases, and for starting to develop the 2021 Annual Update document; NOAA may also produce a one-page document with combined MD and VA numbers for 2021, as we get that request fairly frequently. Partners should try to have this info to Paco by early October.
- Monitoring:
 - Fall 2020 report: moving through NOAA original scientific communications review process
 - Fall 2021: status update: universe is done; divers might be able to start before oyster season; timing of start of patent tong sampling to be determined

- Other partner updates