



OYSTER RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP | ORP

Update: Moving the Dial on the Executive Order Oyster Goal

Sustainable Fisheries
Goal Implementation Team
Full Meeting, Dec 8, 2012
Presented By: Stephanie Westby, NOAA
On behalf of the
MD and VA Interagency Workgroups
under the GIT



Executive Order Goal:

- Restore oyster populations in 20 tributary by 2025

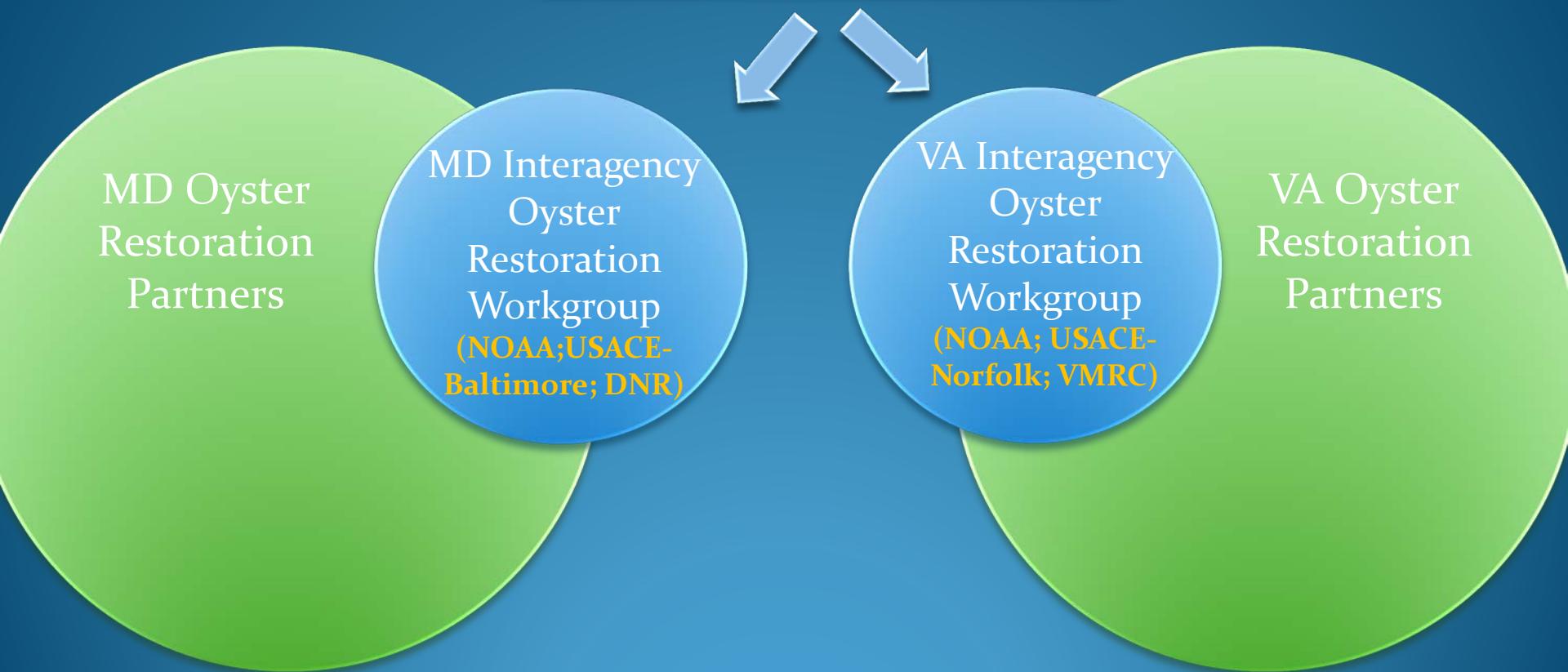
Oyster Metrics:

- NOAA, USACE, DNR, VMRC, Army Corps, UMD, VIMS + 17 consulting scientists;
- Developed Bay-wide, consensus definition of 'restored reef' and 'restored tributary'

Established:

- MD & VA Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroups

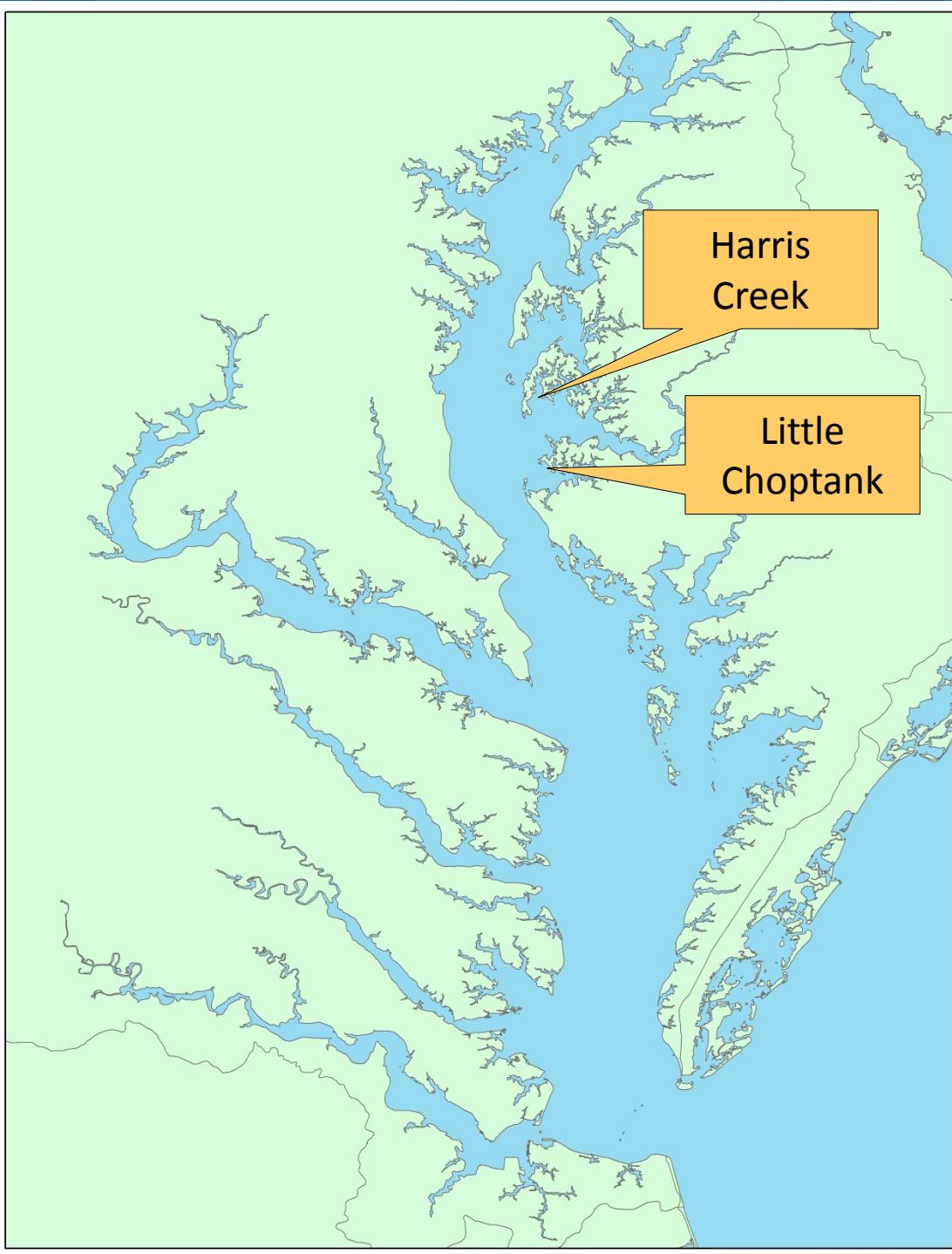
Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team



Maryland

Tributary Selection:

- Harris Creek
- Little Choptank River



Harris Creek: Tributary Plan Process

- ➡ Define restoration goal: target acreage = 300-600 acres
- ➡ Conduct pre-restoration oyster population surveys
- ➡ Develop a draft map summarizing major datasets
 - Conduct public open house
 - Revise blueprint map; develop draft tributary plan
 - Send draft blueprint map to the Coast Guard
 - Send draft blueprint map and tributary plan to consulting scientists for review
 - Finalize blueprint map and tributary plan (next draft: mid-Jan)
 - Obtain permit/ NEPA clearance, as needed
 - Implement seeding and substrate activities
 - Monitor project performance and adaptively manage

Harris Creek Oyster Sanctuary 2011
 Broad Scale Acoustic Bottom Classification
 MD Geological Survey
 NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
 Depths 1.50-6.09m

Restorable Bottom

- █ Artificial oyster reef
- █ Aggregate patch reef
- █ Fringe reef
- █ Patch reef
- █ Sand and scattered oyster shell
- █ Sand
- █ Muddy_sand

Non-restorable Bottom

- █ Mud and scattered oyster shell
- █ Mud
- █ Sandy mud
- █ Unclassified
- █ Sanctuary Boundary

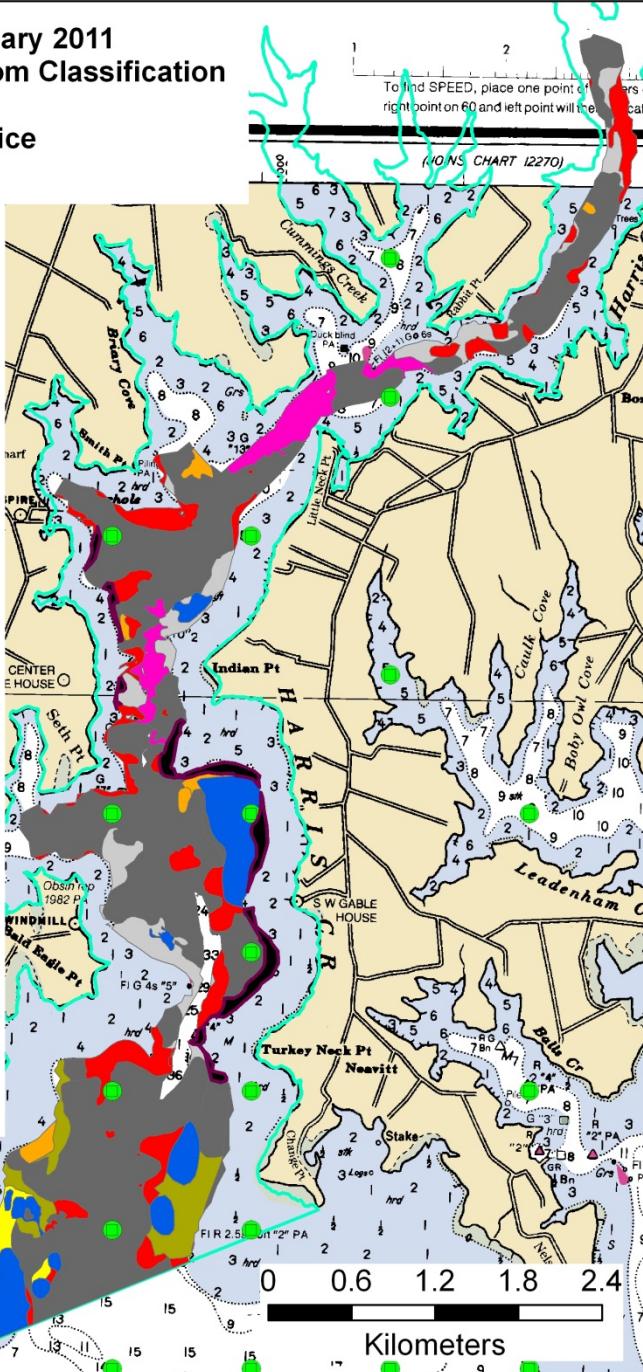
Bottom DO and Salinity.
 Interpolated from CBP data
 from June-Aug 2000-2005.

mean_DO

- █ 2.900000 - 5.000000
- █ 5.000001 - 8.700000

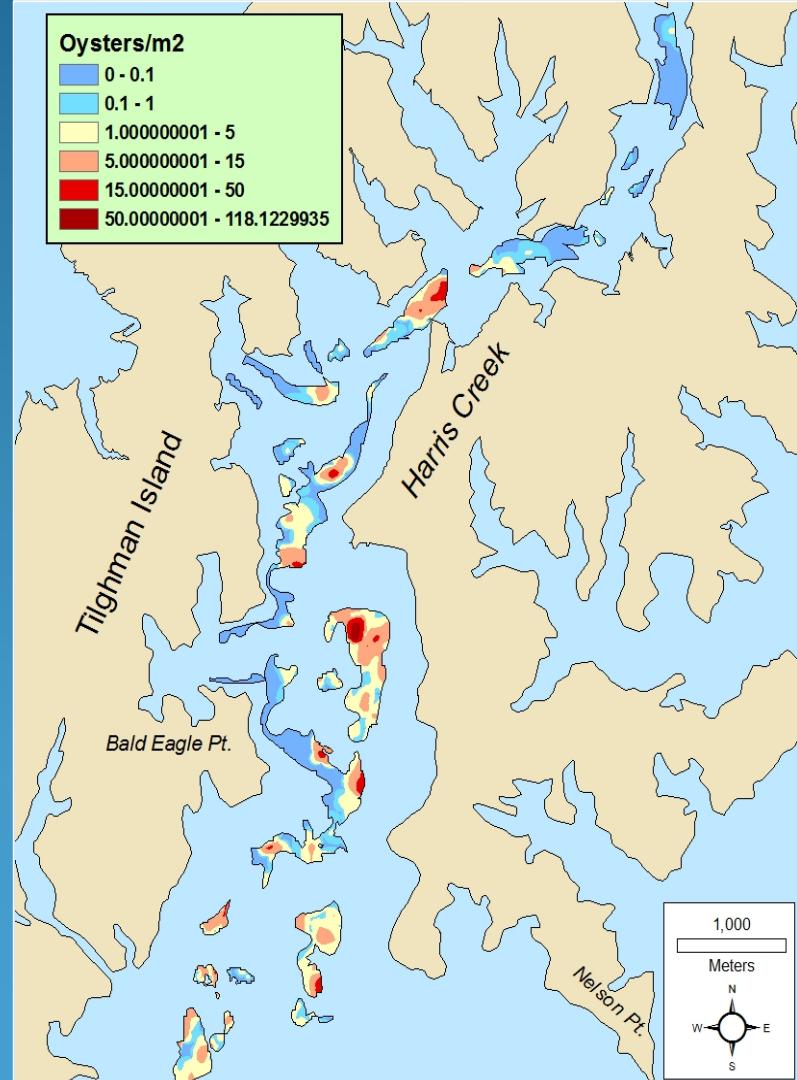
mean_SAL

- █ 0.000000 - 7.000000
- █ 7.000001 - 35.000000



Restorable Bottom Analysis

Population Survey



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Harris Creek: Draft Tributary Plan

- Acres: 377
- Substrate: 350,000 cubic yards
- Seed: 2 billion
- Estimated cost: \$31 million
- Permit issues:
 - MD DNR: needs permit modification to construct reefs that will allow 5 ft clearance (current permit specifies 8 ft); modification under review
 - Army Corps: needs NEPA modification to construct reefs that will allow 5 ft clearance (current NEPA is 8 ft clearance); under review

Harris Creek: Restoration Progress

2012:

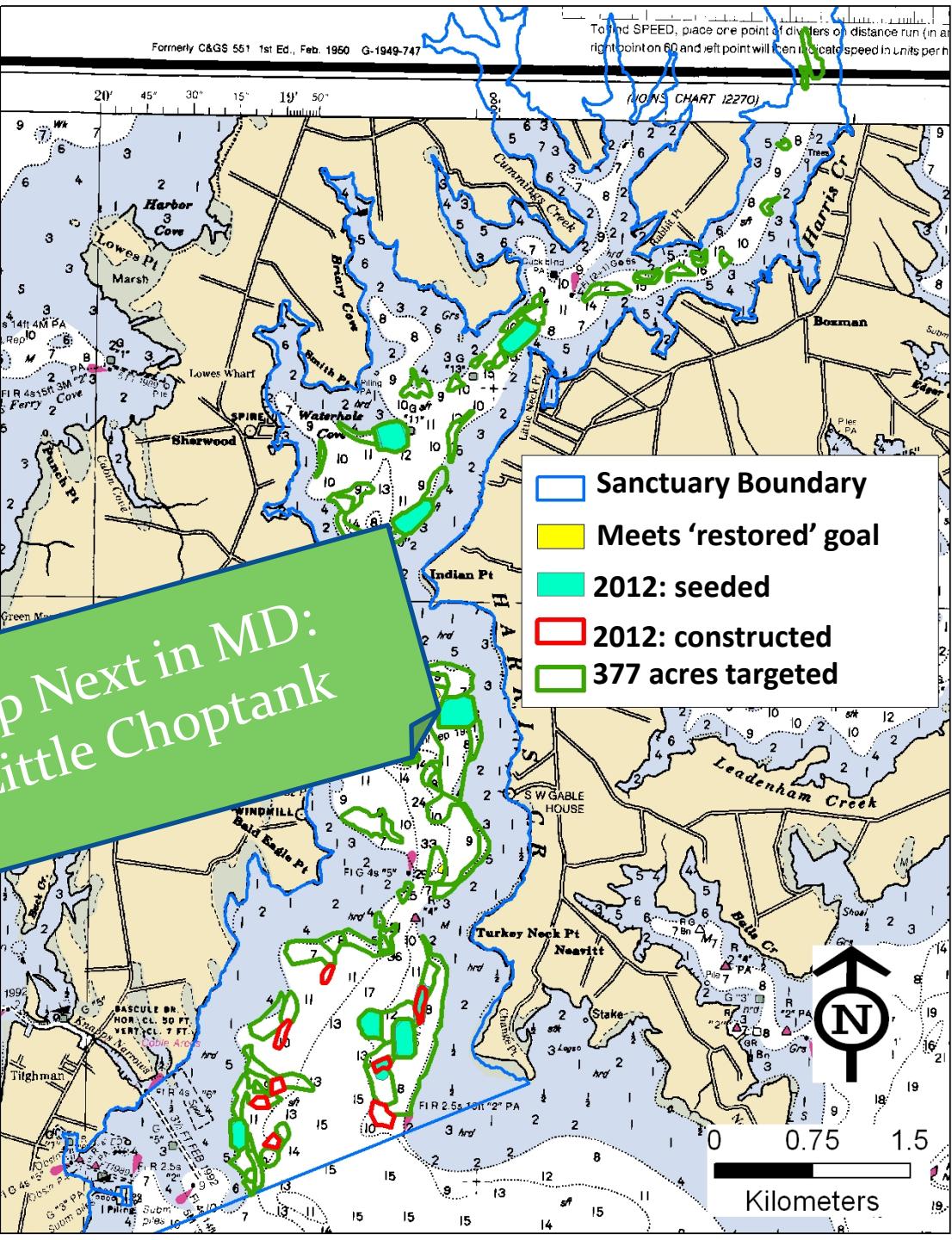
- 22 acres new reef constructed (Army Corps)
- 97 acres seeded (Oyster Recovery Partnership, with funding from NOAA and DNR)

2013 (planned):

- 30 acres to be constructed (Army Corps)
- 97 acres to be planted (Oyster Recovery Partnership, with funding from NOAA and DNR)
- DNR: \$7 m to spend on substrate; in water in 2013

Summary:

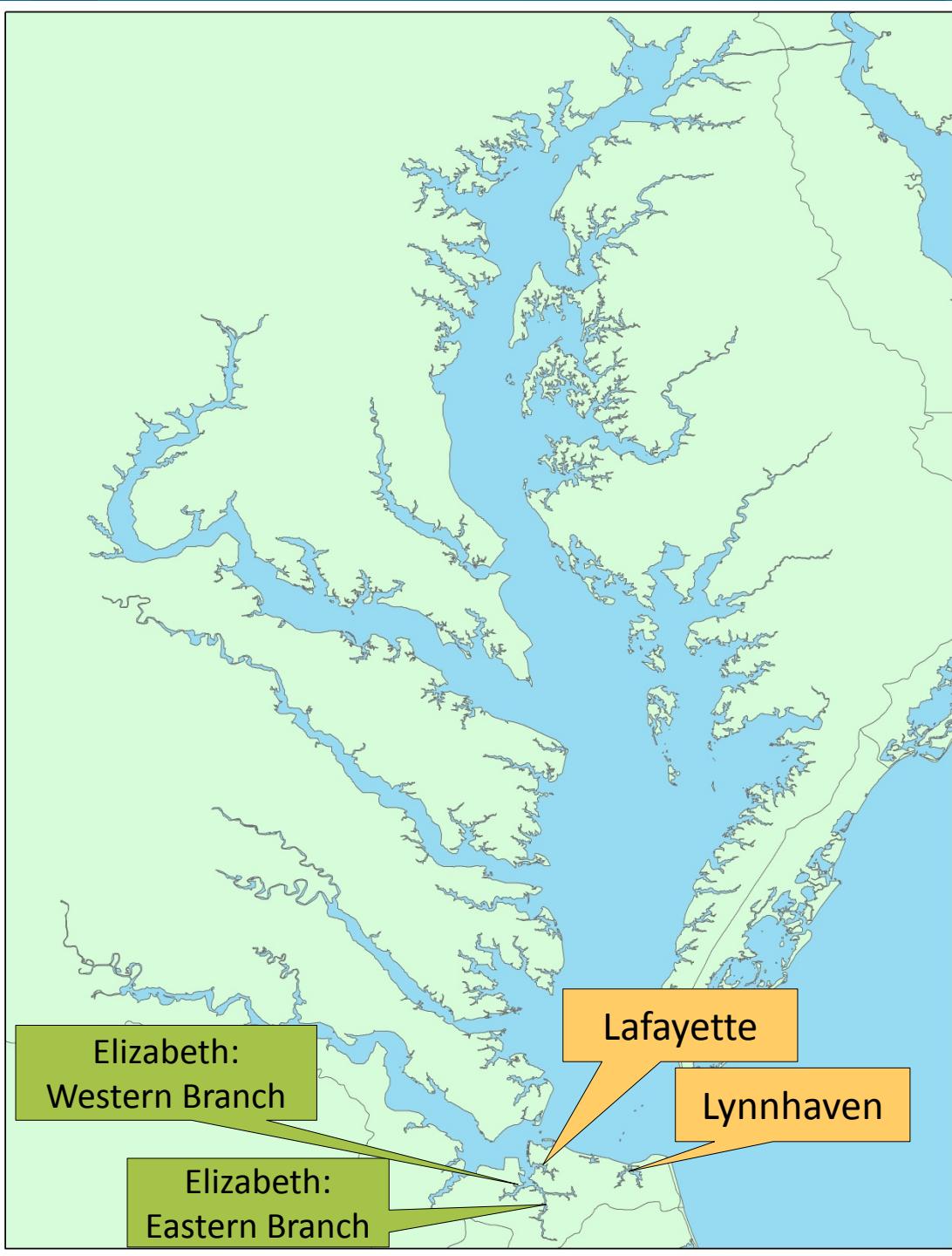
- Approx 1/3 of the way toward the 300 acre minimum goal
- End of 2013: may be 2/3 or more of the way there



Virginia

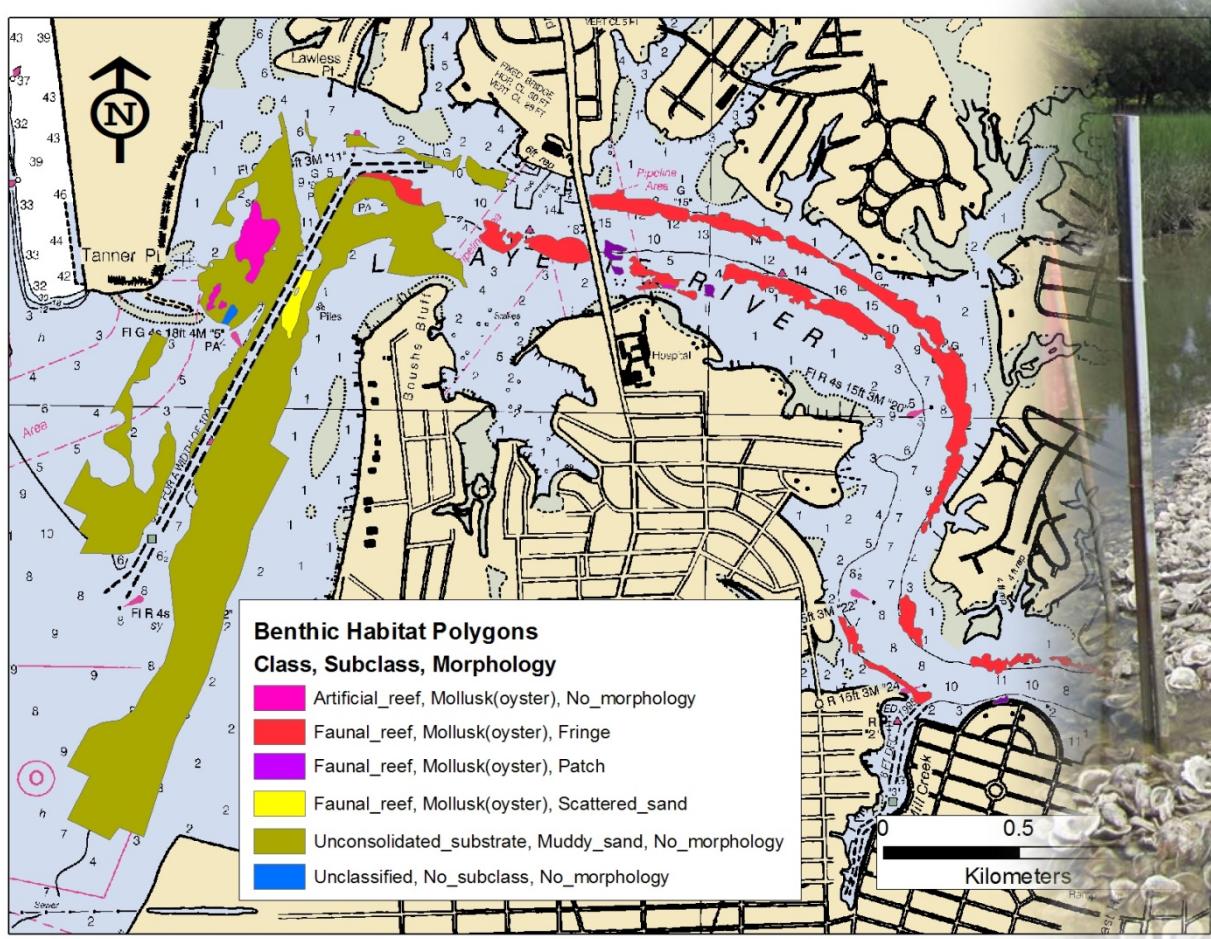
Tributary Selection:

- Lynnhaven River
- Lafayette River
- Elizabeth: Western Branch
- Elizabeth: Eastern Branch



Lafayette River:

- NOAA conducted acoustic mapping and ground-truthing surveys of the benthic habitat of the lower 1/3 of the river to inform future restoration work.
- NOAA funded CBF (reef balls and oyster seed) and Elizabeth River Project (reef construction) to do restoration work in 2012 and 2013
- Plan to continue doing so as funding allows





Lynnhaven River:

- NOAA plans to complete pre-restoration bottom survey in 2013 to inform future restoration

Army Corps Norfolk District:

- Looking for a cost-share partner in either the Lynnhaven or Lafayette to allow them to expend their funds

Virginia

Analysis of prior restoration
(Army Corps)

- Great Wicomico
- Piankatank



