



Oyster Summit
Thursday-Friday, February 18-19th, 2016
University of Mary Washington – Stafford Campus
121 University Boulevard
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is hosting this Oyster Summit as a forum to convene a broad group of stakeholders, including managers, industry, scientists, nongovernmental organizations and community groups, across jurisdictions to discuss shared interests in increasing the number of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. The objectives of this Summit are to:

- Share knowledge and identify common objectives for increasing the number of oysters.
- Identify needs and opportunities with near-term actions that would benefit Bay oyster populations for all sectors.
- Chart a course for sharing needs, opportunities and suggestions that emerge from the Summit broadly to stakeholders in Maryland and Virginia for input and consensus-building.
- Distribute the results of the Summit and next steps to appropriate audiences, tailored for Maryland and Virginia, as appropriate, e.g., scientists, industry, policymakers and jurisdiction management agencies.

The products coming out of this Summit will include proposals from the Summit participants based on the group discussions and presentations, as well as next steps for engaging stakeholders in both states, as appropriate, to vet and build consensus around proposals. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office will work with Summit participants and other stakeholders to ensure that Summit findings are delivered to the relevant policymakers and management agencies.

Thursday, February 18th – Day 1

10:00am **Welcome and Purpose** – Peyton Robertson (NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office)
Provide background and review the objectives of this two-day Summit. Introduce Jennifer Dindinger (Maryland Sea Grant Extension) as the Summit facilitator.

SETTING THE STAGE

10:30am **Jurisdiction Opening Remarks**
Maryland, Virginia, Potomac River Fisheries Commission

11:00am **Opening Plenary: State of Oysters in the Bay**
Dr. Mark Luckenbach (VIMS) and Dr. Donald Boesch (UMCES)

Overview of the current state of the oyster population, restoration, wild harvest and aquaculture in the Chesapeake Bay. Highlight the lessons learned from successes, common challenges, and the role of science to support getting more oysters in the Bay.

12:00pm Lunch and Conceptual Modeling Activity

Conceptual Modeling Activity: Pieces of the Oyster Puzzle

Jim Vasslides (Barnegat Bay Partnership), Howard Townsend (NOAA),
Amy Freitag (VASG/NOAA)

Participants will visualize how oysters are connected to the environment and people in the Chesapeake Bay from their individual perspective and from a small group perspective.

LIMITING FACTORS TO EXPANDING NUMBER OF OYSTERS

1:00pm Session 1: Shell Availability and Alternative Substrate

1:00 Overview Presentation – Ward Slacum (Oyster Recovery Partnership)

Outline the history of the issue, current demands, user groups and future need for shell and alternative substrate. Include reference to past shell recommendations and where they are now.

1:20 Panel: Response to Shell/Substrate Overview (7 min each)

- Angie Sowers (USACE)
- Eric Weissberger (MDDNR)
- Jim Wesson (VMRC)
- Missy Southworth (VIMS)

1. What is your experience with the shell/substrate issue?
2. What are the challenges and limitations you have encountered? What is the underlying challenge here?
3. How could these challenges be resolved to help efforts moving forward to meet the total demand in the Bay for hard substrate?

1:50 Clarifying Q&A

2:00 Breakout sessions

Breakout Group Questions (small groups with facilitator)

1. Discuss your experiences/perspective on what is working in terms of acquiring and using shell and alternative substrate. How can we share these successes with other projects?
2. Develop a list of new ideas or modifications of past recommendations to address the issue of shell availability and alternative substrate. How can we address the demand for hard bottom oyster habitat in the Bay? Are ideas actionable in the near-term?

- 2:30** **Wrap-up Discussion** – Jennifer Dindinger (Maryland Sea Grant Extension)
Facilitators will review the ideas from each small group. Full group will participate in a “dot” exercise to indicate which ideas they support the most.
- 3:00pm** **Break**
- 3:15pm** **Session 2: Hatchery Production and Resilience**
- 3:15** **General Overview of Hatchery Production** - Stan Allen (VIMS)
- Q&A
- 3:30** **Hatchery Production in the Chesapeake Bay**
- Private Perspective - Mike Congrove (Oyster Seed Holdings)
 - Public Perspective - Mutt Meritt (Maryland Sea Grant/UMCES)
- 4:00** **Panel Q&A and Discussion**
Hatchery supply and larvae demand looking into the future.
- 4:30** **Wrap-up – Jenn (facilitator)**
- 4:40pm** **Revisit Session 1 Shell/Substrate Session**
Summarize the most supported ideas from the full group dot exercise.
- 5:00pm** **Depart for Downtown Fredericksburg (Hotel Accommodations and Dinner)**
- Courtyard Fredericksburg Historic District
620 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
- Oyster Tasting/Dinner**
Spencer Devon Restaurant Brewpub
106 George Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
6:00pm
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Friday, February 19th – Day 2

- 9:00am** **Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Introduction** – Peyton Robertson (NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office)

ENGAGING THE BROADER OYSTER COMMUNITY

- 9:15am** **Session 3: Community-based Oyster Efforts**

9:20 Panel: Introduce each program's goal, organizational design, and operations.

- Mike Sanders (TOGA)
- Laurie Soribella (Lynnhaven River Now)
- Len Zuza (SMOCS)
- Chris Judy (MGO)
- Larry Jennings (CCA Cape St. Claire)
- Rick Elyar (CCA Central Maryland)

9:50 Panel Q&A

- What are the ecological impact of citizen oyster program efforts?
- What do you think are the social and educational impacts of citizen oyster program efforts?
- What are your future projections?
- How does public perception of the health and importance of oysters impact your programs?
- Is your group active in citizen science, or do you see opportunities to grow this capacity in the future?
- Besides more shell/substrate and larvae or spat, what would help your program grow?

10:30am Break

A COMPLEX POLICY LANDSCAPE

10:45am Session 4: Navigating the Policy Landscape

10:45 Introduction – Amy Freitag (VASG)

10:50 Jurisdictional Policy Landscape Analysis

Amber Will, Jacob Darr, Julia Snouck-Hurgronje, Isaac Irby (College of William and Mary)

- What does the layered jurisdictional and funding policy landscape look like?
- Policy streams for each sector in each state.
- Diverse legal authorities under current management regime.

11:15 Oyster Professional Network Analysis – Amy Freitag (NOAA/VASG)

11:25 Case Study: Potomac River Policy Landscape – Marty Gary (PRFC)

11:40 Wrap-up: Full Group Discussion

- What is the value in working across these sectors and policy streams and working within this larger professional network?
- The policy landscape actually allows for a large amount of coordination between sectors. How could we take advantage of collaboration in this larger network?

12:30pm Lunch and Poster Session

1:30pm Revisit Day 1 Conceptual Modeling exercise

Jim Vasslides (Barnegat Bay Partnership), Howard Townsend (NOAA), and Amy Freitag (VASG/NOAA)

The leaders of this exercise will present the results from Day 1's modeling exercise where participants visualized the different factors impacting oysters in the Bay.

2:00pm Closing Plenary: Collaborative management and research

David Bushek and Lisa Calvo (Rutgers University Extension)

Delaware Bay shares many ecological features with the Chesapeake region and provides an interesting point of comparison as they also consider the needs of aquaculture, wild harvest, restoration, and sanctuaries. They've taken a collaborative approach to both understanding the ecology of the Bay and managing its resources. The Delaware Bay team will also reflect upon what they've heard about the Chesapeake and what sounded exciting to them moving forward.

2:45pm Session 5: Charting a Course for Moving Forward

Facilitator: Jennifer Dindinger (Maryland Sea Grant Extension)

The results of this Summit are intended to inform broader discussions among more stakeholders, the management agencies and policymakers. We will develop next steps for moving forward, building upon these suggestions, vetting them and soliciting further input broadly, and identifying any points of consensus.

This session's discussion will summarize our work on the Summit topics, identify some high priority ideas and begin to develop these ideas moving forward.

4:00pm Thank you/Wrap-up – Peyton Robertson (NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office)

What are the next steps for the Summit organizers to get all of the information collected here into a manageable format and shared back to participants?
