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# History & Scope of Eastern Bay

Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition Workgroup

Meeting 1: February 2-3, 2024



OYSTER RECOVERY  
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# Roadmap to Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition

## 2019-2022

- OAC tasked with developing set of management actions & recommendations
- Outcome: Annual funding for Eastern Bay, integrated approach across sectors

## 2023-2024

- Oyster Coalition Workgroup convened by ORP
- Ongoing plantings in Eastern Bay

Interest by DNR in bringing together stakeholders to develop unified approach to oyster production

## 2022

- Legislation passed to provide funding over 25 years to support restoration in sanctuaries & fishery in Eastern Bay (\$1M/yr each)
- Some work by DNR and stakeholders towards integrating across sectors

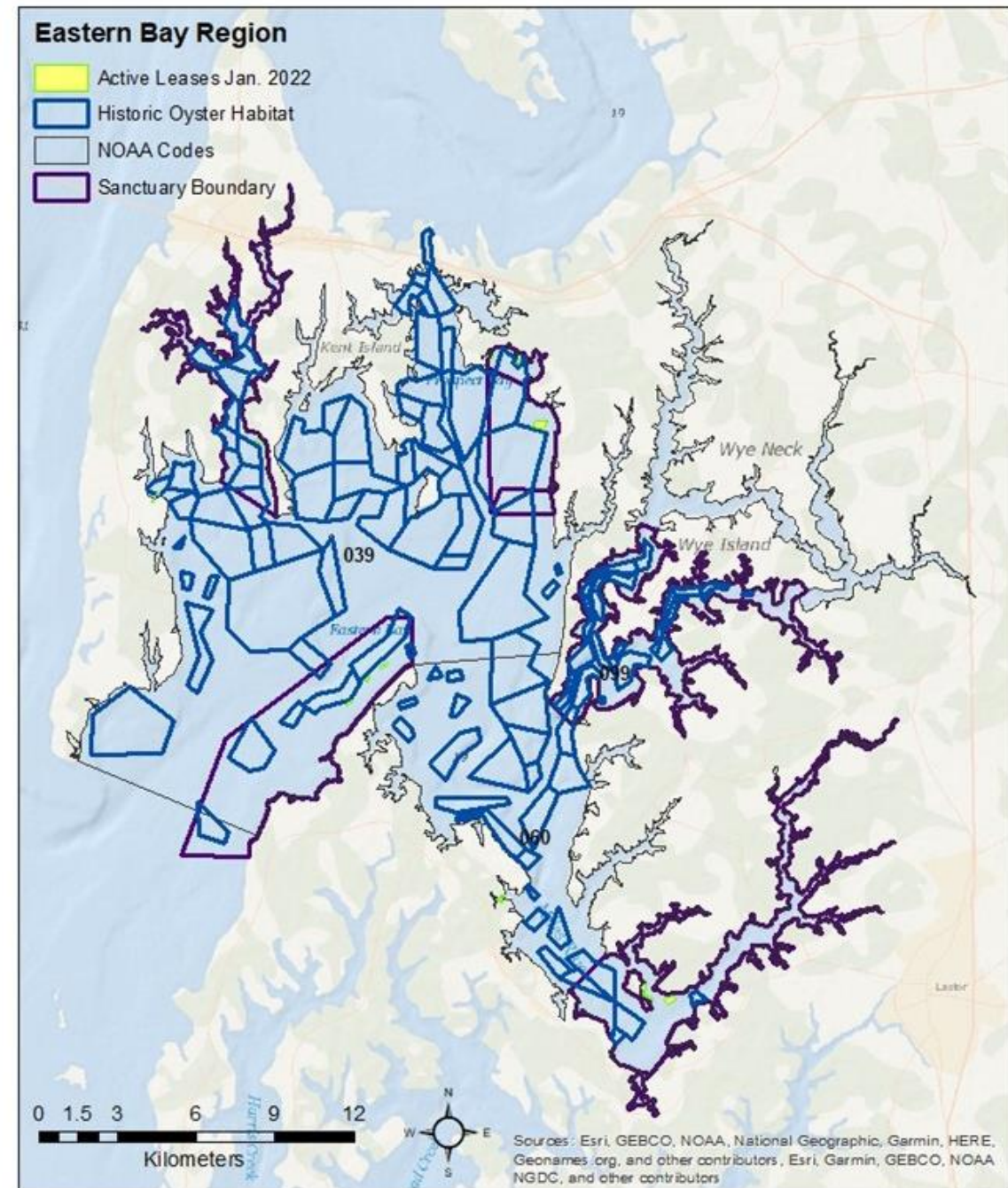
# Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition

Challenge: Unifying stakeholders to integrate oyster production efforts across sectors

Project goal: Develop a strategic plan to optimize oyster production over the long term that supports all oyster stakeholder groups

- 1. Establish collective and individual stakeholder goals (OCW)**
2. Delineate oyster habitat
3. Generate local stewardship

**OCW Outcome: Comprehensive strategic plan**



# Eastern Bay as a Resource

- Expansive oyster habitat (> 15,000 acres) supported a booming oyster industry
- Expansive SAV, oyster, & marsh habitat supported recreational and other commercial fishing
- History of native people relying on Eastern Bay resource for hundreds of years

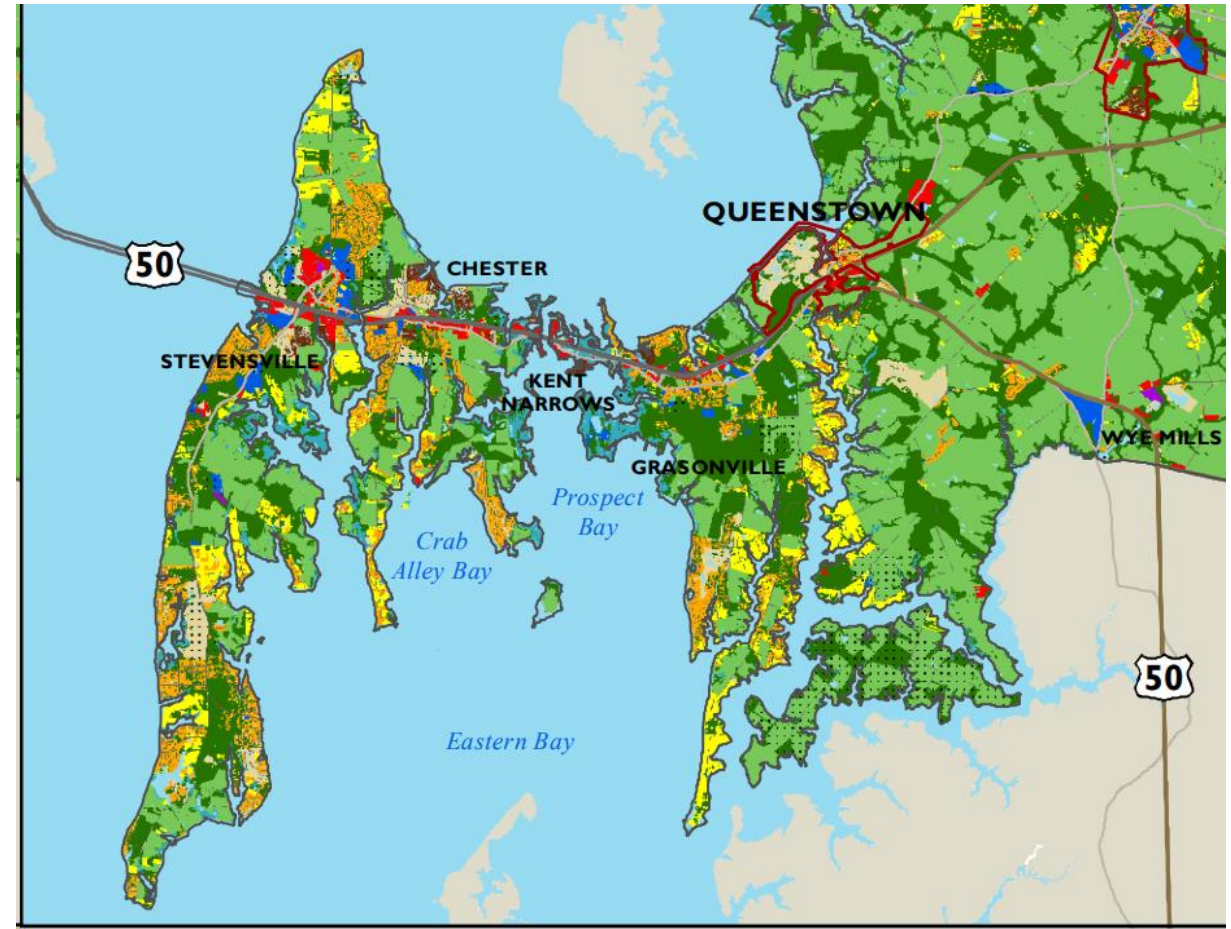
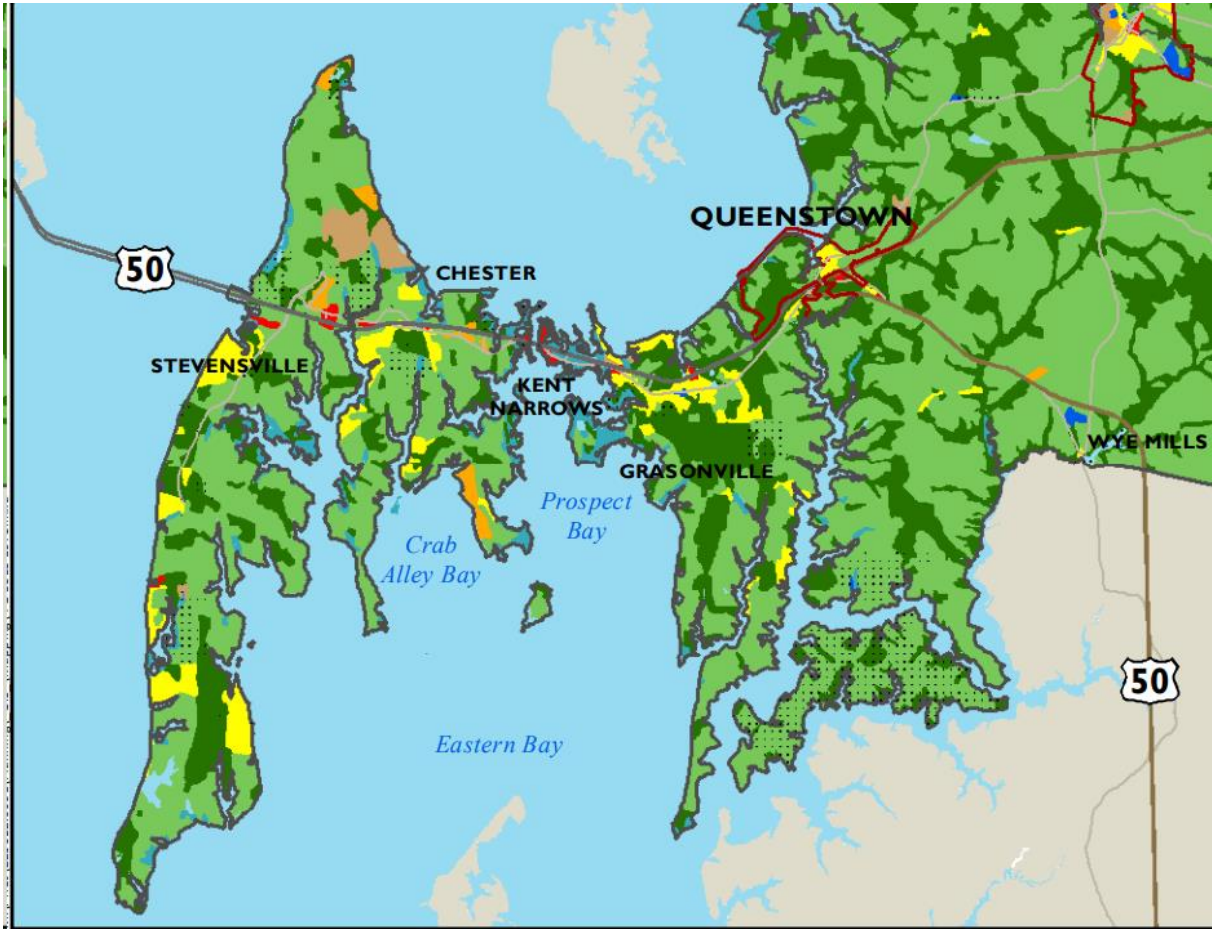




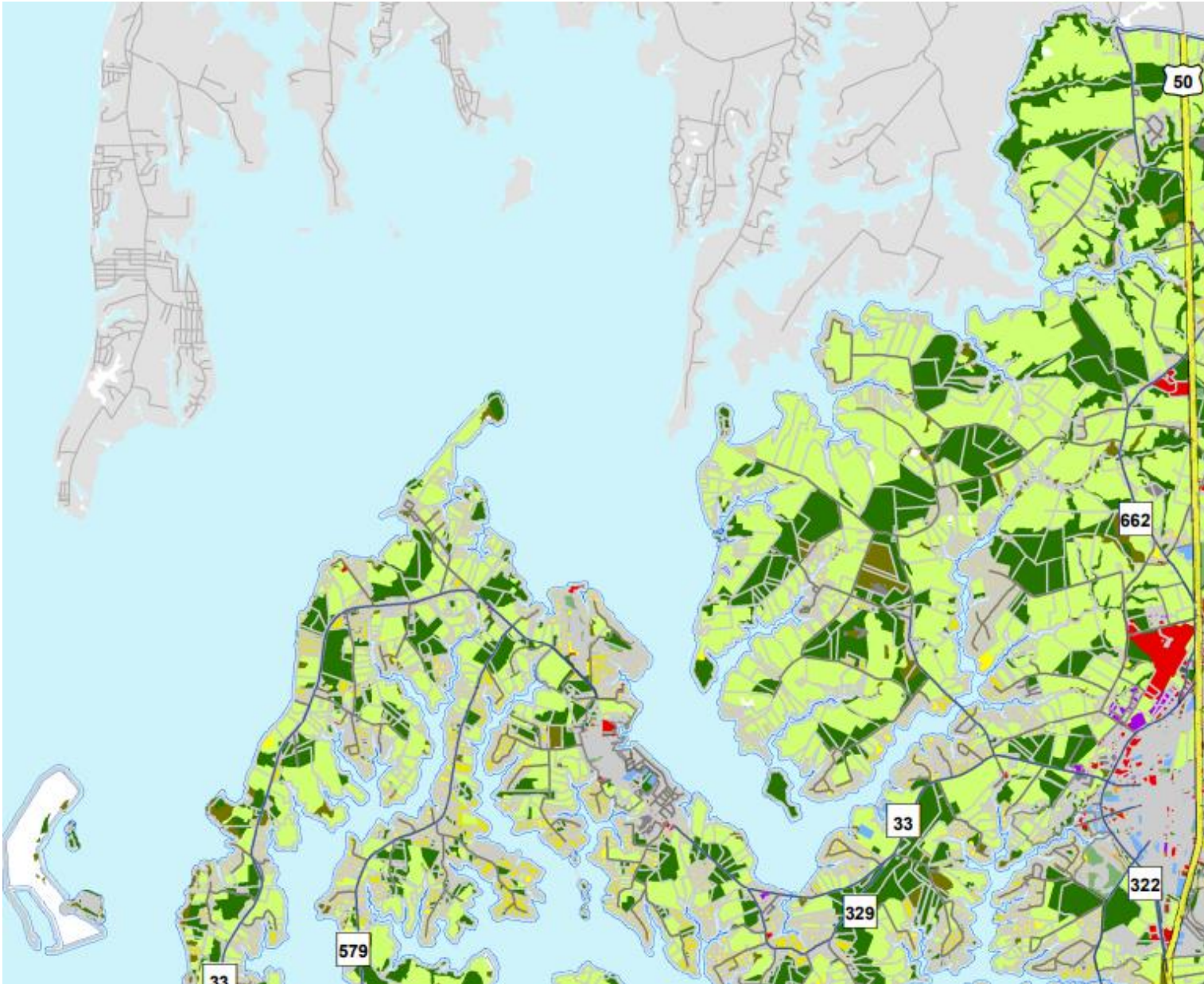
# Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition Context

- Land use, cultural, & ecological transition currently underway in Eastern Bay
- This already has or will alter resource and how we interact with it





Land Use Change 1973 → 2019



## Eastern Bay watershed:

- Primarily agricultural
- Shoreline development
- Development primarily in Kent Island/Grasonville
- Moderate development along Miles River

# Land use dynamics have altered Eastern Bay ecology & habitat...

- Shoreline hardening result of development
- Decline in water quality (challenges with runoff and sewage)
- Widespread decline in marsh habitat, SAV, and oysters over last ~50 years





... Which have impacted seafood industry & culture



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# Key Stakeholders on OCW to Improve Oyster Production

