

**OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP  
 OPTIONS ACCEPTABILITY RANKING EXERCISE WORKSHEET  
 MARCH 29-30, 2024 MEETING #2**

**ACCEPTABILITY RANKING EXERCISE OVERVIEW AND RANKING SCALE**

During the meetings, OCW members will be asked to develop and rank options (strategies and actions) using a 4-Point acceptability ranking scale. This is consistent with the Consensus Building Procedures unanimously adopted by the OCW on 2 February 2024. Once ranked for acceptability, options with a  $\geq 3.0$  average ranking (75%) will be considered preliminary consensus recommendations for inclusion in the package of recommendations for the *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland (Plan)*.

This is an iterative process (the options agreed to at each meeting serve as the starting point for the next, and no recommendation is final until the last meeting), and at any point during the process any option may be re-evaluated and re-ranked at the request of any OCW or ORP Project Team member. The status of a ranked option will not be final until the final OCW meeting, when a vote will be taken on the entire package of consensus ranked recommendations for submittal to the Oyster Recovery Partnership. The OCW will finalize their recommendations for the *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland* at the December 5, 2024 meeting.

OCW members should be prepared to state their minor and major reservations when asked, and to offer proposed refinements to the option to address their concerns. If an OCW member is not able to offer refinements to make the option acceptable (4) or acceptable with minor reservations (3) they should consider ranking the option with a 1 (not acceptable).

The following scale will be utilized for the ranking exercises:

<b>ACCEPTABILITY RANKING SCALE</b>	<b>4 = Acceptable, I agree</b>	<b>3 = Acceptable, I agree with minor reservations</b>	<b>2 = Not Acceptable, I don't agree unless major reservations addressed</b>	<b>1 = Not Acceptable</b>
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<b>CRITERIA TO CONSIDER FOR PROPOSING AND EVALUATING OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>EXPLANATION</b>
<b>IMPORTANCE</b>	Is this proposed option critically important to achieving the goals of the <i>Restoration and Management Plan</i> ?
<b>TIMELY</b>	Will things get worse if the proposed option is not implemented?
<b>FEASIBLE/PRACTICAL</b>	Is it likely that the proposed option will be successful in achieving the relevant goals of the <i>Restoration and Management Plan</i> ?
<b>RESOURCES</b>	Are there resources available, or likely to become available for implementing the proposed option? Is implementation cost effective?
<b>COMMITMENT</b>	Is there commitment from the stakeholders and regulators regarding implementation of the proposed option?

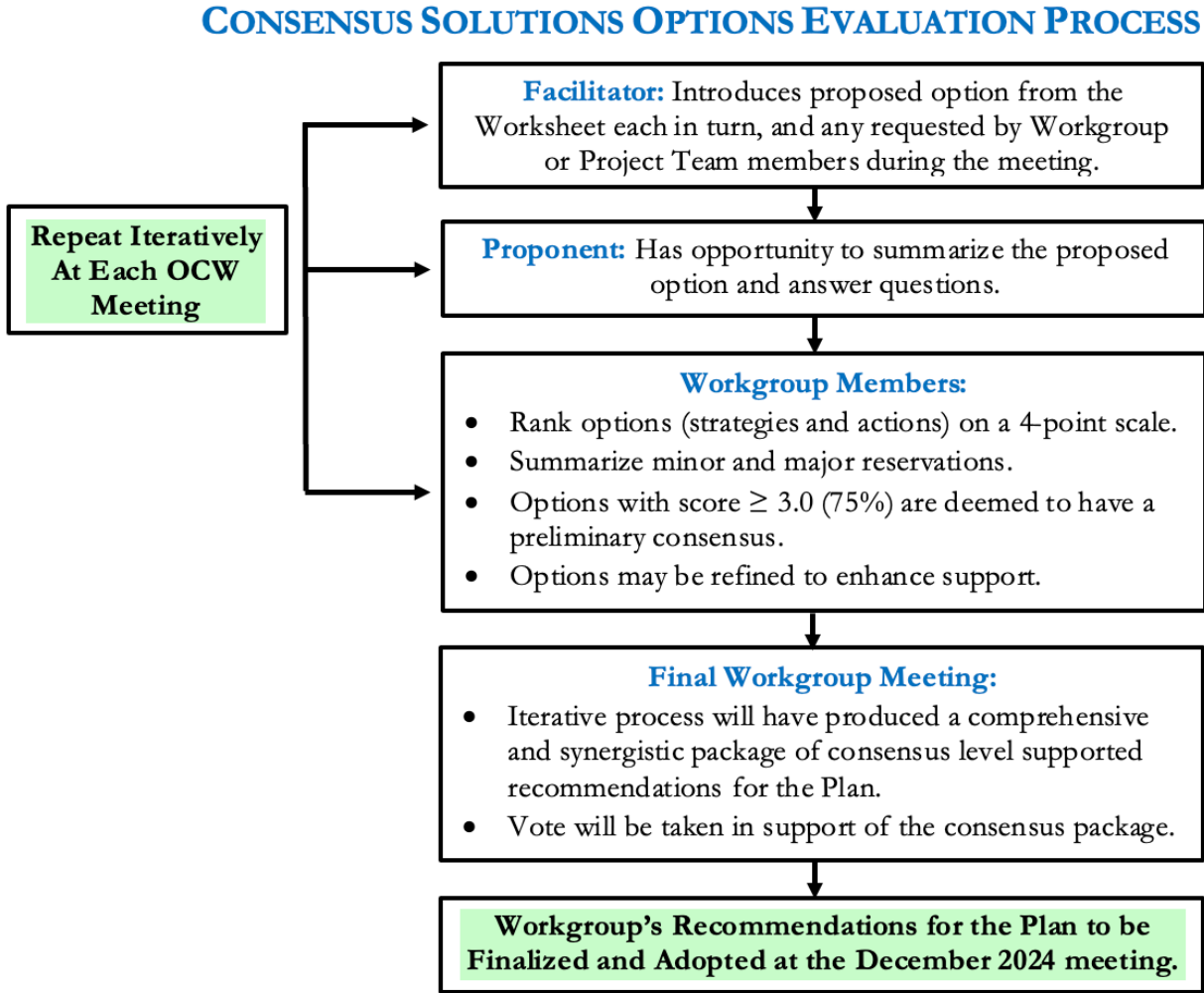
The *Options Acceptability Ranking Exercise Process* and the *Consensus Solutions Process* (Fig. 1) was designed by Jeff Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Information at: <http://facilitatedsolutions.org>.



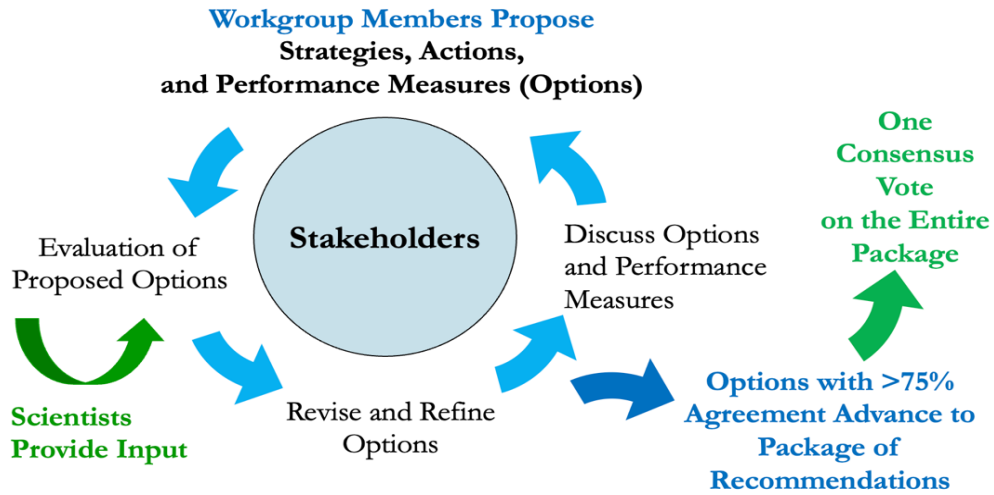
### CONSENSUS SOLUTIONS OPTIONS EVALUATION PROCESS

- Facilitator will introduce each option (strategy and action) from the *Plan Framework* in turn.
- Proponent and/or ORP Project Team Member as appropriate, will have an opportunity to provide their rationale for proposing the option.
- OCW members may ask clarifying questions.
- The options will be ranked, each in turn using the 4-Point Acceptability Ranking Scale.
- OCW members may briefly summarize their minor and major reservations.
- Options that achieve a ranking score of  $\geq 3.0$  (75%) will be deemed to have a preliminary consensus level of support and will be further evaluated as appropriate.
- Options may be refined to enhance support across stakeholder interests.
- This process will be repeated iteratively during each OCW meeting until a comprehensive and synergistic package of recommendations has achieved a consensus level of support.
- The only vote will be taken at the end of the last meeting in support of the consensus package of recommendations. A 75% or greater level of support is required for consensus.
- All ranking results are preliminary until the vote is taken during the final meeting.

Figure 1: Flow Scheme for the Iterative Process of Acceptability Ranking Options.



**STAKEHOLDER ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE  
CONSENSUS SOLUTIONS APPROACH**



**WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL**

- ✓ When we seek common ground and action;
- ✓ Differences and problems are honored and not “worked;”
- ✓ Listen and participate actively, attentively, and respectfully;
- ✓ Create a shared vision for the Eastern Bay Region of Maryland; and
- ✓ **Are Willing to Reach Consensus.**

<b>WORKSHEET ORGANIZATION BY GOALS AND TOPICAL ISSUES</b>	
<b>SECTION 1</b>	Initial List of Options and Proposed Revisions for Ranking.
<b>SECTION 2</b>	Options Achieving a Consensus Level of Support (An average of $\geq 3.0$ or 75%): are numbered from highest to lowest rank starting with #1 by topical categories.
<b>SECTION 3</b>	Adopted Plan Framework.
<b>SECTION 4</b>	Performance Measures.
<b>SECTION 5</b>	Options Not Achieving a Consensus Level of Support: < 75% Support.

**KEY DEFINITIONS**

- STRATEGY:** A method, action, plan of action, or policy that can be tested to determine whether it solves a problem and helps to achieve objectives and goals in the context of bringing about a desired future for the Eastern Bay System.
- ACTION:** The specific steps and activities taken to implement a strategy.
- PERFORMANCE MEASURES:** The regular measurement of outcomes and results, which generates reliable data on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of a project’s objectives.

## SECTION 1 – INITIAL OPTIONS FOR EVALUATION

**OVERVIEW.** The preliminary list of options (strategies and actions) in this Worksheet were identified by Workgroup members during the March 29, 2024 meeting as topics they would like to evaluate. The draft strategies and actions for each of the Goals in this Worksheet were drafted by the ORP Project Team based on this initial list of potential options to serve as a framework for discussion, and are not intended to influence the Workgroup’s recommendations. The strategies and actions are intended to ensure that the full range of options for each suggested strategy are evaluated, and to inform the Workgroup’s final consensus package of recommendations for the *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland*.

### I. GOAL A – ENHANCE THE OYSTER RESOURCE IN EASTERN BAY

#### Draft Strategy A1 – Funding and Cost

**A1)** Evaluate cost of existing and proposed restoration/reclamation practices and identify funding for short- and long-term efforts.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

#### Draft Actions for Strategy A1

**Action 1-A)** TBD.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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#### Draft Strategy A2 – Substrate

**A2)** Identify and evaluate alternate substrate and sources of shell that can be used in Eastern Bay oyster production.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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#### Draft Actions for Strategy A2

**Action 2-A)** Evaluate and implement existing shell reclamation practices that can be used in Eastern Bay in the short-term and/or long-term, including bar cleaning, dredging, retaining shell from harvested oysters, aquaculture. from existing habitat.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
Comments				
•				

**Action 2-B)** Evaluate and acquire other sources of shell, including shells from West Coast (*Crassostrea gigas*) or existing oyster sanctuaries, that can be used in the short-term and/or long-term.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
Comments				
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**Action 2-C)** Identify sources of substrate that have been approved by DNR for use in Eastern Bay over the long-term, including as a base for planting oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
Comments				
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**Action 2-D)** Optimize use of shell/substrate by identifying and developing priority list of areas that need enhancement (e.g., Heron Island).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
Comments				
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### Draft Strategy A3 – Regulations

**A3)** Evaluate regulations/policies that are in place for restoration process and target areas for improvement.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
Comments				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy A3

**Action 3-A)** Improve transparency in permitting process for restoration practices, including shell import permits and approval of alternate substrates/shells.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 3-B)** Identify specific roadblocks in regulatory processes or existing regulations at the state, county, and local level that create challenges for oyster restoration/production. Propose options to overcome these. (incl. packing houses, aquaculture, shell piles).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 3-C)** Develop processes or strategies to improve transparency in regulation, including improved coordination and communication between agencies or stakeholders.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 3-D)** Review and evaluate regulatory boundaries that restrict uses of shellfish management area/ oyster bars for multiple oyster practices.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy A4 – Restoration Approaches

Evaluate and implement suitable restoration approaches to improve oyster habitat and broodstock in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy A4

**Action 4-A)** Conduct regular habitat mapping to understand the extent of existing oyster habitat and identify areas that need enhancement or could be re-delineated for other activities.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-B)** Develop a plan to involve industry in restoration siting, including outlining how contributions will be integrated.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-C)** Create restoration designs and evaluate restoration practices that will improve oyster broodstock, including relaying or planting adult oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-D)** Integrate the use of alternate substrate into restoration siting and reef designs to improve existing habitat, reduce sedimentation, and improve spat recruitment.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-E)** Evaluate existing shell reclamation practices that may be suitable for enhancing habitat, including bar cleaning and shell relay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy A5 – Aquaculture

Identify opportunities for mixed aquaculture practices in Eastern Bay that enhance oyster production and complement existing restoration and fishery practices.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy A5

**Action 4-A)** Evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of using shells produced through aquaculture as a potential new source of shell for restoration.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-B)** Implement aquaculture practices that prioritize non-interference with existing clam, oyster, and crab habitats, with a focus on enhancing shellfish habitats in areas where shells are removed.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy A6 – Research Needs

Evaluate research needs to effectively enhance the oyster resource in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy A

**Action 6-A)** Evaluate suitability, availability, and effectiveness of different types of substrates for oyster restoration in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				



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**Action 6-B)** Evaluate effectiveness of existing or new shell reclamation practices that can be implemented to enhance oyster habitat.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 6-C)** Evaluate effectiveness and cost of other suggested practices/strategies proposed by the OCW.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Strategy A7 – Monitoring**

Develop a long-term monitoring plan to demonstrate whether strategies and actions are working and to allow for adaptive management of the Eastern Bay oyster resource.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Actions for Strategy A7**

**Action 7-A)** Develop a plan to involve industry in restoration monitoring, including outlining how contributions will be integrated.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 7-B)** Develop a process to communicate monitoring results to secure future funding for oyster production in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				

<b>Comments</b>
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<b>DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b>	
<b>GOAL A – ENHANCE THE OYSTER RESOURCE IN EASTERN BAY</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED METRICS</b>
<p><b>A1)</b> To define what constitutes a healthy and sustainable oyster population in Eastern Bay, with target and threshold levels identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined level of natural recruitment necessary to maintain oyster biomass.</li> <li>• Target spawning stock biomass defined and regularly assessed for sustained natural recruitment.</li> <li>• Target density of oysters defined and regularly assessed to maintain healthy oyster population.</li> <li>• Current oyster survival and demographic rates quantified across all reefs.</li> <li>• Oysters present in multiple size classes at target frequencies/densities across Eastern Bay reefs.</li> <li>• Predictive model that can predict boom and bust years of recruitment that will be used to allocate seed.</li> <li>• Defined and regularly assessed acceptable oyster disease and pest prevalence in Eastern Bay.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A2)</b> To develop strategies and dedicate resources required to restore the oyster population to a self-sustaining level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess current sedimentation patterns and sediment loads on Eastern Bay oyster habitat.</li> <li>• Establish acceptable sedimentation rates for reefs to outpace burial.</li> <li>• Measured reef subsidence/burial potential of various reef substrate types.</li> <li>• List of DNR- and stakeholder-approved substrates for each production type.</li> <li>• Defined locations for the creation or protection of existing broodstock reefs that can seed harvest areas in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Modeled and validated larval transport and source-sink dynamics in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Defined locations for restoration and aquaculture activities, with plan for quantities and timeline for restoration/investment.</li> <li>• Quantified broodstock contribution of existing aquaculture leases and potential aquaculture locations based on oyster strain (diploid vs. triploid).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define optimal reef habitat characteristics for persistence of oyster habitat to outpace sedimentation (e.g., reef height, size, shape).</li> </ul>
<b>A3)</b> To define measurable ecosystem health metrics to quantify ecosystem services resulting from the restoration of the oyster population in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined and expanded presence &amp; extent of other habitats in Eastern Bay (e.g., SAV).</li> <li>Increased secondary production (fish biomass/diversity) of ecologically and economically important species, including resident and transient species.</li> <li>Improved water quality for oyster health, recruitment, survival, and recreational use of Eastern Bay.</li> <li>Reduced extent of MDE shellfish closed areas.</li> </ul>
<b>A4)</b> To develop stakeholder recommendations for a Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay.</li> </ul>

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result for Goal A Performance Measures</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>				

## II. GOAL B – MANAGE THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN HARVEST AND A THRIVING ECONOMY

### Draft Strategy B1 – Management Options

**B1)** Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the sustainable management of Eastern Bay oyster resources.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B1

**Action 1-A)** Develop a plan outlining the optimal locations, timing, and quantities for oyster planting and harvest activities.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 1-B)** Develop an implementation framework for nutrient credits.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Action 1-C)

Consider and establish a rotational harvest framework for oyster harvest (in sanctuaries and existing harvest areas), incorporating practices such as rotational investment and management of entire oyster bars.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 1-D)** Evaluate and establish a comprehensive entry program for watermen, ensuring accessibility for full-time seafood industry workers and their family members. This initiative includes defining minimum requirements for purchasing the oyster surcharge and developing a tiered entry system and license structure for the oyster fishery.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 1-E)** Address state-wide oyster management issues by evaluating and forwarding recommendations to appropriate entities for consideration.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 1-F)** Evaluate the feasibility of and establish an oyster relay program, incorporating market-sized oysters from closed areas managed by MDE.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 1-G)** Evaluate the applicability of successful management practices that are implemented in other areas to Eastern Bay, such as rotational harvest in Virginia.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 1-H)** Evaluate existing harvest gear regulations and locations in Eastern Bay, and propose changes that will promote sustainable oyster harvest (e.g., expanding patent tong or dredge areas).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B2 – Sustainable Harvest Metrics

**B2)** Establish targets and thresholds for sustainable harvest in Eastern Bay to avoid overharvesting and maintain market demand, including at the individual oyster bar and regional level.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B2

**Action 2-A)** Develop a set of practices to monitor progress towards harvest thresholds, including a joint decision-making process between industry and DNR to close or open bars.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B3 – Zoning Regulations

**B3)** Advocate for the adjustment of zoning regulations including the establishment of right-to-work laws to facilitate industry operations. For example, to allow the placement of gear, shell piles, and related equipment on residential properties.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B3

**Action 3-A)** TBD.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B4 – Enforcement and Reporting

**B4)** Develop a plan to enhance enforcement and reporting mechanisms that ensure accurate information on oyster harvesting.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Actions for Strategy B4**

**Action 4-A)** Engage with NRP and industry stakeholders to discuss and implement effective solutions to limit poaching, illegal harvesting, and ensure the integrity of oyster resources.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-B)** Evaluate strategies to quantify unreported or illegal harvest, such as conducting pre- and post-harvest surveys, and account for these results when assessing the effectiveness of restoration.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-C)** Evaluate and enforce best reporting practices for tracking and quantifying commercial and recreational oyster harvest from Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 4-D)** Collaborate with seafood processors to establish and maintain harvest reporting standards, including ensuring that all purchased oysters meet market size criteria.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 4-E)** Evaluate, propose, and enforce best reporting practices (e.g., e-reporting) that should be implemented for tracking and quantifying commercial and recreational oyster harvest from Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Strategy B5 – Expansion and Siting of Oyster Production Areas**

**B5)** Use the collaborative OCW process to identify suitable areas for the expansion of harvest and aquaculture areas.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Actions for Strategy B5**

**Action 5-A)** Review the process to officially change regulatory boundaries and harvest zones and work with state agencies to implement appropriate changes in a timely manner (e.g., NOAA code 039).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 5-B)** Use existing data and identify data gaps needed to develop habitat suitability maps for siting new harvest and aquaculture locations.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 5-C)** Collaborate with aquaculture leaseholders and watermen to ensure that expanded areas for harvest and/or aquaculture do not conflict or interfere with other fisheries and habitats (e.g., crab trotlines, SAV, clam areas, etc.).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 5-D)** Consider logistical limitations when selecting areas for expanding aquaculture activities (e.g., access to water, wind fetch, currents, storage locations, etc.).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				



<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B6 – Funding

**B6)** Evaluate current funding levels and identify additional funding opportunities for Eastern Bay oyster production.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B6

**Action 6-A)** Evaluate and establish rotating investments in restoration between sanctuaries and public fishery areas.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 6-B)** Identify additional revenue streams to pay for plantings/production of oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 6-C)** Allocate money from recreational oyster license purchases to oyster restoration in harvest areas.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B7 – New and Emerging Technology

**B7)** Evaluate and consider uses for adaptive and new technologies to advance the sustainable harvest of oysters from Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
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<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B7

**Action 7-A)** Develop and implement experimental harvest practices and processes related to oyster aquaculture.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 7-B)** Investigate technology available to assist with quantifying or preventing illegal harvesting (e.g., GPS, drones).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B8 – Environmental Considerations

**B8)** Evaluate and implement adaptive management options that will mitigate the potential impacts of poor environmental conditions and/or climate change on oyster harvest from Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B8

**Action 8-A)** Implement an annual review of the commercial oyster fishery season relative to water temperatures and adjust the season appropriately.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 8-B)** Establish an oyster relay program that will move oysters from temporary or expanded MDE shellfish closure areas to open harvest areas in Eastern Bay to maintain harvest levels.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 8-C)** Expand water quality and disease monitoring to help identify potential human health risks and inform appropriate management/mitigation actions or area closures (e.g., vibrio, wastewater treatment plant spills, septic discharge, lawncare, etc.).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy B9 – Collaboration and Communication Between Stakeholders

**B9)** Improve collaboration and communication between oyster stakeholders to minimize conflict, improve transparency in the oyster production process, and maximize sustainable oyster production in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy B9

**Action 9-A)** Connect oyster harvesters, aquaculture leaseholders, and representatives from other fisheries that depend on a healthy oyster habitat to improve cohesion among ongoing activities in Eastern Bay. This could include collectively generating a list of pre-approved areas that are acceptable for new aquaculture leases so future conflict is avoided.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 9-B)** Establish standard processes related to oyster production that involve stakeholder collaboration to improve oyster resource management and enforcement.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				

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**Action 9-C)** Involve stakeholders from other fisheries that depend on healthy oyster habitat (i.e., fin fish, crabs, clams, etc.).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 9-D)** Improve communication between oyster stakeholders and county commissioners and legislators to help improve transparency for aquaculture permitting/regulations and improve expansion of aquaculture.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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<b>DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b>	
<b>GOAL B – MANAGE THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN HARVEST AND A THRIVING ECONOMY</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED METRICS</b>
<p><b>B1)</b> To develop strategies and dedicate resources required to sustainably harvest oysters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased amount of oyster shell that is retained locally (through SRA or local seafood processors).</li> <li>• Determined cost-effectiveness of local shucking and seafood processing operations in Maryland.</li> <li>• Target defined and assessed for aquaculture production in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Clear aquaculture harvest reporting requirements developed.</li> <li>• Expedited aquaculture permitting process.</li> <li>• Defined amount of oysters that should be added to Eastern Bay (spat plantings + natural recruitment) to keep up with the rate of harvest.</li> <li>• Modeled suitable adaptive management approaches based on fishery catch scenarios.</li> <li>• Increased and consistent DNR law enforcement presence during oyster season.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate and consistent law enforcement penalties defined for fishery regulation violations.</li> </ul>
<b>B2)</b> To define a sustainable level of oyster harvest from the commercial fishery and aquaculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined current oyster harvest across Eastern Bay NOAA codes and by gear type.</li> <li>• Sustainable allowable catch established (including harvest rate and shell budget) across Eastern Bay NOAA codes and by gear type.</li> <li>• Increased harvest reporting.</li> <li>• Increased harvest from Eastern Bay NOAA codes and monetary dockside value.</li> <li>• Proportion of dealer buy tickets purchasing seafood from Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Proportion of dealer sales of Eastern Bay seafood to local restaurants.</li> </ul>
<b>B3)</b> To evaluate baseline data and establish targets to improve recreational and other commercial fisheries and tourism activities in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of recreational oyster licenses and reports – quantify how many people participating in recreational oystering.</li> <li>• Increase in number of oyster charters operating in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Increase in number of fish charters operating in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Locations of recreational oyster harvest.</li> <li>• Locations of recreational fish harvest (from charters).</li> </ul>
<b>B4)</b> To evaluate existing Eastern Bay oyster regulatory and management boundaries to maximize oyster production and provide a sustainable harvest that supports a thriving oyster economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear process with DNR input/support to review and update management zones at a regular interval.</li> <li>• Threshold level defined and assessed for “productive” vs. “unproductive” oyster habitat and for each oyster management zone (e.g., aquaculture vs. PFSA).</li> <li>• Designated stakeholder-approved areas for aquaculture leases (by lease type – submerged land vs. water column).</li> <li>• Regularly updated benthic maps with validation data collected to assess existing oyster habitat and management boundaries.</li> </ul>

AVERAGE	4= <i>Acceptable</i>	3= <i>Minor Reservations</i>	2= <i>Major Reservations</i>	1= <i>Not Acceptable</i>
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result for Goal B Performance Measures</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**III. GOAL C – AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Draft Strategy C1 – Marketing and Public Perception**

**C1)** Establish a coordinated public relations and marketing effort among stakeholders (including Dept of Ag./MD’s Best Seafood) to enhance public perception and support for commercial fisheries and aquaculture occurring in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Actions for Strategy C1**

**Action 1-A)** Identify strategies to monitor and respond to the spread of mis-information about Chesapeake Bay/Eastern Bay oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 1-B)** Identify strategies for education surrounding sewage spills.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 1-C)** Market ecosystem services provided by oyster reefs.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Draft Strategy C2 – Public Engagement and Education**

**C2)** Establish educational opportunities to improve public awareness of Eastern Bay oyster culture.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				

<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy C2

**Action 2-A)** Create opportunities to engage with local waterman and aquaculture leaseholders to learn about the investment and process for harvesting oysters, with the goal to ensure that industry maintains access to oyster resources and commercial infrastructure.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 2-B)** Educate elected officials on challenges and opportunities for the expansion of oyster production in Eastern Bay, including zoning restrictions, access to working waterfronts, and opportunities with the oyster BMP.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 2-C)** Maintain community restoration programs such as Marylanders Grows Oysters that are primarily designed to be educational for the public.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 2-D)** Improve the market for local oysters by identify opportunities to engage stakeholders in the preparation and eating of locally caught oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 2-E)** Establish educational programs that are hosted locally (e.g., at CBEC) that focus on watermen, aquaculture, and the history of commercial seafood activity in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 2-F)** Increase recreational oyster dive charters/hand tong charters to educate the public about oyster reef ecology and the commercial oyster industry.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 2-G)** Improve education and accountability of recreational harvesters by establishing and enforcing a recreational oyster license.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**Action 2-H)** Identify technologies that can be used to educate a broader audience about Eastern Bay oyster habitat and culture (e.g., an online “OysterCam”).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Strategy C3 – Future of the Industry

**C3)** Evaluate strategies and incentives to retain people in the commercial oyster industry and remove barriers to young entrants.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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### Draft Actions for Strategy C3



**Action 3-A)** Develop an apprentice program to train people entering the oyster fishery or aquaculture, including education on the required investment, training using various gear types, connecting them to the community, etc.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

**Action 3-B)** Establish educational programs that introduce young people to aspects of the oyster fishery and inspire them to consider a career on the water.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
•				

<b>DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b>	
<b>GOAL C – AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED METRICS</b>
<b>C1)</b> To develop outreach and educational strategies to promote the value of healthy oyster habitat in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people with improved understanding of the ecosystem services provided by oysters.</li> <li>• Number of volunteers participating in oyster reef restoration efforts.</li> <li>• Number of internship program “graduates” that enter the oyster aquaculture workforce in the EB.</li> <li>• Number of K-12 students reached by efforts.</li> <li>• Creation of online education materials that can reach a broader audience (e.g., OysterCam).</li> <li>• Creation of an Eastern Bay camp for K-12 with a focus on oyster industry.</li> </ul>
<b>C2)</b> To create a network of community experts on the Eastern Bay ecosystem and oyster culture and resources dedicated to the long-term health of Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database of community experts and resources, hosted centrally and accessible.</li> <li>• OCW successor group established to continue stakeholder engagement in management and restoration process.</li> <li>• Improved relationships between industry and developers/leaders in the community.</li> </ul>

<p><b>C3)</b> To develop a funding framework for maintaining oyster production and healthy oyster habitat in Eastern Bay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the oyster restoration, harvest, and aquaculture BMPs in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Dedicated line item in Queen Anne and Talbot county budgets for oyster restoration.</li> <li>• Stakeholder group formed to identify and obtain funding for continued restoration of Eastern Bay oyster resource.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C4)</b> To ensure that industries and businesses within Eastern Bay are engaged in and supportive of the long-term health of Eastern Bay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve signage/outreach materials at local businesses (e.g., SRA @ restaurants).</li> <li>• Number of businesses, schools, industries, non-profits, and local governments participating in outreach efforts.</li> <li>• Regular briefings scheduled for Queen Anne and Talbot county development meetings.</li> <li>• Increased revenue from restaurant local seafood sales.</li> </ul>

AVERAGE	4= <i>Acceptable</i>	3= <i>Minor Reservations</i>	2= <i>Major Reservations</i>	1= <i>Not Acceptable</i>
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result for Goal C Performance Measures</i>				
<b>Comments</b>				
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**SECTION 2 – RANKED CONSENSUS OPTIONS: ≥75% SUPPORT**

**I. GOAL A – ENHANCE THE OYSTER RESOURCE IN EASTERN BAY**

**OPTIONS ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT: ≥75% SUPPORT**

TBD

**II. GOAL B – MANAGE THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN HARVEST AND A THRIVING ECONOMY**

**OPTIONS ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT: ≥75% SUPPORT**

TBD

**III. GOAL C – AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**OPTIONS ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT: ≥75% SUPPORT**

TBD

## SECTION 3 – ADOPTED PLAN FRAMEWORK

### EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP PLAN FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EASTERN BAY, MARYLAND ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY 2 FEBRUARY 2024

#### GOAL A. ENHANCE THE OYSTER RESOURCE IN EASTERN BAY

##### Vision Theme A:

A healthy, self-sustained Eastern Bay oyster population.

**Outcome:** By 2034 oyster resources that include natural habitat, public oyster grounds, and privately operated aquaculture leases will be thriving and contributing toward a sustainable population and improvements to the Eastern Bay System.

##### Goal A Objectives

**A1)** To define what constitutes a healthy and sustainable oyster population in Eastern Bay, with target and threshold levels identified.

**A2)** To develop strategies and dedicate resources required to restore the oyster population to a self-sustaining level.

**A3)** To define measurable ecosystem health metrics to quantify ecosystem services resulting from the restoration of the oyster population in Eastern Bay.

**A4)** To develop stakeholder recommendations for a Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay.

#### GOAL B. MANAGE THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN HARVEST AND A THRIVING ECONOMY

**Vision Theme B:** A productive oyster population that sustains a vibrant commercial oyster fishery, a thriving aquaculture industry, and recreational and tourism related activities.

**Outcome:** By 2034 both private and public oyster resources will sustain a vibrant commercial oyster fishery, a thriving aquaculture industry, and recreational and tourism related activities in Eastern Bay.

##### Goal B Objectives

**B1)** To develop strategies and dedicate resources required to sustainably harvest oysters.

**B2)** To define a sustainable level of oyster harvest from the commercial fishery and aquaculture.

**B3)** To evaluate baseline data and establish targets to improve recreational and other commercial fisheries and tourism activities in Eastern Bay.

**B4)** To evaluate existing Eastern Bay oyster regulatory and management boundaries to maximize oyster production and provide a sustainable harvest that supports a thriving oyster economy.

### **GOAL C. AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Vision Theme C:** Stakeholders in Eastern Bay are committed to working together to advocate for a sustainably managed oyster habitat and a healthy Eastern Bay ecosystem.

**Outcome:** By 2034 stakeholders and the public are informed of the importance of sustaining the health of oysters in Eastern Bay, and are engaged and working actively together along with elected and appointed leaders and managers to invest in and implement the Plan.

#### **Goal C Objectives**

**C1)** To develop outreach and educational strategies to promote the value of healthy oyster habitat in Eastern Bay.

**C2)** To create a network of community experts on the Eastern Bay ecosystem and oyster culture and resources dedicated to the long-term health of Eastern Bay.

**C3)** To develop a funding framework for maintaining oyster production and healthy oyster habitat in Eastern Bay.

**C4)** To ensure that industries and businesses within Eastern Bay are engaged in and supportive of the long-term health of Eastern Bay.

## SECTION 4 – PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

#### GOAL A – ENHANCE THE OYSTER RESOURCE IN EASTERN BAY

OBJECTIVES	RECOMMENDED METRICS
<p><b>A1)</b> To define what constitutes a healthy and sustainable oyster population in Eastern Bay, with target and threshold levels identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined level of natural recruitment necessary to maintain oyster biomass.</li> <li>• Target spawning stock biomass defined and regularly assessed for sustained natural recruitment.</li> <li>• Target density of oysters defined and regularly assessed to maintain healthy oyster population.</li> <li>• Current oyster survival and demographic rates quantified across all reefs.</li> <li>• Oysters present in multiple size classes at target frequencies/densities across Eastern Bay reefs.</li> <li>• Predictive model that can predict boom and bust years of recruitment that will be used to allocate seed.</li> <li>• Defined and regularly assessed acceptable oyster disease and pest prevalence in Eastern Bay.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A2)</b> To develop strategies and dedicate resources required to restore the oyster population to a self-sustaining level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess current sedimentation patterns and sediment loads on Eastern Bay oyster habitat.</li> <li>• Establish acceptable sedimentation rates for reefs to outpace burial.</li> <li>• Measured reef subsidence/burial potential of various reef substrate types.</li> <li>• List of DNR- and stakeholder-approved substrates for each production type.</li> <li>• Defined locations for the creation or protection of existing broodstock reefs that can seed harvest areas in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Modeled and validated larval transport and source-sink dynamics in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Defined locations for restoration and aquaculture activities, with plan for quantities and timeline for restoration/investment.</li> <li>• Quantified broodstock contribution of existing aquaculture leases and potential aquaculture locations based on oyster strain (diploid vs. triploid).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define optimal reef habitat characteristics for persistence of oyster habitat to outpace sedimentation (e.g., reef height, size, shape).</li> </ul>
<b>A3)</b> To define measurable ecosystem health metrics to quantify ecosystem services resulting from the restoration of the oyster population in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined and expanded presence &amp; extent of other habitats in Eastern Bay (e.g., SAV).</li> <li>Increased secondary production (fish biomass/diversity) of ecologically and economically important species, including resident and transient species.</li> <li>Improved water quality for oyster health, recruitment, survival, and recreational use of Eastern Bay.</li> <li>Reduced extent of MDE shellfish closed areas.</li> </ul>
<b>A4)</b> To develop stakeholder recommendations for a Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL B – MANAGE THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN HARVEST AND A THRIVING ECONOMY</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED METRICS</b>
<b>B1)</b> To develop strategies and dedicate resources required to sustainably harvest oysters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased amount of oyster shell that is retained locally (through SRA or local seafood processors).</li> <li>Determined cost-effectiveness of local shucking and seafood processing operations in Maryland.</li> <li>Target defined and assessed for aquaculture production in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>Clear aquaculture harvest reporting requirements developed.</li> <li>Expedited aquaculture permitting process.</li> <li>Defined amount of oysters that should be added to Eastern Bay (spat plantings + natural recruitment) to keep up with the rate of harvest.</li> <li>Modeled suitable adaptive management approaches based on fishery catch scenarios.</li> <li>Increased and consistent DNR law enforcement presence during oyster season.</li> <li>Appropriate and consistent law enforcement penalties defined for fishery regulation violations.</li> </ul>
<b>B2)</b> To define a sustainable level of oyster harvest from the commercial fishery and aquaculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined current oyster harvest across Eastern Bay NOAA codes and by gear type.</li> <li>Sustainable allowable catch established (including harvest rate and shell budget) across Eastern Bay NOAA codes and by gear type.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased harvest reporting.</li> <li>• Increased harvest from Eastern Bay NOAA codes and monetary dockside value.</li> <li>• Proportion of dealer buy tickets purchasing seafood from Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Proportion of dealer sales of Eastern Bay seafood to local restaurants.</li> </ul>
<b>B3)</b> To evaluate baseline data and establish targets to improve recreational and other commercial fisheries and tourism activities in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of recreational oyster licenses and reports – quantify how many people participating in recreational oystering.</li> <li>• Increase in number of oyster charters operating in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Increase in number of fish charters operating in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Locations of recreational oyster harvest.</li> <li>• Locations of recreational fish harvest (from charters).</li> </ul>
<b>B4)</b> To evaluate existing Eastern Bay oyster regulatory and management boundaries to maximize oyster production and provide a sustainable harvest that supports a thriving oyster economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear process with DNR input/support to review and update management zones at a regular interval.</li> <li>• Threshold level defined and assessed for “productive” vs. “unproductive” oyster habitat and for each oyster management zone (e.g., aquaculture vs. PFSA).</li> <li>• Designated stakeholder-approved areas for aquaculture leases (by lease type – submerged land vs. water column).</li> <li>• Regularly updated benthic maps with validation data collected to assess existing oyster habitat and management boundaries.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL C – AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED METRICS</b>
<b>C1)</b> To develop outreach and educational strategies to promote the value of healthy oyster habitat in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people with improved understanding of the ecosystem services provided by oysters.</li> <li>• Number of volunteers participating in oyster reef restoration efforts.</li> <li>• Number of internship program “graduates” that enter the oyster aquaculture workforce in the EB.</li> <li>• Number of K-12 students reached by efforts.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of online education materials that can reach a broader audience (e.g., OysterCam).</li> <li>• Creation of an Eastern Bay camp for K-12 with a focus on oyster industry.</li> </ul>
<b>C2)</b> To create a network of community experts on the Eastern Bay ecosystem and oyster culture and resources dedicated to the long-term health of Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database of community experts and resources, hosted centrally and accessible.</li> <li>• OCW successor group established to continue stakeholder engagement in management and restoration process.</li> <li>• Improved relationships between industry and developers/leaders in the community.</li> </ul>
<b>C3)</b> To develop a funding framework for maintaining oyster production and healthy oyster habitat in Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the oyster restoration, harvest, and aquaculture BMPs in Eastern Bay.</li> <li>• Dedicated line item in Queen Anne and Talbot county budgets for oyster restoration.</li> <li>• Stakeholder group formed to identify and obtain funding for continued restoration of Eastern Bay oyster resource.</li> </ul>
<b>C4)</b> To ensure that industries and businesses within Eastern Bay are engaged in and supportive of the long-term health of Eastern Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve signage/outreach materials at local businesses (e.g., SRA @ restaurants).</li> <li>• Number of businesses, schools, industries, non-profits, and local governments participating in outreach efforts.</li> <li>• Regular briefings scheduled for Queen Anne and Talbot county development meetings.</li> <li>• Increased revenue from restaurant local seafood sales.</li> </ul>

**SECTION 5 – RANKED OPTIONS NOT ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT (< 75 SUPPORT)**

**I. GOAL A – ENHANCE THE OYSTER RESOURCE IN EASTERN BAY**

**OPTIONS NOT ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT: < 75% SUPPORT**

**TBD**

**II. GOAL B – MANAGE THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN HARVEST AND A THRIVING ECONOMY**

**OPTIONS NOT ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT: < 75% SUPPORT**

**TBD**

**III. GOAL C – AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**OPTIONS NOT ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT: < 75% SUPPORT**

**TBD**