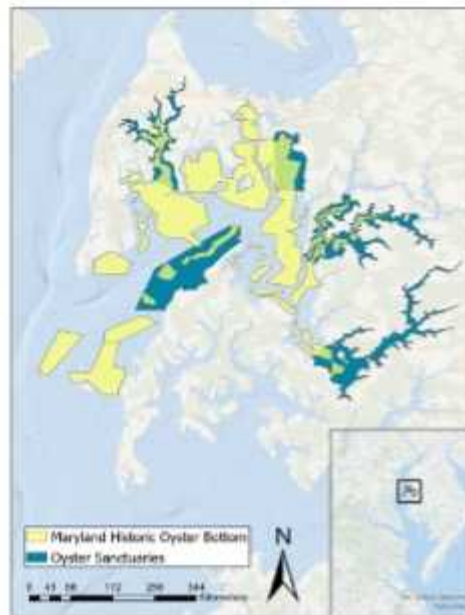


EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP



MEETING 2 – MARCH 29-30, 2024 FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT

**CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
GRASONVILLE, MARYLAND**



**PROCESS DESIGN, MEETING FACILITATION, AND REPORTING
BY JEFF A. BLAIR**

**EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP
MARCH 29-30, 2024 FACILITATOR'S MEETING SUMMARY REPORT**

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EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP MARCH 29-30, 2024 FACILITATOR'S MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

OVERVIEW OF THE EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION'S MARCH 29-30, 2024 ACTIONS

I. MEETING SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

The second Oyster Coalition Workgroup meeting was held at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC) in Grasonville, Maryland. The Oyster Coalition Workgroup (OCW): received an overview of the updated Project Workplan-Schedule; received Eastern Bay relevant presentations including: spatial tools for oyster siting, the OysterFutures simulation model, and an overview of DNR regulatory processes related to oysters; discussed the application of spatial tools for oyster production in Eastern Bay; and discussed agenda items and information needs for the May 29-30, 2024 OCW #3 meeting. Specific actions included: **1)** Providing feedback on ORP's Eastern Bay Habitat Survey Plan by participating in an interactive mapping exercise to identify potential locations for additional oyster production; **2)** Discussing, evaluating, and acceptability ranking the initial list of options relative to Project goals and desired outcomes by goal area using the Consensus Solutions Options Evaluation Worksheet Process; **3)** Discussing draft Performance Measures to track progress towards objectives and Project goals; and **4)** Considering any revisions to current options, hybrid options, and new options to evaluate relative to Project goals.

(Attachment 1 – Key to Common Project Abbreviations)

(Attachment 2 – Glossary of OCW Project Terms and Definitions)

II. OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP MEETING PARTICIPATION

The following OCW members participated in Day-1 (Friday) of the March 29-30, 2024 meeting conducted in-person at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, Maryland:

Kathy Brohawn, Scott Budden, Mark Galasso, Moochie Gilmer, Nick Hargrove, Jeff Harrison, Chris Judy, Matt Latham, Jim Moran, Vicki Paulas, Jason Ruth, Ward Slacum, Dan Sweeney, and Troy Wilkins.

(14 of 17 members participated – 82%).

Absent OCW Members:

Brian Callam, Ben Ford, and Richard Jones.

The following OCW members participated in Day-2 (Saturday) of the March 29-30, 2024 meeting conducted in-person at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, Maryland:

Kathy Brohawn, Scott Budden, Mark Galasso, Moochie Gilmer, Nick Hargrove, Jeff Harrison, Chris Judy, Jim Moran, Vicki Paulas, Jason Ruth, Ward Slacum, Dan Sweeney, and Troy Wilkins.

(13 of 17 members participated – 77%).

Absent OCW Members:

Brian Callam, Ben Ford, Richard Jones, and Matt Latham.

OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM AND FACILITATOR

Jeff Blair, Olivia Caretti, Beth Franks, and Ward Slacum.

(Attachment 3 – Meeting Participation)

MEETING FACILITATION

Meetings are facilitated and meeting summary reports prepared by Jeff A. Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Information at: <http://facilitatedsolutions.org>.



(Attachment 8 – About the Workgroup’s Facilitator)

ADDITIONAL MEETING ATTENDEES

Jodi Baxter (MDNR), Elana Hunter (ORP), Jennica Moffat (ORP), and Jennifer Walters (ORP).

PROJECT WEBPAGE

Information on the Oyster Coalition Workgroup project, including agenda packets, meeting reports, draft Plan Framework, and related documents may be found at the OCW Webpage. Located at the following URL: <https://www.oysterrecovery.org/our-work/oyster-restoration/easternbaycoalition>

III. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The OCW voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the March 29-30, 2024 meeting as presented. Following are the key agenda items approved for consideration:

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda, Summary Report, and Workplan Update).
- ✓ To Hear Presentations on Decision Support Tools.
- ✓ To Discuss and Provide Feedback on ORP’s Eastern Bay Habitat Survey Plan.
- ✓ To Discuss and Identify Locations in Eastern Bay for Current and Future Oyster Production Activities Through an Interactive Mapping Exercise.
- ✓ To Evaluate the Initial List of Strategies Relative to Project Goals.
- ✓ To Identify Additional Strategies for Evaluation and Acceptability Ranking.
- ✓ To Discuss Performance Measures to Track Progress Towards Objectives and Project Goals.
- ✓ Next Steps and Agenda Items for Meeting #3 – May 29-30, 2024.

Amendments to the Posted Agenda:

There were no amendments to the posted agenda.

(Attachment 3 – March 29-30, 2024 OCW Agenda)

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2-3, 2024 FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT

The OCW voted unanimously to approve the February 2-3, 2024 OCW Meeting Facilitator Summary Report as presented.

Amendments: None

V. REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

Jeff Blair provided the OCW with a review of the Project Workplan and Schedule and answered members' questions. The March 29-30, 2024 meeting represented the Workgroup's second of six meetings scheduled for the process.

Throughout the project, the OCW members representing management and restoration agencies will be vetting the strategies and actions under consideration with their leadership to gauge support and feasibility of implementation. The OCW is in the initial stages of evaluating the relative priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions (options) and identifying restoration and management approaches for inclusion in recommendations for a *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland Plan*.

Jeff reported as follows:

- The process consists of six Workgroup meetings and one Community Workshop Forum. The process will culminate with the Workgroup's adoption of a Draft Report and Recommendations for the *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland* for submittal to the Oyster Recovery Partnership.
- The Workgroup Meeting Dates are as follows:
 - Meeting #1 – February 2-3, 2024
 - Meeting #2 – March 29-30, 2024
 - Meeting #3 – May 29-30, 2024
 - Meeting #4 – July 31-August 2, 2024
 - Meeting #5 – September 25-26, 2024
 - Meeting #6 – December 4-5, 2024
- The Workgroup meetings will be held from 12:30 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. on day-one, and from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. on day-two.
- The Community Workshop Forum will be held on December 4, 2024 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- The Workgroup meetings and Community Forum Workshop will held at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center.

(Attachment 5 – Project Workplan and Meeting Schedule)

VI. EASTERN BAY OF MARYLAND SYSTEM OVERVIEW PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are available on the project webpage: <https://www.oysterrecovery.org/our-work/oyster-restoration/easternbaycoalition>.

A. SPATIAL TOOLS FOR OYSTER SITING

John Jacobs, Director, Oxford Lab, NOAA's National Coastal Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), provided the OCW with an overview of spatial tools that are being developed for oyster siting in Eastern Bay.

Summary and Overview of the Presentation

Goal

- Provide project support in identifying areas for potential oyster restoration with respect to competing uses and stakeholder needs.

Task 1 – Geodatabase Development

- Starting with DNR tools and data already available.
- Building in layers to address other potential concerns
- Adding additional standalone tools

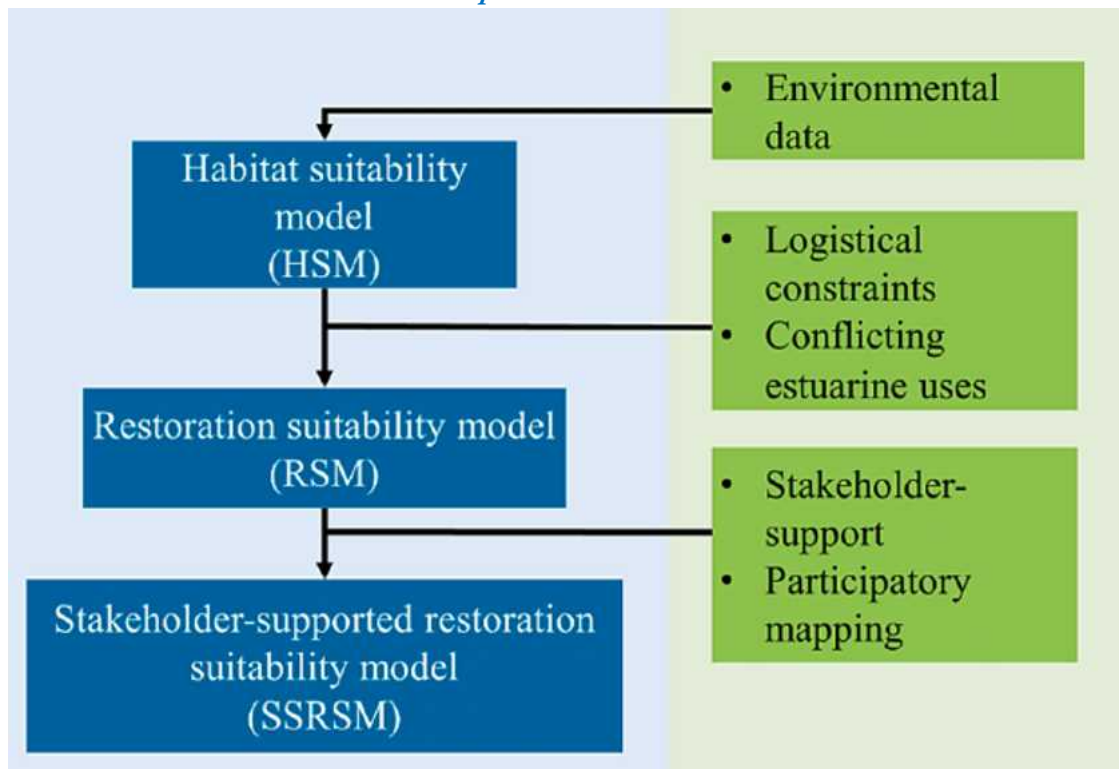
Current Layers

- Habitat characteristics
- Water quality
- Oyster bars, sanctuaries, leases, etc..
- Public fishing areas
- Infrastructure (marina's, piers, etc....)
- Land use/shoreline inventory
- Regulatory boundaries (MDE classification, etc..)

Task 2 – Spatial Modeling

- Integration of social data into restoration suitability modeling for oyster reefs.
- Components – (1) biological/ecological suitability (using environmental data), (2) restoration suitability (based on current bottom use and logistical constraints of conducting restoration), (3) stakeholder input (where people do and don't want to see oysters and why)

NCCOS Spatial Model Schematic



Current Status of Project

- Geodatabase nearing completion of first draft.
- Spatial modeling expected to start in April.
- Seeking input on the utility of the approach from OCW.
- Potential to use as a framework for future efforts.

B. OYSTERFUTURES SIMULATION MODEL

Mike Wilberg, Professor, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, provided the OCW with an overview of the OysterFutures simulation model.

Summary and Overview of the Presentation

Goal

- Help a diverse group of stakeholders develop recommendations for oyster restoration and management that meet the needs of industry, citizen, and government stakeholders in the Choptank and Little Choptank Rivers. The model was used to (1) identify actions to consider through and (2) identify important outcomes of the OysterFutures process.

Stakeholder Centered Process

- Stakeholders propose objectives, options, and performance measures.
- Model simulates results.
- Stakeholder evaluate model results and revise options and performance measures.
- Process is repeated until consensus reached on recommendations.

Information Needed for Model

- Actions to consider.
- Important outcomes to consider (performance measures).
- Oyster Biology.
- Fishery.
- Ecosystem.
- Effects of management actions.

Options Modeled

- Measuring against gains relative to the status quo.
- Rotational harvest.
- Change sanctuary boundaries.
- Manage using shell supplements.
- Shell additions with rotation.
- Plant hatchery-reared oysters.
- Increased enforcement of regulations.
- Modify size limits.
- Placing reefballs.
- Completion of restoration efforts.

OysterFutures Model Includes

- Oyster biology (growth, egg production, larval transport, mortality, etc.)

- Fishery dynamics (regulations, oyster market price, where and when people fish, etc.)
- Effects of management actions

Results

- Win – win options exist: increases in abundance and harvest.
- For most options, these strong positive benefits did not start to be realized until around 10 years after implementation.
- At the March, 2018 meeting, the Workgroup unanimously agreed to a package of 29 recommendations that included:
 - Enforcement and regulations.
 - Planting shell and spat.
 - Restoration efforts.
 - Business practices.
 - Education efforts.
 - Research recommendations.

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments to Presentations A and B:

(Note initials are only used to identify ORP Project Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- Q) Need hard bottom to add cultch to, would the OysterFutures Model help with this?
- A) MW: Yes, the model worked and predicted correctly that adding shell would work well in Broad Creek.
- Q) What does NOAA want from the group regarding where to place oyster restoration?
- A) JJ: The interactive mapping exercise you are about to conduct would provide the type of input we are seeking from stakeholders.
- It would be good to hear the pros and cons of various possible locations.
- Q) Is the OysterFutures model adaptable to the Eastern Bay System?
- A) MW: Not in its current state. The Oyster Consensus Model could be modified for Eastern Bay specifically. In addition, the Oyster Consensus Model used with OAC includes all tributaries in Maryland. The Eastern Bay component could be refined to answer specific questions for the region.
- NOAA work and ORP work can build synergy by using stakeholder input from the OCW project.
- Q) What were the options that worked best for OysterFutures?
- A) MW: Combined options worked best. Specifically, planting oysters and habitat restoration; rotational harvest in some areas; completing the large scale restoration efforts in Harris Creek, Little Choptank, and Tred Avon River.
- Note: the recommendations are available.
- MW: The Oyster Consensus Model could be modified for Eastern Bay specifically.
- Olivia will get with John and share the outcomes of ORP's mapping exercise work.

C. DISCUSSION ON APPLICATION OF SPATIAL TOOLS FOR OYSTER PRODUCTION IN EASTERN BAY

Olivia Caretti, ORP Coastal Restoration Program Manager, led the OCW on a discussion the application of spatial tools for oyster production in Eastern Bay.

Summary

- The Workgroup agreed that the use of spatial tools would be useful for the OCW project, and were willing to provide feedback as requested.

D. OVERVIEW OF DNR REGULATORY PROCESSES RELATED TO OYSTERS

Jodi Baxter, Deputy Division Director, MDNR Shellfish Division, provided the OCW with an overview of DNR regulatory processes related to oysters.

Summary and Overview of the Presentation

Maryland State Law

1. Statutory Law

- Created by legislature.
- Gives agencies authority to make rules.

2. Regulatory Law

- Created by executive branch agencies under authority given in statutory law by the legislature.
- Uses expertise of agency employees to make specific rules.

Regulation Steps in the Process

Scoping

- The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with a fishery issue or need so that management actions can be developed.
- During scoping, DNR gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders about how to solve a fishery problem or address a need.
- Public input is solicited through a pre-regulatory public information process before a proposed regulation is submitted

Development

- After public comment, DNR considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.
- The Secretary of Natural Resources then decides if a management strategy is necessary and appropriate, with input from Natural Resource Police, Office of Attorney General, division directors, and other leadership.
- If the action is necessary and appropriate, a proposal is sent to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee (AELR). AELR analyzes proposal for legal and fiscal concerns.
- The proposal is then sent to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publishing in the Maryland Register.
- DSD staff edit the proposal for proper format prior to printing.

Formal Comment Period

- Begins when the proposal is published in the Maryland Register.
- The public comment period is 30 days for all proposed regulations in Maryland as required by State law.
- Comments on the proposal provide DNR with additional information and perspectives that in some cases may be incorporated into editorial changes.

Final Decision

- At the end of the 30 day comment period, the Secretary of Natural Resources decides whether to approve or disapprove the proposed measure.
- A final action will be sent to DSD for printing in the Maryland Register.

Effective

- A final action is published in the Maryland Register stating the date that the management action is effective.

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:

(Note initials are only used to identify ORP Project Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- None were offered.

VII. FEEDBACK ON ORP'S EASTERN BAY HABITAT SURVEY PLAN

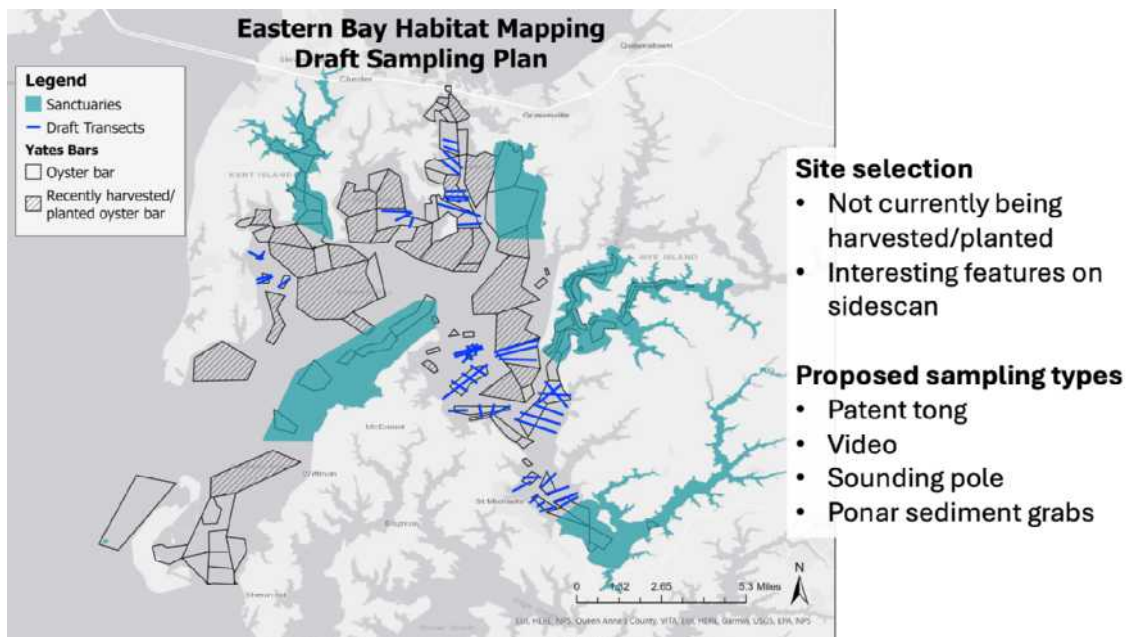
Olivia Caretti and Jennica Moffat of ORP provided the OCW with a presentation on ORP Habitat Survey as follows:

Survey Goals

- Identify locations for future investment for oyster fishery.
- Identify marginal habitat that could be opened for other uses (aquaculture, clamming, etc.).

Data that were used to develop survey

- Eastern Bay Sidescan Sonar Data collected between 2021-2023 (current data).
- Eastern Bay Oyster Bars from the Yates Survey completed in the early 1900s (historical data).
- Eastern Bay harvest gear areas including hand tong, power dredge, dive, patent tong/dive, and sanctuaries locations from DNR's GearLine map.
- Locations where watermen recently harvested and/or planted oysters based on DNR data and discussions with OCW watermen.



Eastern Bay Habitat Mapping Draft Sampling Plan

- ORP created the Draft Sampling Plan based on the data they presented above and feedback from watermen.
- The team proposes to focus efforts in three EB regions – (1) northwest, near Romancocke (38 samples); (2) north, Prospect & Crab Alley Bays (128 samples); (3) Miles River (336 samples)

Habitat Survey Input Requested from the OCW

- Are there any major features or areas of interest missing?
- Which of the proposed locations should be prioritized for sampling, and why?
- Does anyone have any knowledge about existing habitat in any of the locations?

Feedback provided by OCW members during a discussion following the presentation of the proposed survey plan:

- Several areas that were proposed in the Miles River area are in active clam harvest areas – including Old Orchard bar, Gibsons Flat. Care should be taken to minimize user conflict.
- Prioritize Sycamore and Turtle Back bars since Talbot County is interested in planting there this year using oyster repletion funding
- Suggestion to conduct higher resolution surveys (more points) in some locations (e.g., Hambleton and Hambleton Hill bar) since these are being evaluated as locations for future plantings
- Suggestion to conduct some transects parallel to shore to track features in sidescan sonar maps (e.g., Wildground bar in Miles River)
- Suggested collecting some samples outside Harbor Town
- Suggested collecting some samples within Eastern Bay sanctuaries

Habitat Exercise Goal

- Gain broader understanding of Eastern Bay landscape – current activities and priority areas for each stakeholder group.

VIII. INTERACTIVE MAPPING EXERCISE ON OYSTER HABITAT

Following the presentation on ORP habitat mapping survey goals, the Workgroup was divided into 3 groups and each group was asked to go one of the three maps hanging on the wall to provide information about where current activities occur in Eastern Bay and to identify priority areas for each stakeholder group. Each map station has an ORP team member to ask questions and capture the Workgroup members' discussion on the wall maps. The feedback and additional comments will be used to help determine where the surveys for potential expansion of the oyster fishery should occur. Following are the questions the ORP team requested feedback on:

Mapping Exercise Questions

- Where do charter boats take people to fish? Are there specific reefs/locations?
- Where are suitable locations for new aquaculture leases? Visually indicate challenges on the map.
- Where do other aquaculture activities occur in relation to existing leases or potential new leases?
- Where are areas of water quality concern that may or may not overlap with oyster areas? (current and future)
- Where are existing water quality sampling stations? Where do we need more data?
- Where do other restoration activities occur (e.g., SOAR, community-based plantings like MGO)? Are there new planned locations for the future?
- Where does the public/local community want to/not want to see more oyster activity?
- Are there locations of ongoing SAV restoration?

- Is there clam fishing in Eastern Bay? Where?
- Is there crab fishing in Eastern Bay? Where?
- Are there additional priority areas for DNR in Eastern Bay (e.g., related to oysters, aquaculture, SAV, clams, crabs, protected habitat, shoreline resilience, etc.)?
- Where do watermen want to see changes in allowed oyster gear types?

Workgroup Members Providing Feedback at the Habitat Mapping Stations



IX. DISCUSSION, EVALUATION, AND ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF INITIAL LIST OF OPTIONS RELATIVE TO PROJECT GOALS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES BY GOAL AREA IN TURN – USING THE OPTIONS EVALUATION WORKSHEET

During the first OCW meeting conducted on February 2-3, 2024 Workgroup members were invited to offer an initial list of options (strategies and actions) they would like to consider for oyster restoration, management, and for engaging stakeholders to support sustainable oyster restoration and management. In addition, members offered several overarching considerations they felt should be considered in evaluating options for strategies as follow:

- Whether a strategy is viable in terms of budget and funding.
- Understanding and planning for agency timeframe requirements regarding how long approved policies and projects are likely to take for implementation.
- Consider creating a brief cheat-sheet that summarizes the Workgroup’s recommended actions. As an example, for restoration recommendations: how much cultch is needed, how much will it cost, and what are the expected benefits/outcomes to be achieved for the expenditure and effort.

The preliminary list of options (strategies and actions) were compiled and organized into an Options Evaluation Worksheet, and distributed to Workgroup members and posted to the project webpage in advance of OCW Meeting #2. The draft strategies and actions for each of the Goals in the Worksheet were drafted by the ORP Project Team based on the initial list of potential options to serve as a framework for discussion, and were 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*.

During the second OCW meeting conducted on March 29-30, 2024 Workgroup members were asked to rank for acceptability the initial list of options (strategies and actions) using the Options Evaluation Worksheet Process. The complete results of the ranking exercise is provided as “Attachment 7” to this report (Options Acceptability Ranking Results). Prior to ranking options, the Facilitator reviewed the process approved by the Workgroup for evaluating options as follows:

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 ≥ 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 is used for the ranking exercises:

ACCEPTABILITY RANKING SCALE	4 = Acceptable, <i>I agree</i>	3 = Acceptable, I agree with <i>minor reservations</i>	2 = Not Acceptable, I don't <i>agree unless major reservations</i> <i>addressed</i>	1 = Not <i>Acceptable</i>
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CONSENSUS SOLUTIONS OPTIONS EVALUATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

- 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 ≥ 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.

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.

The charge to the ORP Team is to frame all of the Strategies and Actions as recommendations from the OCW, and to direct them to the appropriate agency, entity, and or organization. All of the strategies and actions should be refined by the ORP Team to clarify meaning and in conformance with the OCW's intent (from discussions and comments during Meeting #2). Duplications and redundancies should be eliminated, similar actions combined when possible, and clarifications made to ensure that the specific intent of the strategies and actions are clear and easily understood.

The ORP Team will revise the Options (strategies and actions) based on the Workgroup's rankings, discussions, comments, and refinements. The Revised Options Acceptability Ranking Worksheet will be distributed and posted prior to the May 29-30, 2024 Meeting, and the Workgroup will continue the process of evaluating options during Meeting #3.

(Attachment 7 – Options Acceptability Ranking Results)

X. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES AND PROJECT GOALS

During the second OCW meeting conducted on March 29-30, 2024 Workgroup members were asked to review the initial list of Performance Measures for each of the three Goal's Objectives using the Options Evaluation Worksheet Process. The Workgroup agreed that ORP, DNR, and UMCES would get together and revise the Performance Measures to a list that would be easier to understand and track. The Workgroup will discuss and acceptability rank the draft performance measures at the OCW's May 29-30, 2024 Meeting.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: The regular measurement of outcomes and results, which generates reliable data on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of a project's objectives.

XI. IDENTIFICATION OF REVISIONS TO CURRENT OPTIONS, HYBRID OPTIONS, AND NEW OPTIONS TO EVALUATE RELATIVE TO PROJECT GOALS

Workgroup members were asked to propose revisions to current options, hybrid options (combinations of options), and new options they would like the Workgroup to evaluate and acceptability rank at the next OCW meeting. The ORP Project Team will compile and organize these new options, along with the results of the acceptability ranking exercise conducted during Meeting #2, into the Options Evaluation Worksheet, and distribute to Workgroup members and post to the project webpage in advance of OCW Meeting #3.

There were no additional options offered.

XII. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The May 29-30, 2024 meeting will focus on identifying, discussing, and acceptability ranking proposed strategies and actions to achieve the objectives for the Goals of the Plan.

NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Approval of Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report).
- Review of Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule.
- Presentations and Discussions Regarding Oyster Substrate.
- Overview of Local Stakeholders and Resources in Eastern Bay.
- Evaluation and Acceptability Ranking of Revised Options (Strategies and Actions) to Achieve the Workgroup's Goals and Objectives.
- Discussion of Revised Performance Measures to Track Progress Towards Objectives and Goals.
- Next Steps and Agenda Items for Meeting #4 – July 31-August 1, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The Facilitator thanked Workgroup members, ORP Project Team members, and all other meeting attendees for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

(Attachment 6 – Meeting Evaluation Results)

ATTACHMENT 1
KEY TO COMMON PROJECT ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
CBEC	Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center
CBF	Chesapeake Bay Foundation
EB	Eastern Bay of Maryland
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
HPL	UMCES Horn Point Lab
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
MDNR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
OCW	Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition Workgroup
ORP	Oyster Recovery Partnership
OAC	Oyster Advisory Commission
Plan	<i>Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i>
QAC	Queen Anne County
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
SR	ShoreRivers
TC	Talbot County
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UMD	University of Maryland
UMCES	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

ATTACHMENT 2

GLOSSARY OF OCW PROJECT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

ACTION: The specific steps and activities taken to implement a strategy.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: A process that includes making decisions, evaluating the results, comparing the results to predetermined performance measures, and modifying future decisions to incorporate lessons learned.

EASTERN BAY SYSTEM: Eastern Bay is a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay located between Queen Anne and Talbot Counties on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Its main tributaries include the Miles and Wye Rivers. Eastern Bay is connected to the Chester River to the north via Kent Narrows, a working waterfront that supports a thriving commercial and recreational fishing community and includes seafood processing facilities, restaurants, and tourism. The estuary is a mesohaline system with expansive oyster, SAV, and sandy bottom habitats. The project will focus on existing oyster habitats and those areas suitable for oyster aquaculture and oyster restoration activities in Eastern Bay.

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH:

A “healthy” ecosystem is one that conserves diversity, supports fully functional ecological processes, and sustains a range of ecological and ecosystem services.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: The contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing. These include provisioning services (food, raw materials, fresh water, medicinal resources), regulating services (climate, air and water quality, moderation of extreme events, and erosion prevention), habitat services (habitat for species that support ecosystem services), and cultural services (recreation for mental & and physical health; tourism; aesthetic appreciation spiritual experience).

GOAL: A goal is a statement of the project’s purpose to move towards the vision expressed in fairly broad language.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: The Oyster Coalition Workgroup’s Guiding Principles reflect the broad values and philosophy that guides the operation of the Workgroup and the behavior of its members throughout its process.

OBJECTIVE: Objectives describe in concrete terms how to accomplish the goal to achieve the vision within a specific timeframe and with available resources. (E.g., by 2033, the State of Maryland will have approved a stakeholder developed Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan for the Eastern Bay System.)

OUTCOME: Outcomes describe the expected result at the end of the project period – what is hoped to be achieved when the goal is accomplished. (*E.g., an ecologically, and economically viable, healthy and sustainable Eastern Bay System oyster fishery and ecosystem*)

OYSTER REPLETION PROGRAM: A state-managed program to replenish oyster populations and bottom substrate on natural oyster bars that are regularly harvested by the commercial industry. The program is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation Port Authority, revenue from commercial oyster license renewal surcharges, and bushel tax revenue from commercial harvest. The Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) implements the coordination and oversight of the production and deployment of wild seed, shell, alternate substrate, and spat-on-shell (SOS) to achieve bottom enhancement per requests from the county oyster committees.

OYSTER RESOURCES: Sources of oysters that provide natural and cultural benefits to humans. These sources can come from the wild or from aquaculture. The responsible management of oyster resources requires integrated approaches that incorporate the social, economic, and environmental considerations of sustainability.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: The regular measurement of outcomes and results, which generates reliable data on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of a project's objectives.

RESTORATION: The process of repairing, through human intervention, sites whose biological communities and ecosystems have been degraded or destroyed. Restoration goals are site-specific, and would include restoration of the health and ecological functions that are self-sustaining over time.

STAKEHOLDERS: All groups whether public, private or non-governmental organizations who have an interest or concern in the success of a project and can affect or be affected by the outcome of decisions or activities of the project. The Eastern Bay System Initiative stakeholders include but are not limited to agriculture, silviculture, business, economic development, tourism, environmental, citizen groups, recreational fishing, commercial seafood industry, regional groups, local, state, and federal government, universities, and research interests.

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.

VISION: An idealized view of where or what the stakeholders would like the oyster resource and ecosystem to be in the future.

VISION THEMES: The key issues that characterize the desirable future for the oyster resource and ecosystem. The Vision Themes establish a framework for goals and objectives. They are not ordered by priority.

ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING PARTICIPATION LIST

MEMBER	AFFILIATION
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO): ENVIRONMENTAL AND CITIZEN GROUPS	
1. Ben Ford	ShoreRivers (Miles-Wye Riverkeeper)
2. Vicki Paulas	Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center
3. Ward Slacum	Oyster Recovery Partnership
4. Dan Sweeney	The Nature Conservancy
RECREATIONAL FISHING	
5. Mark Galasso	Tuna the Tide Charter Service
SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	
6. Scott Budden	Orchard Point Oyster Company and Aquaculture
7. Moochi Gilmore	Queen Anne County Waterman, Clam Harvester
8. Nick Hargrove	Wittman Wharf Seafood, Talbot County Waterman and Aquaculture
9. Jeff Harrison	Talbot County Waterman
10. Richard Jones	Queen Anne County Waterman
11. Matt Latham	Queen Anne County Waterman
12. Jason Ruth	Harris Seafood Company, Queen Anne County Waterman and Aquaculture
13. Troy Wilkins	Queen Anne County Waterman
LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT	
14. Kathy Brohawn	Maryland Department of Environment
15. Brian Callam	Maryland DNR – Aquaculture & Industry Enhancement
16. Chris Judy	Maryland DNR – Shellfish Division – Designated Alternate: Jodi Baxter
17. Jim Moran	Queen Anne County
<i>The names of OCW members participating in the meeting are indicated in bold font</i>	

OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM	
OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP	
Olivia Caretti	Coastal Restoration Program Manager
Beth Franks	Senior Manager
Ward Slacum	Executive Director
FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC	
Jeff Blair	Workgroup Facilitator, Consensus Building, and Process Design
<i>The names of Project Team members participating in the meeting are indicated in bold font.</i>	

ATTACHMENT 4

MARCH 29-30, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

MEETING #2 OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda, Summary Report, and Workplan Update).
- ✓ To Hear Presentations on Decision Support Tools.
- ✓ To Discuss and Provide Feedback on ORP's Eastern Bay Habitat Survey Plan.
- ✓ To Discuss and Identify Locations in Eastern Bay for Current and Future Oyster Production Activities Through an Interactive Mapping Exercise.
- ✓ To Evaluate the Initial List of Options Relative to Project Goals.
- ✓ To Identify Additional Options for Evaluation and Acceptability Ranking.
- ✓ To Discuss Performance Measures to Track Progress Towards Objectives and Project Goals.
- ✓ Next Steps and Agenda Items for Meeting #3 – May 29-30, 2024.

AGENDA DAY 1 – FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

All Agenda Times – Including Adjournment – Are Approximate and Subject to Change

12:00 PM		LUNCH – PROVIDED BY OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP
1)	12:30 PM	WELCOME AND ROLL CALL
2)	12:35	REGULAR ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURAL ISSUES REVIEW AND APPROVAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Review and Meeting Objectives (March 29-30, 2024) • Approval of Facilitator's Summary Report (February 2-3, 2024) • Approval of Updated Project Meeting Schedule and Workplan
3)	12:45	EASTERN BAY RELEVANT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Tools for Oyster Siting (John Jacobs, Director, Oxford Lab NOAA) (15). • OysterFutures Simulation Model (Mike Wilberg, Professor, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science) (15). • Discussion of the application of spatial tools for oyster production in Eastern Bay (Olivia, Caretti, ORP) (15). • Overview of DNR regulatory processes related to oysters (Jodi Baxter, DNR) (15).
4)	1:45	FEEDBACK ON ORP'S EASTERN BAY HABITAT SURVEY PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of survey goals and plan (15). • Discuss survey plan and integrate information from previous mapping exercise (30).
~2:30 PM		BREAK
5)	2:45	INTERACTIVE MAPPING EXERCISE ON OYSTER HABITAT Proposed Areas to Survey for Potential Additional Oyster Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where watermen currently choose to harvest oysters, and where they don't choose to harvest oysters (areas currently open to harvest) – Active Areas. • Areas proposed to survey. • Feedback on proposed areas to survey. Identify Potential Locations for Additional Oyster Production, Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations of other fishing activities. • Aquaculture lease areas.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for continued investment in fishery. • Areas where investment is not effective or recommended. • Additional wild-harvest (public fishery) areas. • Locations to support changes in allowable gear type. Other Considerations
6)	3:30	DISCUSSION, EVALUATION, AND ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF INITIAL LIST OF OPTIONS RELATIVE TO PROJECT GOALS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES BY GOAL AREA IN TURN – USING THE OPTIONS EVALUATION WORKSHEET
7)	4:55	SUMMARY OF DAY ONE AND REVIEW OF DAY TWO AGENDA
~5:00 PM		RECESS

AGENDA DAY 2 – SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024		
<i>All Agenda Times – Including Adjournment – Are Approximate and Subject to Change</i>		
COFFEE AND BAGELS – PROVIDED BY OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP		
1)	8:30 AM	WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW
2)	8:35	ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF OPTIONS – CONTINUED
~10:15 AM		BREAK
3)	10:30	DISCUSSION AND REFINEMENT OF DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES AND PROJECT GOALS
4)	11:30	IDENTIFICATION OF REVISIONS TO CURRENT OPTIONS, HYBRID OPTIONS, AND NEW OPTIONS TO EVALUATE RELATIVE TO PROJECT GOALS
5)	12:20	NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Action Items and Assignments • Identify Agenda Items and Any Needed Information for the 3rd. OCW Meeting • Complete Meeting Evaluation
~12:30 PM		ADJOURN

ATTACHMENT 5

WORKPLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN – 2024 UPDATED AS OF THE MARCH 29-30, 2024 OCW MEETING		
MEETING #	DATES	OBJECTIVES
Meeting #1	Feb. 2-3, 2024	Organizational Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Oyster Coalition Workgroup’s Operational and Procedural Policies and Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumptions, Principles, and Participation Guidelines; Consensus Building Procedures; Consensus Solutions Process Procedures; Options Acceptability Ranking Process; and Guiding Principles, and Goal Statement. Presentations on the Eastern Bay Region of Maryland. Review of Questionnaire responses. Discussion and adoption of draft Framework for the Plan: Vision Themes, Goals, Outcomes, and Objectives. Identification of initial list of strategies for evaluation.
Meeting #2	March 29-30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations on decision support tools: spatial tools for oyster siting, and OysterFutures simulation model. Overview of DNR regulatory processes related to oysters. Discussion of the application of spatial tools for oyster production in Eastern Bay. Discussion of ORP’s Eastern Bay Habitat Survey Plan. Mapping Exercise on Oyster Habitat: Current harvest locations, and proposed locations for expanding wild-harvest and aquaculture. Identification, discussion, and acceptability ranking of options (strategies and actions), and resource needs to achieve Project Goals and Objectives. Identification of revised, hybrid, and new options for evaluation. Discussion and acceptability ranking of performance measures to track progress towards Objectives and Goals.
Meeting #3	May 29-30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations and discussions about oyster substrate. Overview of local stakeholders and resources in Eastern Bay. Identification, discussion, and acceptability ranking of options (strategies and actions), and resource needs to achieve Project Goals and Objectives. Identification of revised, hybrid, and new options for evaluation. Discussion and acceptability ranking of performance measures to track progress towards Objectives and Goals.
Meeting #4	July 31-Aug. 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on results of Eastern Bay habitat surveys.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of OCW stakeholders resources available to support the goals of the OCW Project. • Discussion regarding how results of Eastern Bay Habitat Surveys will inform recommendations and inclusion in the Plan. • Discussion and acceptability ranking of performance measures to track progress towards Project Objectives and Goals. • Acceptability ranking of proposed revisions to draft objectives, strategies, and actions for inclusion in the <i>Draft Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process.
Meeting #5	Sept. 25-26, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on CBEC education plan. • Refinement of draft recommendations. • Refinement and approval of the OCW <i>Draft Report and Recommendations for the Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland. (Day 2).</i>
Community Workshop Forum	Dec. 4, 2024 6:00pm – 8:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education on the OCW goals and process. • Community input on the OCW outcomes and recommendations for the <i>Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland.</i>
Meeting #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 4-5, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Community Open House input. • Finalization of Plan revisions. • Adoption of the Oyster Coalition Workgroup's Report and Recommendations for the Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland, and submittal to the Oyster Recovery Partnership.

ATTACHMENT 6

MEETING EVALUATION RESULTS

Workgroup Members used a 5-point rating scale where a 1 meant “Strongly Disagree” and a 5 meant “Strongly Agree.” The evaluation summary reflects average rating scores and comments from Workgroup members participating in the meeting.

There were 13 end of meeting Evaluations completed (100%).

1.) The meeting objectives were clearly communicated at the beginning

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.4	5	8	0	0	0

2.) The meeting objectives were met.

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.3	4	9	0	0	0

3.) The presentations were effective and informative.

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.5	6	7	0	0	0

4.) The facilitation of the meeting was effective for achieving the stated objectives

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.6	7	6	0	0	0

5.) Follow-up actions were clearly summarized at the end of the meeting

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.2	4	7	2	0	0

6.) The facilitator accurately documented OCW Member input

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.6	8	5	0	0	0

7.) The meeting was the appropriate length of time.

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.2	3	9	1	0	0

8.) OCW Members had the opportunity to participate and be heard.

<i>Average out of 5</i>	<i>5. Strongly Agree</i>	<i>4. Agree</i>	<i>3. Neutral</i>	<i>2. Disagree</i>	<i>1. Strongly Disagree</i>
4.6	7	6	0	0	0

Additional Feedback

- In hindsight: breaking the acceptability ranking into 3 separate day/sessions/meetings to allow for discussions and refinements of each goal per session. A lot for one day to digest.
- Good to receive summary of actions [Final] and rankings [1-4] at next meeting.
- Get more into specifics of how to expand aquaculture leasing areas in Eastern Bay.
- Comment on #7. Ranked length of meeting 3, but provided the comment: “I was ok with it anyhow.”

ATTACHMENT 7

OPTIONS ACCEPTABILITY RANKING RESULTS

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

Overreaching Direction for Revising Strategies and Actions

All of the Strategies and Actions should be framed as a recommendations from the OCW and directed to the appropriate agency, entity, and or organization. All of the strategies and actions should be refined by the ORP Team to clarify meaning and in conformance with the OCW's intent (from discussions and comments during Meeting #2). Duplications and redundancies should be eliminated, similar actions combined when possible, and clarifications made to ensure that the specific intent of the strategies and actions are clear and easily understood. In addition, the strategies and actions should be re-ordered and re-numbered to reflect a logical sequencing of steps.

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>				
3.86	13	0	1	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why spend money to study funding when we have a limited amount of money. Want to spend money putting oysters in the Bay. This is needed to provide governments with rationale to continue funding fishery and restoration. The return on investment needs to be documented. Need standard units for comparison: Cost/bushel and cost/acre are standard units for comparison. Need data on the cost of shells vs. stones for cultch. 				

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>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are limitations in law on what can be used for the \$1M annual funding. The current law requires that for the fishery- shell and spat on shell only allowed. In sanctuaries – only spat is allowed. The law is missing using stone and other alternative materials, likely this is an unintended consequence of the legislation. Need to change the law to allow for the use of alternative substrates. We could also use other funding sources for substrate alternatives that don't have these limitations on materials. 				

- The alternatives need to be environmentally friendly.
- Need to work with the substate task force on this. Don't duplicate efforts.

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 and dredging.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
3.86	12	2	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Action 2A was split into two actions for clarity • Different types of bar cleaning methods. Use dredges with bags to turn-over the oysters. • EB bars are small – need to stay on the bars and maintain their height. • Don't spread shells too thin when cleaning – dump them on better bottom and water depth. • Could use a clam rig to dredge buried shell. • Money spent on dredging has to be evaluated. Need to keep dredge on bottom if possible. • Need best practices definition added to this action for how this should be done. 				

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

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Action 2A was split into two actions for clarity • We are trying to do this with aquaculture. • Consider regulatory changes to require keeping the shell in State (Maryland). 				

New Action 2-C) Evaluate and acquire other sources of shell, including other locations, that can be used in the short-term and/or long-term.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Action 2B was split into two actions for clarity 				

New Action 2-D) Evaluate and acquire other sources of shell, including shells from or existing oyster sanctuaries and/or reserve areas, that can be used in the short-term and/or long-term. Use for seed area and/or public fishery area.

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

3.29	9	1	3	1
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Action 2B was split into two actions for clarity • Shells should be kept in the sanctuary and only used there. • Move shells not spawning to more productive locations. • Even if not productive they should remain in the sanctuary and be used for spat broodstock to enhance the system. 				

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.

Workgroup Action				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Workgroup did not rank original action 2-C. • The Workgroup asked that this be incorporated into one of other existing actions to eliminate duplication. • Similar actions should be revised and combined as appropriate to eliminate redundancy and reduce the number of actions. 				

Action 2-E) Optimize use of shell/substrate by identifying and developing priority list of areas that need enhancement (e.g., Herring Island).

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific comments were offered. 				

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
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
3.93	13	1		
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR's minor reservation is because all of the options should be framed as recommendations to the appropriate agency and/or entity (in this case MDNR). 				

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>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDE gets grief about shell piles near the water. There is no issue with this environmentally. Oyster leases increase SAVs so this factor should be considered. 				

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>				
3.93	13	1	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR's minor reservation is that all options should be framed as recommendations to the appropriate agency and/or entity (in this case MDNR). 				

Action 3-D) Review and evaluate regulatory boundaries that restrict uses of shellfish management area/oyster bars for multiple oyster practices.

Workgroup Action				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Workgroup did not rank original action 3-D. The Workgroup stated it needs clarification regarding what is intended (e.g., gear types, and aquaculture is not allowed in public fishery areas), 				

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>				
3.93	13	1	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR's minor reservation is that all options should be framed as recommendations to the appropriate agency and/or entity (in this case MDNR). 				

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>				
4.00	14	0	0	0

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered.

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>				
4.00	14	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Action 4-C) Create restoration designs and evaluate restoration practices that will improve oyster broodstock, including relaying, and moving adult oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
3.86	12	2	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like the SOAR activities. Is this moving oysters to different locations? Relay is movement of adult oysters from restricted areas. Should be separate actions. Geographic and disease concerns, need to stay in the same NOAA Code. 				

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>				
3.93	13	1	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR's minor reservation is because all of the options should be framed as recommendations to the appropriate agency and/or entity (in this case MDNR). 				

Strategy A5 – Aquaculture

Identify opportunities for various 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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Actions for Strategy A5

Action 5-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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need coordination regarding the shell that leaves the region. • Need a system to enhance how this would be done. • Regional initiatives are gaining traction. • Funding would be required. • Shell Recycling Alliance is working on this, • Shell that remains in the State is recycled. • Out of state product shell is lost to MD. • DNR or ORP has a stream for aging the shell before it is used. • Aquaculture would need to age shells as well. • Consider area. 				

Action 5-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 have been removed for bottom enhancement.

Workgroup Action				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Workgroup did not rank original Action 5-B. • The Workgroup stated this needs clarification and need to define existing relative to historic oyster habitat (the status quo should be used as the baseline and not the historic habitat). 				
Other Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to change the law. • Electronic reporting of harvest provides information on habitat/areas to assist aquaculture. • Need more protection. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific comments were offered. 				

Actions for Strategy A

Action 6-A) Utilize existing data and support research efforts regarding 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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy was revised by the Workgroup, and should be refined as needed to clarify intent. Redundant as drafted. We should frame this to support effort instead of evaluate efforts.

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
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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
March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result				

4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make monitoring results compatible/comparable and readily accessible so they can used to demonstrate that specific restoration strategies are working. 				

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

Overreaching Direction for Revising Strategies and Actions

All of the Strategies and Actions should be framed as a recommendations from the OCW and directed to the appropriate agency, entity, and or organization. All of the strategies and actions should be refined by the ORP Team to clarify meaning and in conformance with the OCW’s intent (from discussions and comments during Meeting #2). Duplications and redundancies should be eliminated, similar actions combined when possible, and clarifications made to ensure that the specific intent of the strategies and actions are clear and easily understood. In addition, the strategies and actions should be re-ordered and re-numbered to reflect a logical sequencing of steps.

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This should be framed as recommendations to the appropriate agency and/or entity (in this case MDNR). 				

Actions for Strategy B1

Action 1-A) Enhance existing plans, or as needed 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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Action 1-B) The OCW supports and recommends finalizing the development of a viable implementation framework or plan for nutrient credits.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCW approved the revised language for Action 1-B. Who would get the funding for the credits? Verification by DNR and third-party evaluators would be required. The science is being worked on, credits would be for the removal of the nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen. EPA’s BMPs. 				

Revised Action 1-C) Evaluate the establishment of a rotational harvest framework within sanctuaries for oyster harvest by allowing watermen to use their funds to restore bars in sanctuaries where no restoration has been done. These areas would be harvested and open and close based on a sustainable harvest level. Watermen would replant as needed. Rotational area within a sanctuary. Recategorize (create a new designation) areas in sanctuaries that have not received restoration as rotational harvest areas

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
3.38	8	2	3	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OCW proposed a revised Action 1-C. Queen Anne Co has a proposal to do this before DNR now. 				

New Action 1-D)

Consider and establish a rotational harvest framework for oyster harvest in non-productive bottom, incorporating practices such as rotational investment and management of entire oyster bars. Plant and harvest.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area with no productive bottom. The OCW deleted existing harvest areas from original Action. 				

Revised Action 1-E) The OCW recommends that OAC and/or TFAC evaluate and establish a comprehensive limited entry program for full-time seafood industry workers, ensuring accessibility for full-time seafood industry workers and their family members.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
3.58	9	2	0	1
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This seem off topic for Eastern Bay. It's a state-wide issue. State-wide issue for Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC) or Tidal Fisheries Advisory Committee (TFAC). Fishery should be open to more than generational watermen. Need to eliminate cream-dippers/part-timers. Need younger people in the fishery. Eliminate barriers to new entrants into full-time commercial fishing. 				

Action 1-F) Address all state-wide oyster management issues by evaluating and forwarding recommendations from the OCW 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>				

4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. Note: This should be relocated as an overarching recommendation/approach. 				

Action 1-G) Evaluate the applicability of successful management practices that are implemented in other areas to Eastern Bay and potentially applicable to the Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised by the OCW to be generic without specific examples. 				

Action 1-H) Evaluate existing harvest gear regulations and locations in Eastern Bay, and consider 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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Strategy B2 – Sustainable Harvest Metrics

B2) Evaluate development of targets and thresholds for sustainable harvest levels in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
3.00	3	8	1	1
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would the thresholds be established – have concerns? Need a reasonable and fair approach to establishing any targets and threshold levels. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	12	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR abstained since this is a local government matter. This is in place in Queen Anne's County 				

Actions for Strategy B3

Action 3-A) The OCW recommends establishment of a state law requiring that all local jurisdictions establish right-to-work laws to protect seafood industry workers.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	12	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR abstained to remain neutral on state law issues. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
3.92	12	1	0	0

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details lacking, and need to be fleshed out in the strategy. Accuracy is an issue.

Action 4-C) Evaluate, and as needed implement 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>				
3.92	12	1	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would be difficult to accomplish. 				

Action 4-D) Evaluate harvest reporting standards in collaboration with seafood processors.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup revised the Initial Action 4-D. Collaborate with seafood processors to establish and maintain harvest reporting standards, including ensuring that all purchased oysters meet market size criteria. 				

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>				
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Action 4-E is a duplicate of 4-C. Combine this as needed with Action 4-C. 				

Strategy B5 – Expansion and Siting of Oyster Production Areas

B5) Use the collaborative consensus-building 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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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
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<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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 and sanctuaries (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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Actions for Strategy B6

Action 6-A) Optimize investments in oyster production equitably 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>				
3.25	3	9	1	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action needs to be revised to clarify intent. Original Action 6-A was revised by the OCW. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Strategy B7 – New and Emerging Technology

B7) Recommend the evaluation of and consider uses for adaptive and new technologies to advance the sustainable oyster fishery in Eastern Bay.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to add additional actions in addition to aquaculture. Such as larval reproductions. Need to draft actions for the public fishery. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Actions for Strategy B8

Action 8-A) In the event of a closure or delay adjust oyster season and/or implement procedures to mitigate the health risk.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action was revised for clarity and to reduce redundancy with protocols that MDE already has in place 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered.

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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

Overreaching Direction for Revising Strategies and Actions

All of the Strategies and Actions should be framed as a recommendations from the OCW and directed to the appropriate agency, entity, and or organization. All of the strategies and actions should be refined by the ORP Team to clarify meaning and in conformance with the OCW’s intent (from discussions and comments during Meeting #2). Duplications and redundancies should be eliminated, similar actions combined when possible, and clarifications made to ensure that the specific intent of the strategies and actions are clear and easily understood. In addition, the strategies and actions should be re-ordered and re-numbered to reflect a logical sequencing of steps.

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Action 1-B) Market ecosystem services provided by oysters.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered.

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				

4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

Action 2-H) Identify technologies that can be used to educate a broader audience about Eastern Bay oyster habitat and culture.

AVERAGE	4= Acceptable	3= Minor Reservations	2= Major Reservations	1= Not Acceptable
<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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
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<i>March 29-30, 2024 Ranking Result</i>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

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>				
4.00	13	0	0	0
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific comments were offered. 				

RANKED OPTIONS NOT ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND OPTIONS NOT RANKED (< 75 SUPPORT)

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

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

Initial 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.

Workgroup Action

- The Workgroup did not rank original action 2-C.
- The Workgroup asked that this be incorporated into one of other existing actions to eliminate duplication.
- Similar actions should be revised and combined as appropriate to eliminate redundancy and reduce the number of actions.

Initial Action 3-D) Review and evaluate regulatory boundaries that restrict uses of shellfish management area/oyster bars for multiple oyster practices.

Workgroup Action

- The Workgroup did not rank original action 3-D.
- The Workgroup stated it needs clarification regarding what is intended (e.g., gear types, and aquaculture is not allowed in public fishery areas),

Initial Action 4-E) Evaluate existing shell reclamation practices that may be suitable for enhancing habitat, including bar cleaning and shell relay.

Workgroup Action

- The Workgroup did not rank Initial Action 4-E.
- The Workgroup stated it is redundant, not needed, and part of existing BMPs.

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

Initial 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>				
1.31	0	0	4	9
Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watermen don't want to discuss rotational harvest. They are concerned that once an area is closed it won't be reopened. 				

- We don't have enough bars to work as it is. If a bar(s) is closed that puts more pressure on the remaining open bars.
- We could support this if was in areas in sanctuaries where no restoration has been done, watermen could use their funds to do restoration and then harvest, replant, harvest, etc.
- Planting shell in mudholes (bad bottom) not worthwhile.
- DNR is opposed to harvesting in sanctuaries.
- Oysters need to stay in sanctuaries.
- Consider a system to pay watermen to plant but not harvest oysters in sanctuaries,
- This action has been broken into two more suitable actions which are listed in the rankings above

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

Workgroup Action

- The Workgroup did not rank Initial Action 1-F.
- Polluted waters are natural sanctuaries and should remain so.
- This option already exists and a recommendation from the OCW is not needed.

Initial 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.

Workgroup Action

- Original Action 4-E is a duplicate of 4-C. Combine this as needed with Action 4-C. This was not ranked as written

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

Workgroup Action

- The Workgroup did not rank Initial Action 8-A.
- The OCW drafted a revised Action 8-A.

Comments

- Health risks.
- Adjust to account for early closure.
- State-wide issue.
- TFAC issue.
- Discuss with packers.
- Spawning season is an issue.

Initial 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.

Workgroup Action

- The Workgroup did not rank Initial Action 8-B.
- Not needed – in place already.

Initial 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.).

Workgroup Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Workgroup did not rank Initial Action 8-C.• Action is not needed, this is already being done.

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

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

Initial Action 1-B) Identify strategies for education surrounding sewage spills.

Workgroup Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Workgroup did not rank Initial Action 1-B.• Eliminate, this is covered in other actions.

ATTACHMENT 8

ABOUT THE OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP'S FACILITATOR

Jeff A. Blair has over 30 years of experience in assessing and analyzing complex issues and facilitating meetings designed to build consensus between stakeholder interests, and is the principle and owner of **Facilitated Solutions, LLC**. In addition, Jeff is retired research faculty at Florida State University (FSU) and served as Associate Director for the FCRC Consensus Center at FSU for twenty-one years. He specializes in facilitation and process design and in addition his work includes situation assessment, strategic planning and implementation, and consensus building among diverse stakeholder interests with divergent perspectives on complex issues. He has worked with federal, state, local government, non-governmental organizations, and private sector representatives to design and implement collaborative approaches to consensus-building, planning, rulemaking, and dispute resolution with an emphasis on stakeholder participation in the planning, design, implementation, and monitoring of policy actions in more than 190 projects and over 2500 meetings. In addition, he conducts custom tailored trainings in various dispute resolution and meeting management topics.

Ongoing projects include serving as process designer, lead facilitator, and conflict resolution consultant for stakeholder groups including: The Oyster Recovery Partnership's Oyster Coalition Workgroup tasked with developing recommendations for a *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland* (Chesapeake Bay); and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Florida Building Commission's ongoing process of building consensus on all aspects of the Florida Building Code System including facilitating over 1,500 individual meetings for the Commission since 1999 including 70 special issue stakeholder workgroup projects.

Relevant project examples include designing the process and successfully facilitating unanimous consensus agreement between diverse stakeholder interests for the following projects:

- Apalachicola Bay System Initiative. Community Advisory Board. (2019 – 2023). Florida State University Coastal Marine Lab. Recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*. **Adopted Unanimously 29 November 2023.**
- Greater Pensacola Bay Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Plan. Pensacola Bay System Stakeholder Working Group. (2019 - 2021). The Nature Conservancy. Recommendations for an Oyster Fisheries and Habitat Management Plan for the Pensacola Bay System. **Adopted Unanimously 17 March 2021.**
- OysterFutures. OysterFutures Stakeholder Workgroup. (2015 – 2018). University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and Florida State University FCRC Consensus Center. National Science Foundation. Coastal SEES. Recommendations for Oyster Management and Restoration in the Choptank and Little Choptank Rivers. **Adopted Unanimously 24 March 2018.**
- Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative (2015 - 2016). Gulf Angler Focus Group. American Sportfishing Association, Coastal Conservation Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Recommendations for Private Recreational Management Options for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper. **Adopted Unanimously 30 November 2016.**
- Project FishSmart. (2008). Atlantic King Mackerel Fishery Stakeholder Workgroup. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and Florida State University FCRC Consensus Center. Recommendations for an Atlantic King Mackerel Fishery Management Plan. **Adopted Unanimously 7 November 2008.**
- Lobster Advisory Board. (2005 - 2006). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Florida Lobster Fishery Management Plan. **Adopted Unanimously 15 May 2007.**
- Blue Crab Advisory Board. (2003 - 2005). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Florida Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan. **Adopted Unanimously 5 January 2005.**