

# Sustainable Oyster Restoration & Management Plan for Eastern Bay

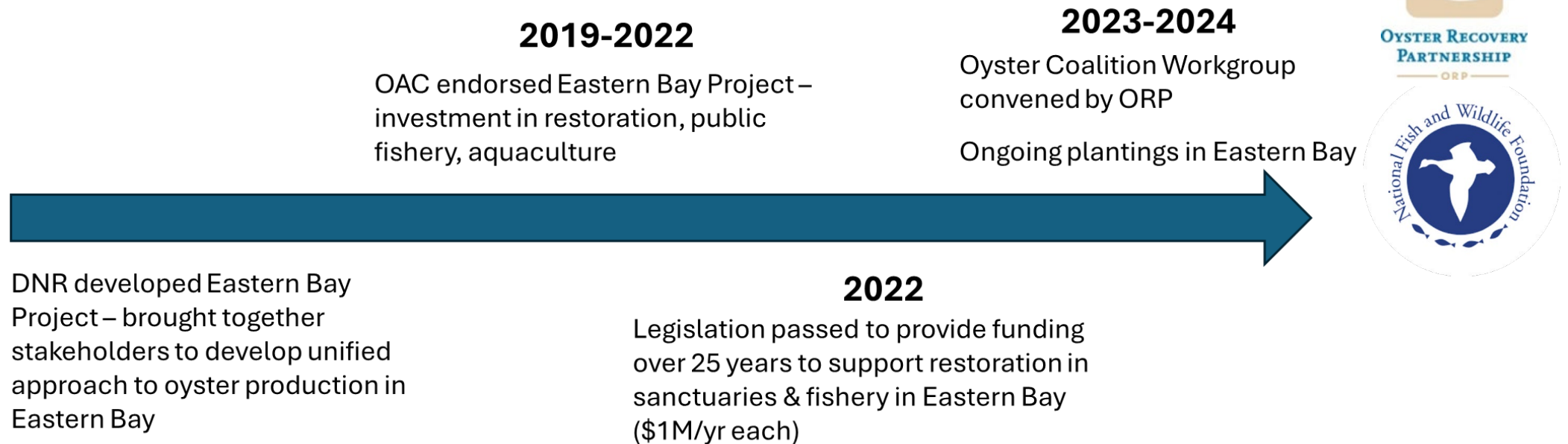
A blue fishing boat named 'JONSIE' is shown on the water. Two people are on board, one in the foreground and one further back. The boat has a cabin and various equipment on deck. In the background, a lighthouse is visible on the shore. The water is choppy, and the sky is overcast.

Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition  
Community Open House Forum  
December 4, 2024

# Project Need



- The State of Maryland has a goal to engage all stakeholders for their input to support ongoing Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts.
- Funding was committed and a plan made to restore oysters in Eastern Bay.
- **Additional planning and agreement among stakeholders was required to optimize restoration**



# Project Overview



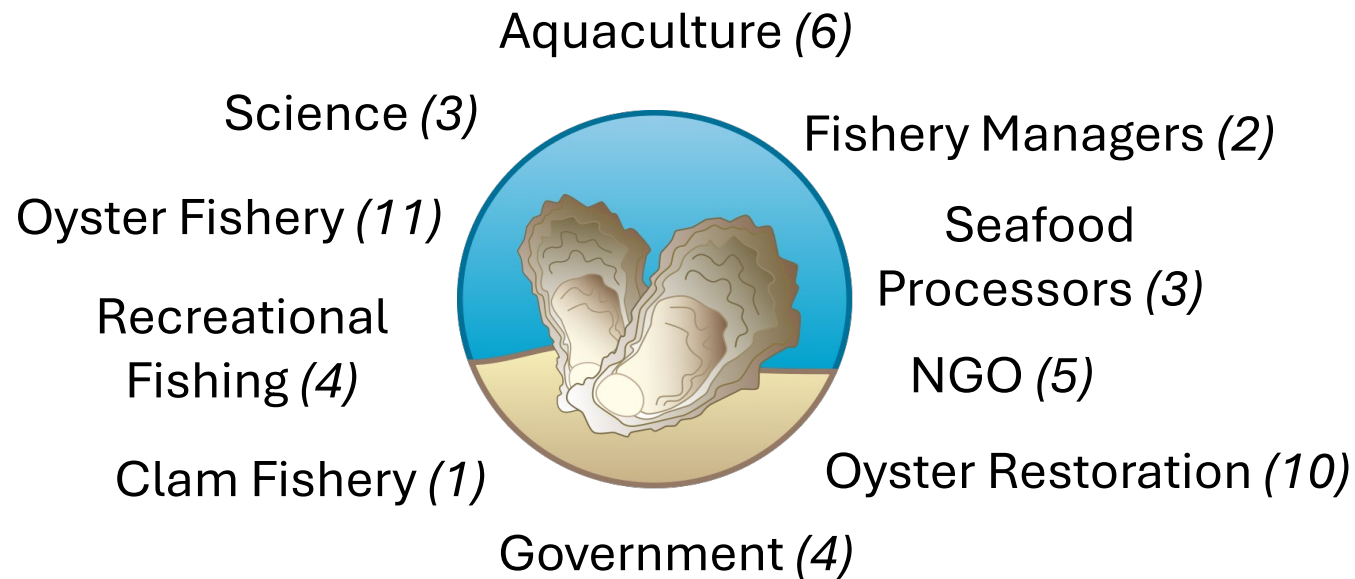
**Project Goal:** Develop a strategic plan for optimizing oyster production over the long-term using a process that supports and creates synergy among oyster stakeholders.

## Objectives

1. Establish stakeholder goals, objectives, and metrics to support long-term oyster production
2. Accurately delineate Eastern Bay oyster habitat
3. Generate local stewardship through community engagement and education

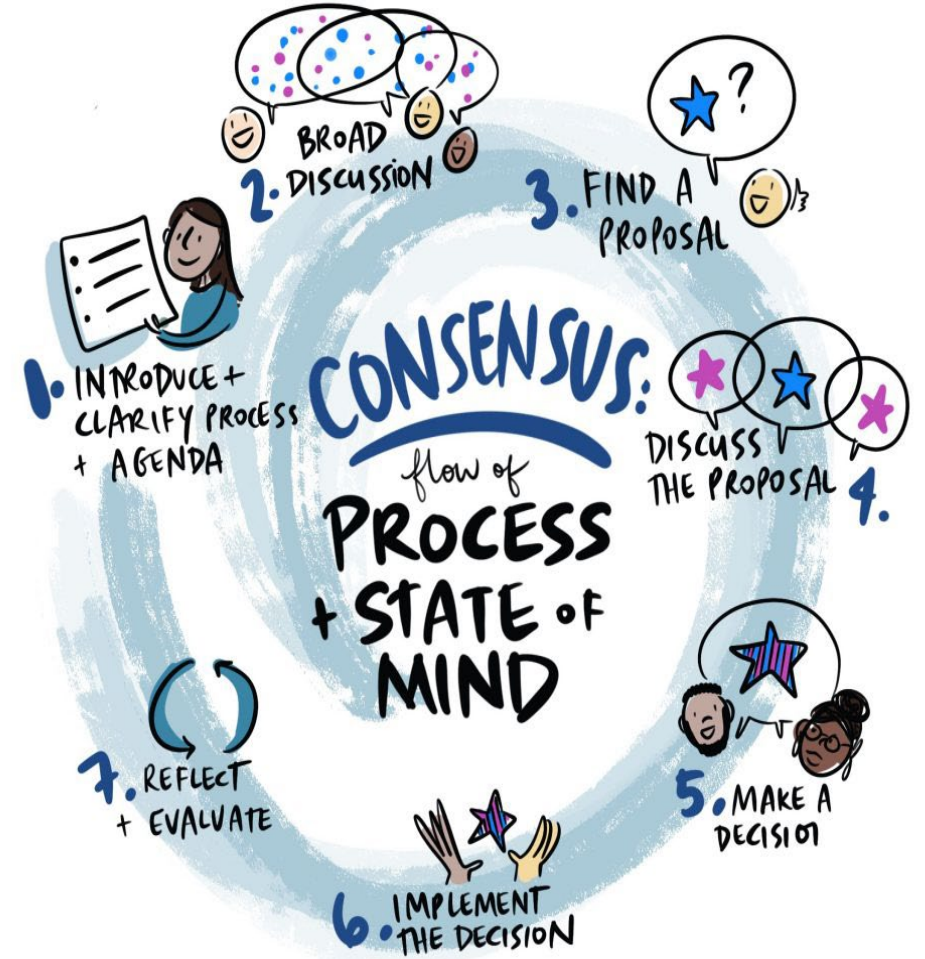
# Plan Development

- Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition – 17 members, 10 interest groups
- 6 meetings in 2024

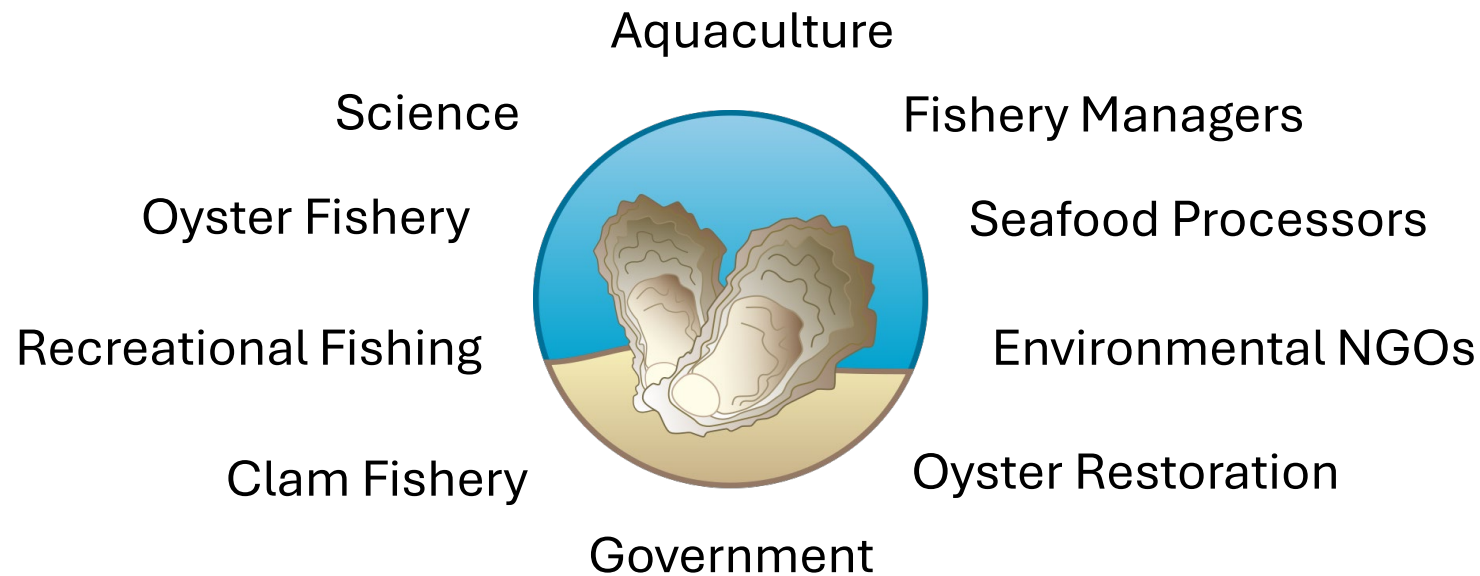


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Via Rhizome Network UK  
drawn: sambradd

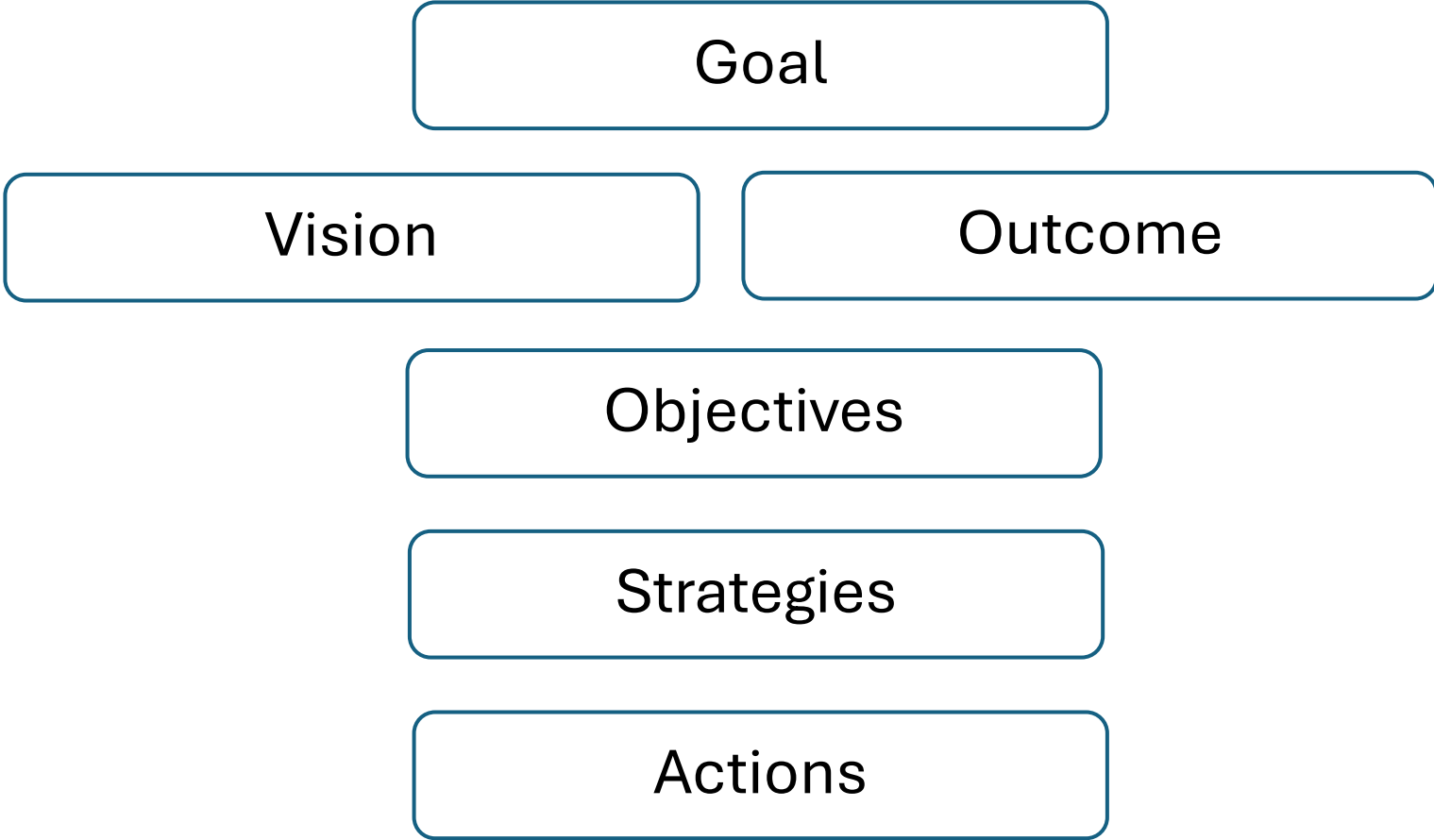


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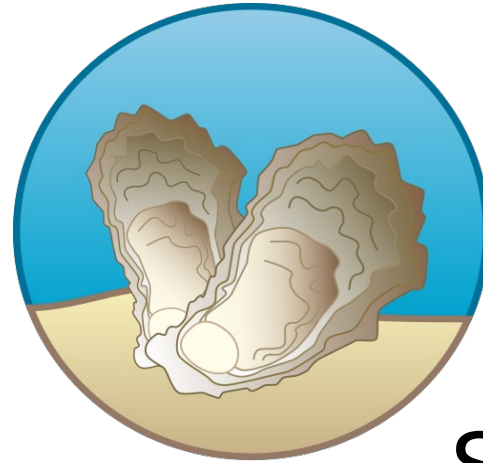
A white fishing boat named 'JONSIE' is shown on the water. Two people are on board, one in red overalls and another in dark clothing. The boat has a blue flag on a mast. In the background, a white lighthouse is visible on a distant shore under a hazy sky. The water is choppy with small waves.

The Plan represents a series of **options and recommendations** from the Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition on the restoration and management of Eastern Bay oysters.

# The Plan Framework



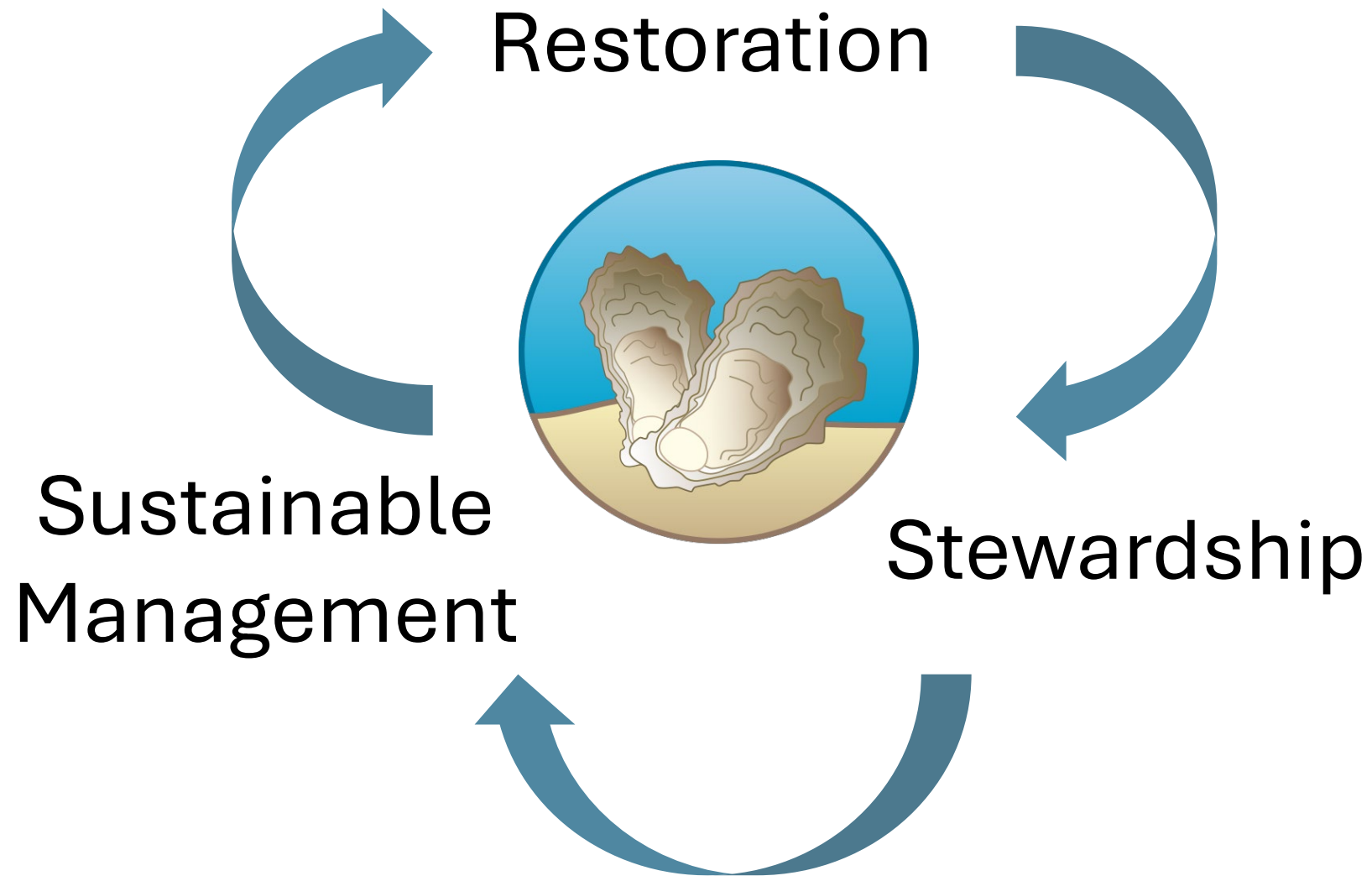
# Restoration



Sustainable  
Management

Stewardship





# The Plan Framework

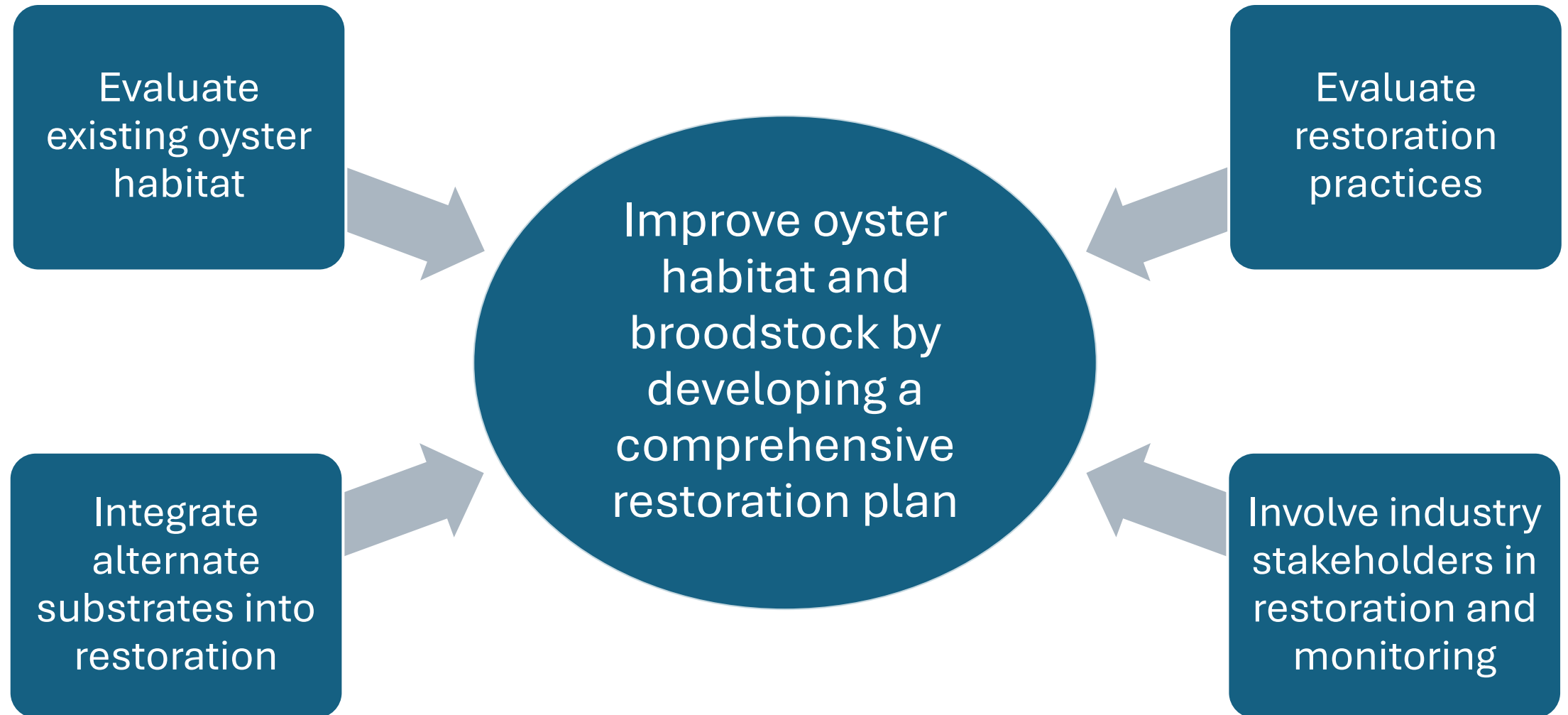
	<b>GOALS</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
<b>A</b>	Restoration of Oyster Resources	3	6	18
<b>B</b>	Sustainable Management of Oyster Resources	2	4	12
<b>C</b>	Stewardship of Oyster Resources	2	3	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>42</b>

# Goal A. Restoration Recommendations

- Proper siting for restoration
- Stakeholder involvement in restoration planning
- Substrate needs
- Aquaculture expansion
- Monitoring to understand progress
- Permitting and regulatory gaps/needs
- Secure funding



# Goal A. Strategies & Actions – Example





## Goal B. Sustainable Management Recommendations

- Adaptive management
- Implementing new management and harvest practices/technologies
- Increased enforcement
- Facilitating industry operations

# Goal C. Stewardship Recommendations

- Education strategies to improve public awareness and perception
- Securing future of oyster industry





# Supporting Stakeholder-Driven Habitat Survey

- Evaluate existing oyster habitat managed within oyster fishery
- Identify locations for future restoration
- Identify marginal habitat that could be opened for other uses
- Identify locations to support other OCW recommendations

# Next Steps

**December 5, 2024** – Coalition final vote on the Plan

**January 2025** – The Plan will be submitted to DNR and other management entities and published on the Coalition website

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS VALUED**





# Questions or Comments?



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[oysterrecovery.org/our-work/oyster-restoration/easternbaycoalition](https://oysterrecovery.org/our-work/oyster-restoration/easternbaycoalition)

