



**SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR EASTERN BAY, MARYLAND
EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FORUM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 – 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
HYATT PLACE KENT NARROWS & MARINA
3028 KENT NARROWS WAY S, GRASONVILLE, MARYLAND 21638**

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FORUM OBJECTIVES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Provide a Summary of the OCW’s Recommendations for the Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland (Plan). • To Receive Community Feedback on the OCW’s Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Plan.

AGENDA – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024		
<i>All Agenda Times – Including Adjournment – Are Approximate and Subject to Change</i>		
1)	6:00 p.m.	WELCOME AND REVIEW OF OPEN HOUSE FORUM PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES, AND OPEN HOUSE FORUM OBJECTIVES
2)		REVIEW OF OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP (OCW) MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN
3)		OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE OYSTER RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY
4)		PARTICIPANTS ROTATE BETWEEN STATIONS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK REGARDING THE FOLLOWING TOPICAL ISSUE AREAS [POSTERS]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Station 1: Restoration Recommendations and Outcomes ➤ Station 2: Management Recommendations and Outcomes (Staffed By DNR) ➤ Station 3: Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes and Additional Outreach Initiatives ➤ Station 4: Habitat Survey Process, Mapping Exercises, and Results
5)	7:55	SUMMARY OF NEXT STEPS FOR THE PROJECT
	<i>8:00 p.m.</i>	<i>ADJOURN</i>

PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

PROJECT WEBPAGE: <https://www.oysterrecovery.org/our-work/oyster-restoration/easternbaycoalition>

PROJECT CONTACT: Olivia Caretti, ORP: ocaretti@oysterrecovery.org; Cell: 1.443.617.7254



PROJECT FACILITATION AND PROCESS DESIGN: Jeff A. Blair, Facilitated Solutions, LLC. **INFORMATION:** <http://facilitatedsolutions.org>.





OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition Workgroup (Workgroup) is to develop consensus recommendations for oyster policies, management, and restoration/replenishment activities that improve oyster production and the ecological and ecosystem services from oyster habitat restoration, and meet the needs of industry, citizen, NGOs, and government stakeholders in Eastern Bay and its tributaries. This includes (1) defining annual and long-term goals for each individual stakeholder group and collectively across all groups, (2) identifying resources required to meet these goals, and (3) defining performance metrics to track progress.

The Workgroup process will be informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder values, resulting in the economically and ecologically sustainable long-term maintenance and growth of oyster restoration and production in Eastern Bay and its tributaries.

TABLE OF AGENDA PACKET ATTACHMENTS		
ATTACHMENT	TOPIC	PAGE
1	Open House Forum Participation Procedures and Guiding Principles	3
2	OCW Membership and Representation	4
3	Meeting Schedule and Workplan	5
4	Project Summary	7
5	Open House Forum Feedback Worksheet and Comment Form	8

ATTACHMENT 1

OPEN HOUSE FORUM PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FORUM PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

- ✓ Look to the Facilitator to be recognized.
- ✓ Please raise your hand and/or place your name card vertically to speak.
- ✓ Speak one person at a time. Please don't interrupt each other.
- ✓ Focus on issues, not personalities.
- ✓ Avoid stereotyping or personal attacks.
- ✓ Speak only when recognized by the Facilitator.
- ✓ Facilitator will call on participants in turn.
- ✓ Facilitator may change the speaking order in order to promote discussion on a specific issue or, to balance participation and allow those who have not spoken on an issue an opportunity to do so before others on the list who have already spoken on the issue.
- ✓ Offer one idea per person without explanation.
- ✓ No comments, criticism, or discussion of other's ideas.
- ✓ Listen respectfully to other's ideas and opinions.
- ✓ The Workshop is an opportunity to explore possibilities. Offering or exploring an idea does not necessarily imply support for it.
- ✓ Listen to understand. Seek a shared understanding even if you don't agree.
- ✓ Be focused and concise—balance participation & minimize repetition. Share the airtime.
- ✓ To the extent possible, offer options to address other's concerns, as well as your own.
- ✓ Refrain from using electronic devices during the Workshop; Keep electronic devices turned off or silent.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FORUM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOUR PERSONAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES: Be impeccable with your word, don't take things personally, don't make assumptions, and always do your best.

OVERARCHING GUIDING PRINCIPLE: *Seek first to understand, and then seek to be understood.*

WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAVE GOOD CONVERSATION WHEN:

- ✓ All voices are invited, respected and heard.
- ✓ All experiences are treated as valid.
- ✓ We listen to each other actively, attentively, and respectfully.
- ✓ We observe time frames.
- ✓ We seek common ground and action.
- ✓ There is full and active attendance.
- ✓ We make the time and space to connect with each other.
- ✓ We participate actively and share opinions in the conversation—engage fully in this process.



ATTACHMENT 2	
OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION	
MEMBERS (#17)	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, Aquaculture
7) Moochie Gilmer	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 (Designated Alternate: Mike Eber)
LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT	
14) Kathy Brohawn	Maryland Department of Environment
15) Brian Callam	Maryland DNR – Aquaculture & Industry Enhancement Division
16) Chris Judy	Maryland DNR – Shellfish Division
17) Jim Moran	Queen Anne County
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

**ATTACHMENT 3
OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN**
**OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN – 2024
UPDATED DECEMBER 4, 2024**

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. • Update and preliminary results from ORP’s Eastern Bay Habitat Survey. • Overview of local stakeholders and resources in Eastern Bay. • Identification, discussion, and acceptability ranking of revised 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 revised 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 ORP’s Eastern Bay habitat survey.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding how results of Eastern Bay Habitat Surveys will inform recommendations and inclusion in the Plan. • Discussion of OCW stakeholders resources available to support the goals of the OCW Project. • Discussion regarding whether to form an OCW Successor Group, and review of an associated Draft Framework for ensuring implementation of OCW recommendations. • Acceptability ranking of proposed revisions to consensus ranked objectives, strategies, actions, and performance measures (options) for inclusion in the <i>Draft Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. • Adoption of the final package of Performance Measures to track progress towards objectives and Project goals. • Discussion and approval of Draft Outline for the OCW <i>Report and Recommendations for the Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i>. • Interactive habitat survey results group GIS mapping exercise.
Meeting #5	Sept. 25, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on CBEC education plan. • Spatial tools for oyster siting update and OCW feedback. • Interactive habitat survey results group mapping exercise continued with revised maps. • Summary, discussion, refinement, and approval of the OCW <i>Draft Report and Recommendations for the Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i>. Discussion of objectives, approach, and content for December 4, 2024 Community Open House Forum.
Community Open House 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 a <i>Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i>.
Meeting #6	Dec. 4-5, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Community Open House Forum input. • Interactive Habitat Survey Results Group Mapping Exercise Continued with Revised Maps. • Summary, discussion, refinement, and adoption of the Oyster Coalition Workgroup’s <i>Report and Recommendations for a Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland</i>, and submittal to the Oyster Recovery Partnership. • Overview and Approval of the ORP’s Communication, Marketing, and Distribution Plan for Full and Short Summary Versions of the OCW’s Report and Recommendations for the Plan. • ORP Leadership Team will finalize the Report and distribute to relevant agencies, entities, and organizations as appropriate. • Workgroup Appreciation and Celebration.

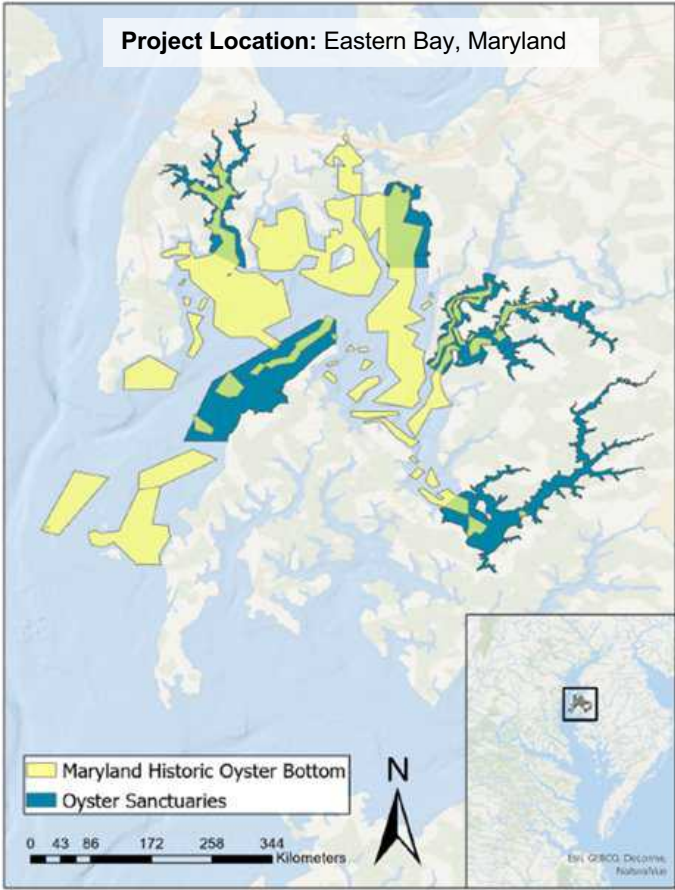
ATTACHMENT 4

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Oyster Coalition Workgroup is being convened by the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP), with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Workgroup members represent Maryland’s three major oyster stakeholder groups – wild harvest, restoration, and aquaculture – as well as NGOs, citizen, and governmental interests that affect and are affected by the oyster fishery and oyster habitat restoration activities in Eastern Bay, Maryland and its tributaries.

The goal of the Eastern Bay Oyster Coalition Workgroup (Workgroup) is to develop consensus recommendations for oyster policies, management, and restoration/replenishment activities that improve oyster production and the ecological and ecosystem services from oyster habitat restoration, and meet the needs of industry, citizen, NGOs, and government stakeholders in Eastern Bay and its tributaries. This includes (1) defining annual and long-term goals for each individual stakeholder group and collectively across all groups, (2) identifying resources required to meet these goals, and (3) defining performance metrics to track progress. The Workgroup process will be informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder values, resulting in the economically and ecologically sustainable long-term maintenance and growth of oyster production and oyster habitat restoration in Eastern Bay and its tributaries.

The recommendations will be developed by the Workgroup through a facilitated, consensus-driven process and compiled into a *Sustainable Oyster Restoration and Management Plan for Eastern Bay, Maryland*. The plan will be shared with Maryland DNR and the Oyster Advisory Commission for implementation.





ATTACHMENT 5
OPEN HOUSE FORUM FEEDBACK WORKSHEET AND COMMENT FORM

A) Goal A – Feedback on Restoration Recommendations and Outcomes
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

B) Goal B – Feedback on Management Recommendations and Outcomes
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

C) Goal C – Feedback on Stakeholder Engagement Recommendations and Outcomes
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

D) Other Feedback
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>



**EASTERN BAY OYSTER COALITION WORKGROUP
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FORUM COMMENT FORM
FEEDBACK FOR INCLUSION IN FACILITATOR’S FORUM SUMMARY REPORT**

The Oyster Coalition Workgroup (OCW) encourages written comments. All written comments received during the Open House will be included in the Facilitators’ Community Open House Forum Summary Report. Please print clearly.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION: _____

- Please make your comment(s) as specific as possible and, if you express concerns, offer suggestions to address them.
- Please limit comment(s) to topics within the charge and scope of the Oyster Coalition Workgroup project (Oyster Restoration and Management for the Eastern Bay), and refrain from personal attacks or derogatory language. Such comments will not be included in the summary report.

COMMENT: _____

Please give completed form(s) to the Facilitator for inclusion in the Facilitators’ Community Open House Forum Summary Report.

Facilitation and Process Design provided by Jeff Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC

