



Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project

Project Update and Barren Island Safety Announcement
April 2025

Rachael Gilde, MPA

Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project (Mid-Bay)

DETAILS

- Beneficial Use Restoration Project
- Restoring Barren & James Islands
- Located in Dorchester County

COST

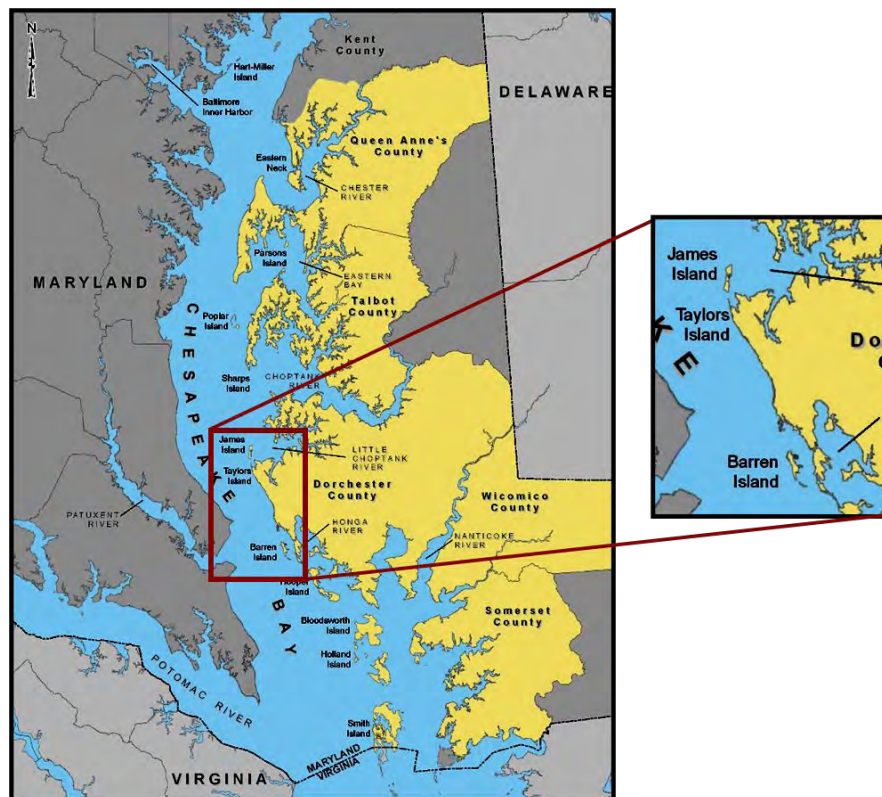
- ~\$4B estimated total cost through 2068
- Cost-share
 - 65% USACE
 - 35% MPA

TOTAL PROJECT CAPACITY

- ~95 mcy material capacity
- 30-year+ placement period

RESTORATION

- 2,144 acres of remote island habitat



James Island



Barren Island



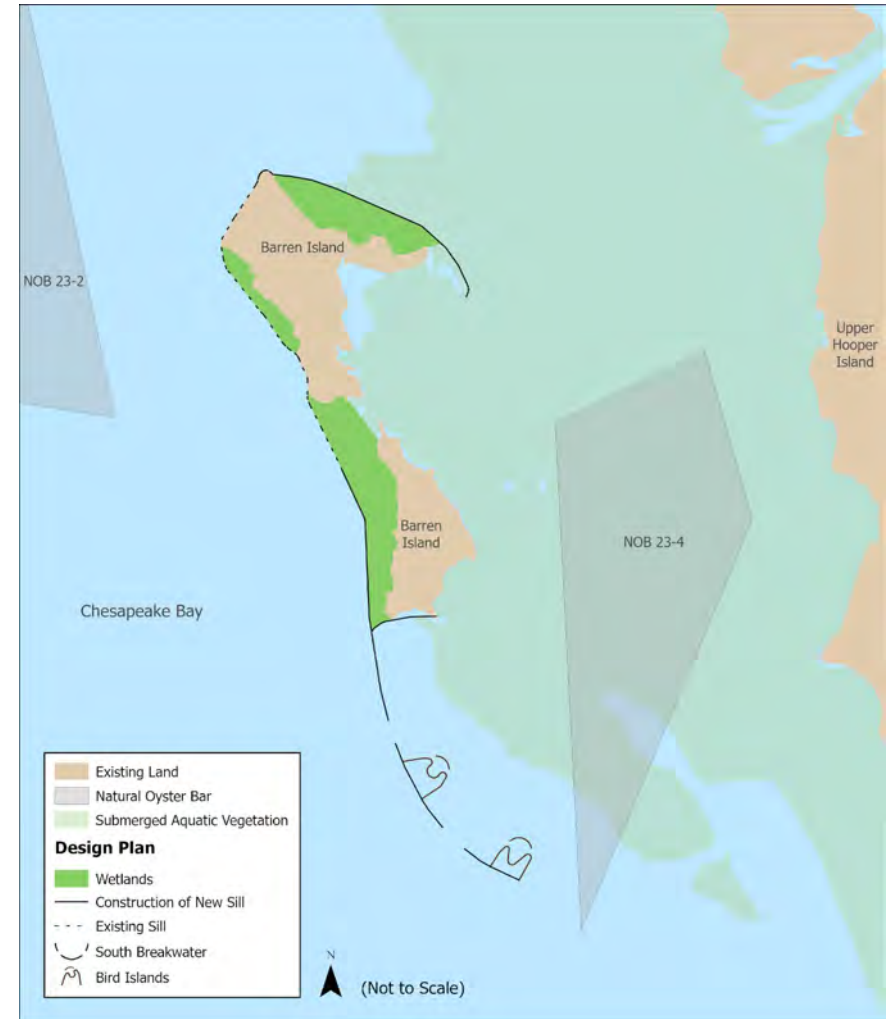
DREDGED
MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

Barren Island

- Restore a minimum of 72 acres
 - 100% wetland habitat
 - Unique bird nesting islands target protected species
- Sill construction to protect island remnants and SAV beds
- Limited capacity
 - ~400,000-500,000 cy
- Wetland material dredged from local federal shallow draft navigation projects



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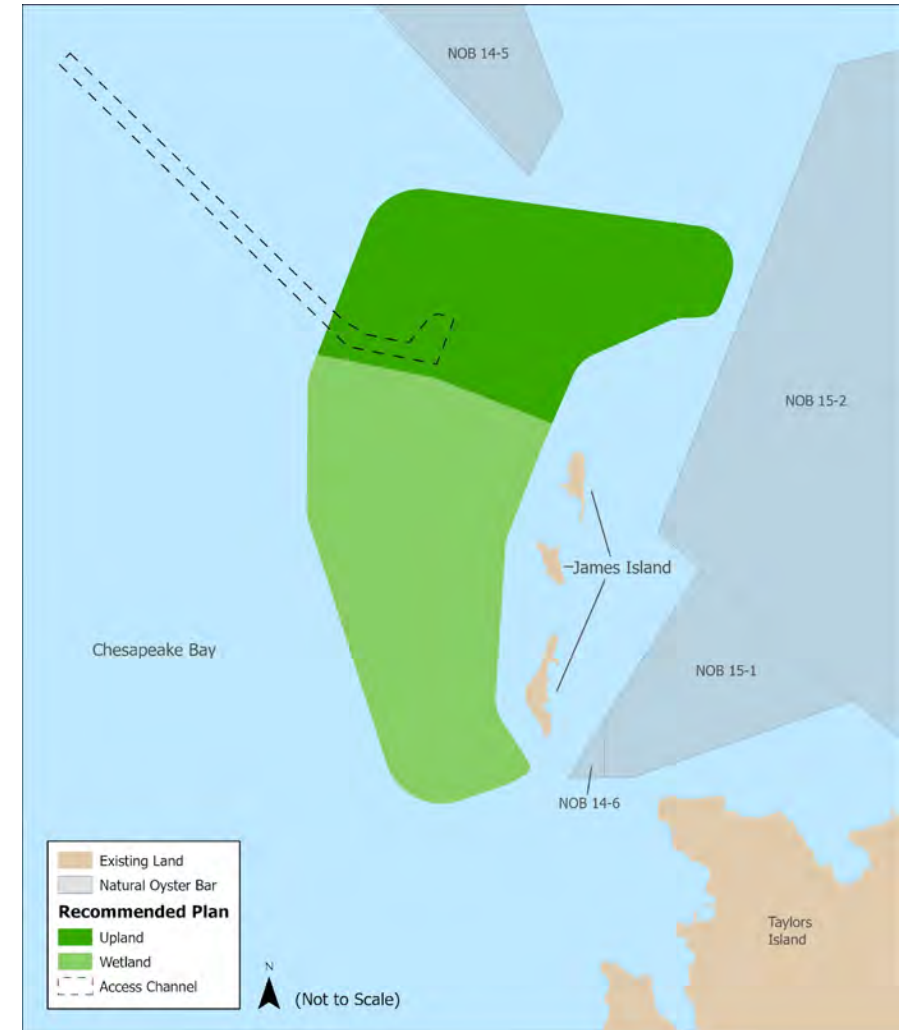


James Island

- 2,072 acres of remote island habitat
 - 55% wetlands (1,140 acres)
 - 45% uplands (932 acres)
- Capacity of 90-95 mcy
- Material dredged from 50-ft approach channels to POB
- Ongoing agency coordination
- Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 (dependent on funding)



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MANAGEMENT
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Environmental Benefits



Ruddy turnstone observed on James Island

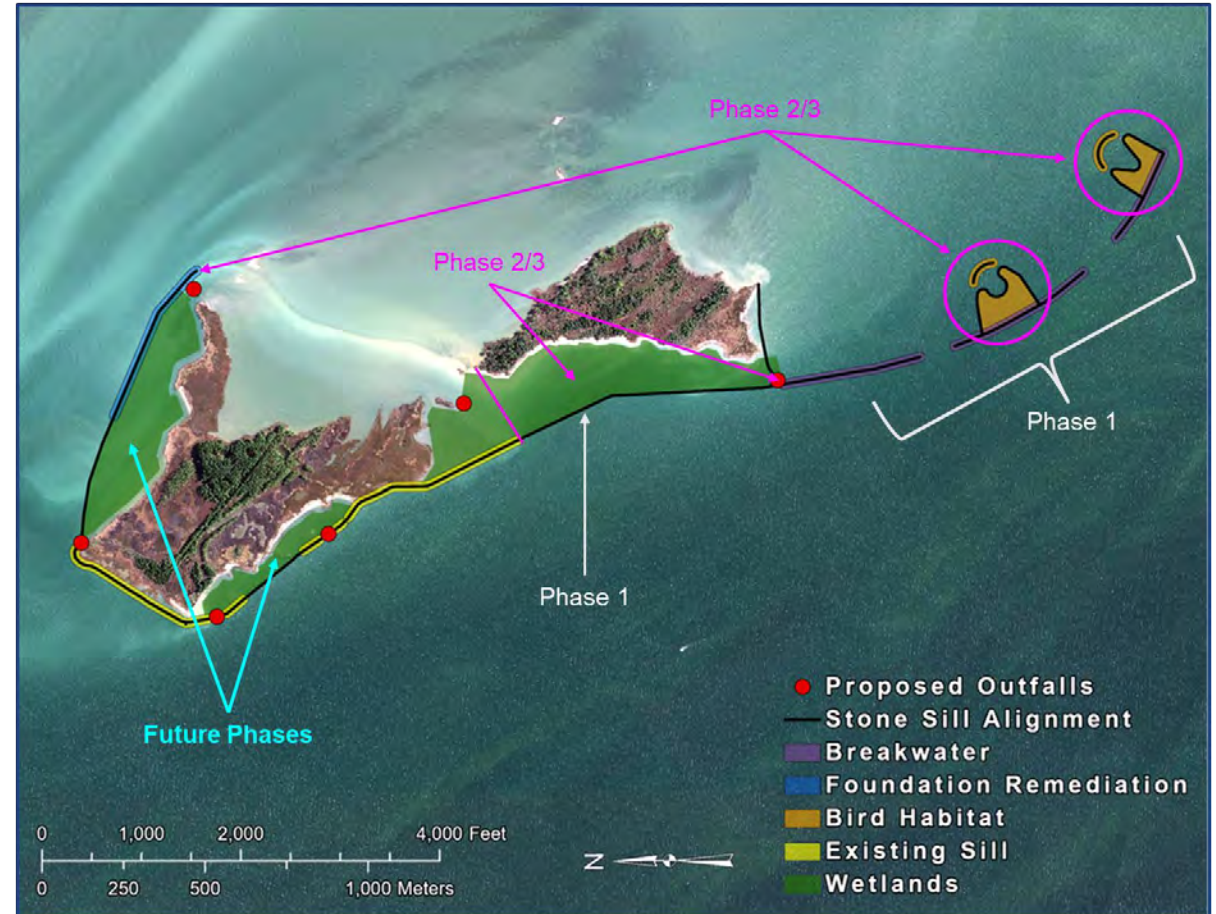
- Restores approximately 2,144 acres of remote island habitat, including 1,212 acres of tidal wetlands
- Protects the existing Island remnants and habitats
- Protects the existing seagrass beds at Barren Island and promotes conditions to establish additional seagrass beds
- Enhances habitat for avian, recreationally and commercially important fish, and wildlife species
- Provides protection from erosion to local shorelines by reducing wave heights



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MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

Barren Island Construction Schedule

- Phase 1 – Started March 2023 and Completed October 2024
 - Majority of sills and breakwater
- Phase 2/3 – Started in January 2025 with completion estimated to be October 2027
 - Bird islands, internal containment, spillway, replacement of poor NE sill foundation and instillation of remaining NE sill, and dredging and placement of Honga River material
- Future Phases – Dependent on funding and local dredging activities
 - Restoration efforts and future material placement

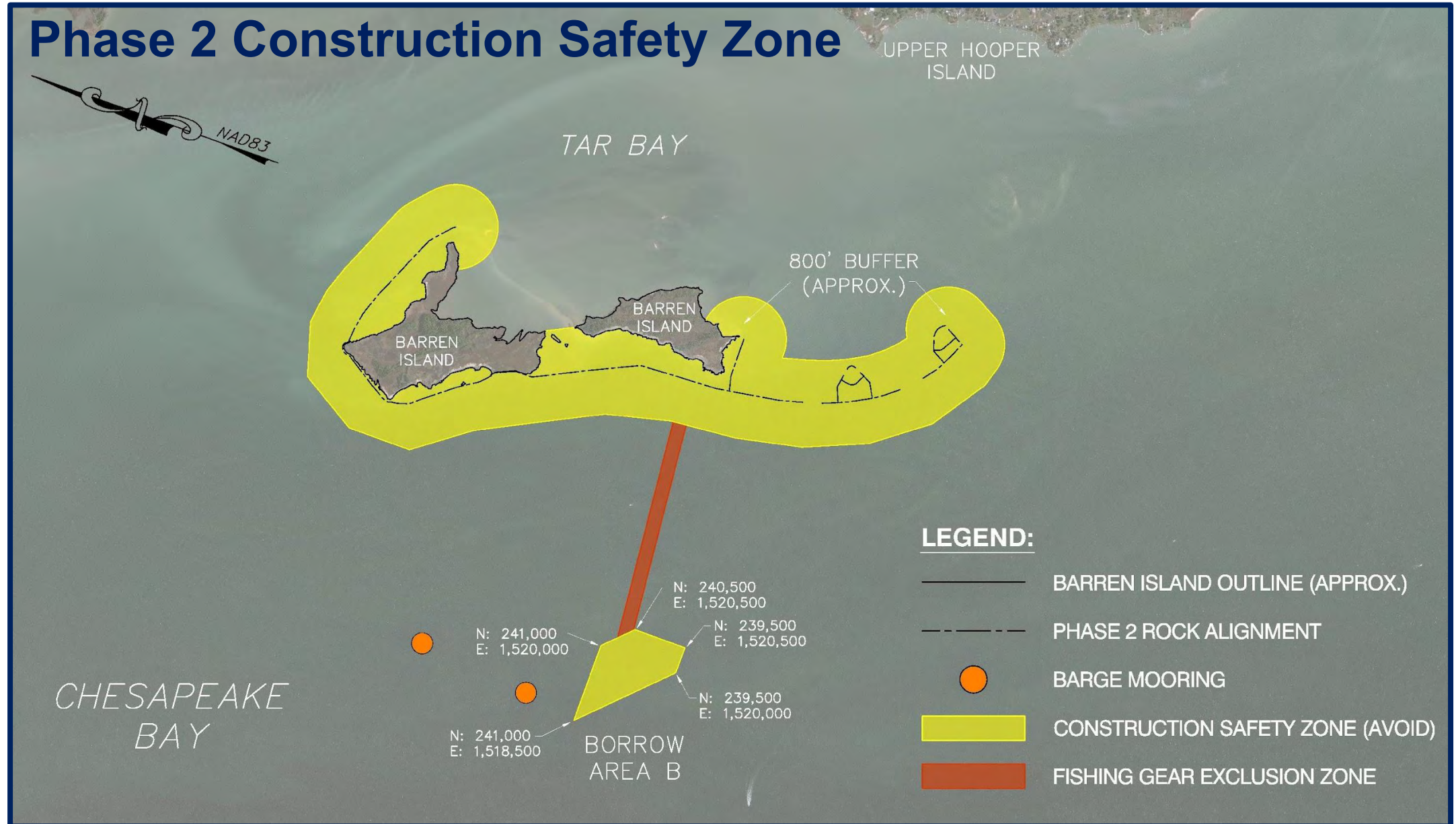


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MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

Barren Island Dredge Material Placement



Phase 2 Construction Safety Zone



To learn more about the USACE, the Mid-Bay Project, and view the Env. Impact Statement please visit:
nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/

To learn more about MPA, the Mid-Bay Project, and sign-up for project updates please visit:
maryland-dmmp.com



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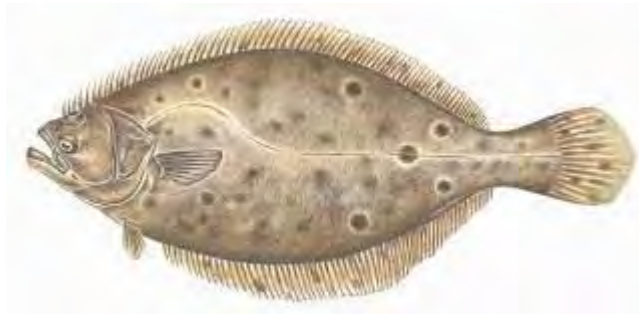


**MARYLAND PORT
ADMINISTRATION**

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Interjurisdictional Management

Updates and Announcements



Presented By:
Michael Luisi / Lynn Fegley / Carrie Kennedy

April 17, 2025

Striped Bass

Chesapeake Bay Program, Science Workshop
February 13 - 14, 2025

Info on Science Workshop

- Based on concerns from industry about surveys, and concerns from the public about consecutive years of poor recruitment
- Working on a handout
- Surveys are appropriate:
 - Confirmed by VA results, results from other states on the coast, and trends in other unrelated surveys
- More work to do!



Yellow Perch

- We have volunteers for a workgroup
- We have data from our winter surveys
- Next steps: Keith will reach out to workgroup volunteers to plan a couple of meetings before the next SF/TFAC meetings in July
 - If regulations were recommended, we'd scope at the July Commission meetings

ASMFC Spring Meeting

May 5-8, 2025

Westin Crystal City

Arlington, VA



Species Focus

- *Striped Bass, Atlantic Menhaden, Horseshoe Crabs*

Websites and Contact Information



www.asmfc.org



www.mafmc.org

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Horseshoe Crabs



-
- Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum IX on Multiyear Specifications for Male Only Harvest

Striped Bass

Tuesday, May 6th 1:15 - 5:15 pm



Important Items for Discussion

- Discussion on Terms of Reference for the 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Consider Approval for public comment Draft Addendum III on Proposed Management Measures for 2026
 - Potential 2026 Reductions to meet Rebuilding Timeline of 2029
 - SB Tagging Compliance - Focus on tagging at point of harvest/landing
 - Recreational Baseline Adjustment / Joint Committee Update

Joint Committee on Striped Bass Management

TFAC Report - April 17, 2025



Joint Committee on Striped Bass Management



Two Meetings: March 13th & April 3, 2025

Joint Committee on Striped Bass Management

TFAC Report - April 17, 2025



Committee Members

ASMFC Board Members (Proxy)	
Lynn Fegley (Michael Luisi)	Administrative Seat
Russell Dize (Robert T Brown)	Governor's Appointee
Delegate Dana Stein (Dave Sikorski)	Legislative Appointee

Recreational	
Scott Lenox	Chairman, SFAC
Brian Hardman	President, MD Charter Boat Association
Jason Seman	Vice President, MD Charter Boat Association
Tom Weaver	Light Tackle Guides Association
Steve Griffin	Light Tackle Guides Association

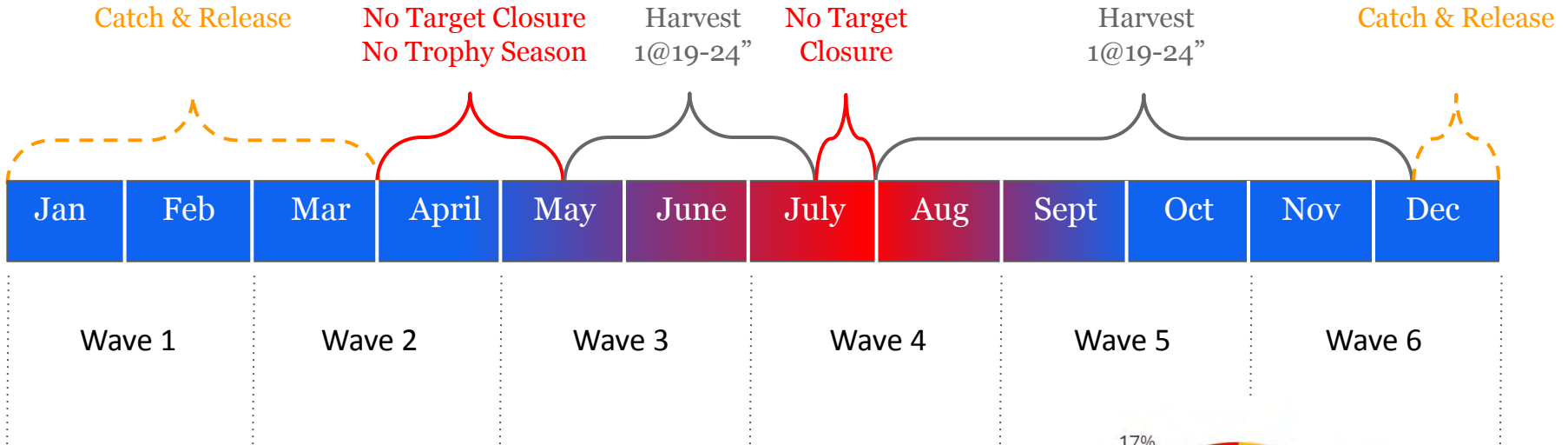
Commercial	
Steve Lay	Chairman, TFAC
Robert T Brown	President, Maryland Watermen's Association
Sonny Gwin	President, Watermen's Assoc. of Worcester Co
Rick Morlock	SB Workgroup Member (Upper Bay)
Burl Lewis	SB Workgroup Member (Mid/Low Bay)

Bait & Tackle / Environmental / Advisors	
Allison Colden	Executive Director, CBF MD
Eddie Green	ASMFC SB Advisory Panel
Dennis Fleming	ASMFC SB Advisory Panel
Keith Fraser	All Tackle (Annapolis/OC)

Opportunity for Maryland / Charge to the Committee

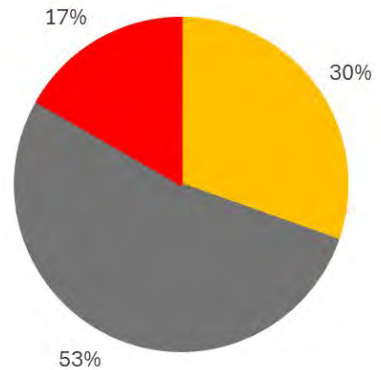
- Develop a comprehensive management approach for the 2026 recreational fishing year and beyond that addresses the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's goal to rebuild the Striped Bass spawning stock biomass to the target reference point by 2029.
- Make a recommendation to the Department and representatives to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission regarding possible changes to the current seasonal regulations on recreational striped bass fishing. Changes will be limited to seasons only using the following measures of effort control:
 - No Harvest Closures (Catch & Release)
 - No Targeting Closures
 - Harvest Seasons (1 fish @ 19"-24")
- **Discuss and consider complementary commercial season modifications during No Targeting Closures (Summer) and other times of the year as well as standards for quota reductions in the future.**
Postponed discussion until after the May ASMFC meeting.
- Work together to find a solution to the issues each sector has related to the current seasonal regulations.

Current Regulations



Current Regulations (Baseline)

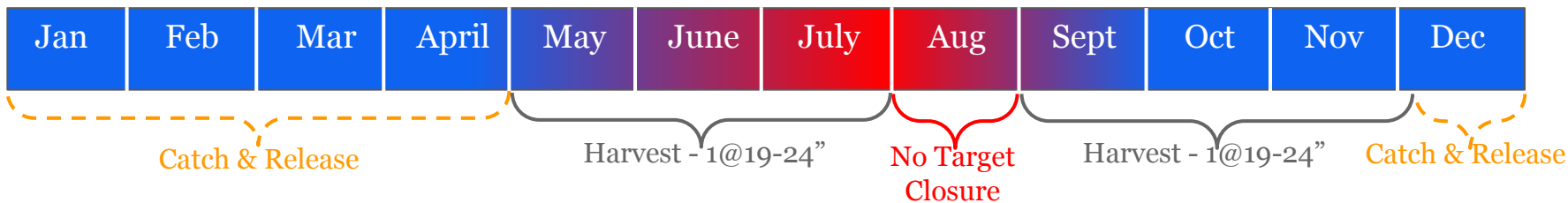
- Jan 1 - March 31 (Catch and Release)
- April 1 - May 15 (No Target Closure)
- May 16 - July 15 (Harvest - 1 @ 19-24)
- July 16 - July 31 (No Target Closure)
- Aug 1 - Dec 10 (Harvest - 1 @ 19-24)
- Dec 11 - Dec 31 (Catch and Release)



What changes would make Maryland's Fishery better?

UPDATED: Option #3 (Modified)

Selected as the preferred option /
No opposition

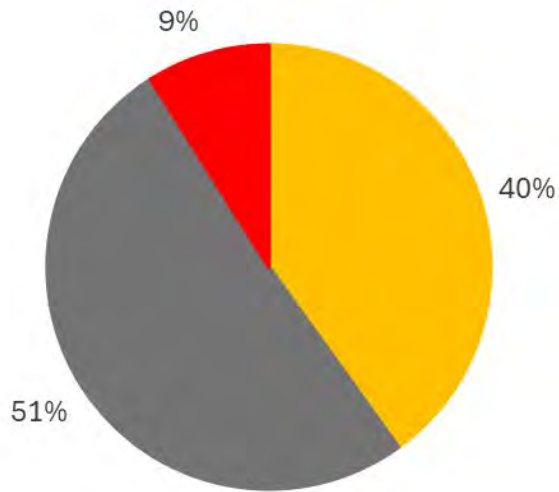


Option 3: Aug Closure / + Access

- Jan 1 - April 30 (Catch and Release)
- May 1 - July 31 (Harvest - 1 @ 19-24)
- Aug 1 - Aug 31 (No Target Closure)
- Sept 1 - Dec 6 (Harvest - 1 @ 19-24)
- Dec 7 - Dec 31 (Catch and Release)

Total Removals Compared to 2024

- More Conservative than 2024
- Net Mortality = **564 fish saved**



Options Summary



	Current Regulations	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 3 (Modified)	Option 4
Catch & Release	111	141	111	151	145	120
Harvest	193	190	194	186	189	187
No Targeting	61	34	60	28	31	58
Total Days	365	365	365	365	365	365
Total Access (C&R + Harvest)	304	331	305	337	334	307
Total Access %	83%	91%	84%	92%	92%	84%

We are working with the Committee to reach agreement after the Charter Boat Association announced their opposition to the selected option.

ASMFC needs information by COB Monday, April 21st.

Atlantic Menhaden

Wednesday, May 7th 1:15 - 3:15 pm



- Consider Final Report from Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay
 - ASMFC Menhaden Management Board initiated a workgroup in August 2024 to discuss possible precautionary management options for menhaden in CB based on concerns about osprey nest failures, low menhaden bait landings, and changes to predators in the Bay
 - Workgroup has met 10-12 times over the course of the past 8 months and is finalizing their memo to the Board to be presented at the May meeting
 - General categories of options:
 - Seasonal (time) closures focused on May-June when osprey are most in need of forage
 - Spatial closures – Focused on all VA waters of Chesapeake Bay, areas where osprey are showing signs of food stress, or areas of high fishing effort
 - Effort controls – monthly/biweekly quotas intended to spread fishing out over the course of the season more evenly
 - Reduction of Bay Cap
 - Memo makes no specific recommendations, just discusses pros/cons of each approach
 - Does not recommend which gears any options would apply to, but outlines why impacts to pound nets, gill nets, haul seines, etc. would be much greater than the reduction fleet
- Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Assessment

Joint ASMFC/MAFMC April Meeting

April 8-10, 2025

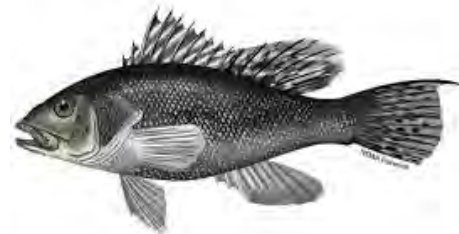
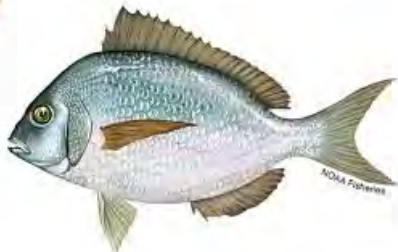
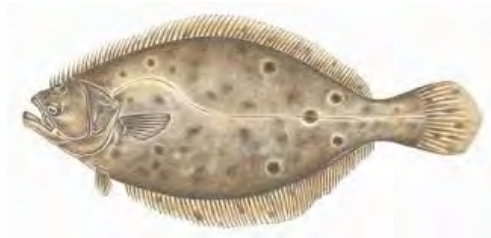
Virtual Only Meeting



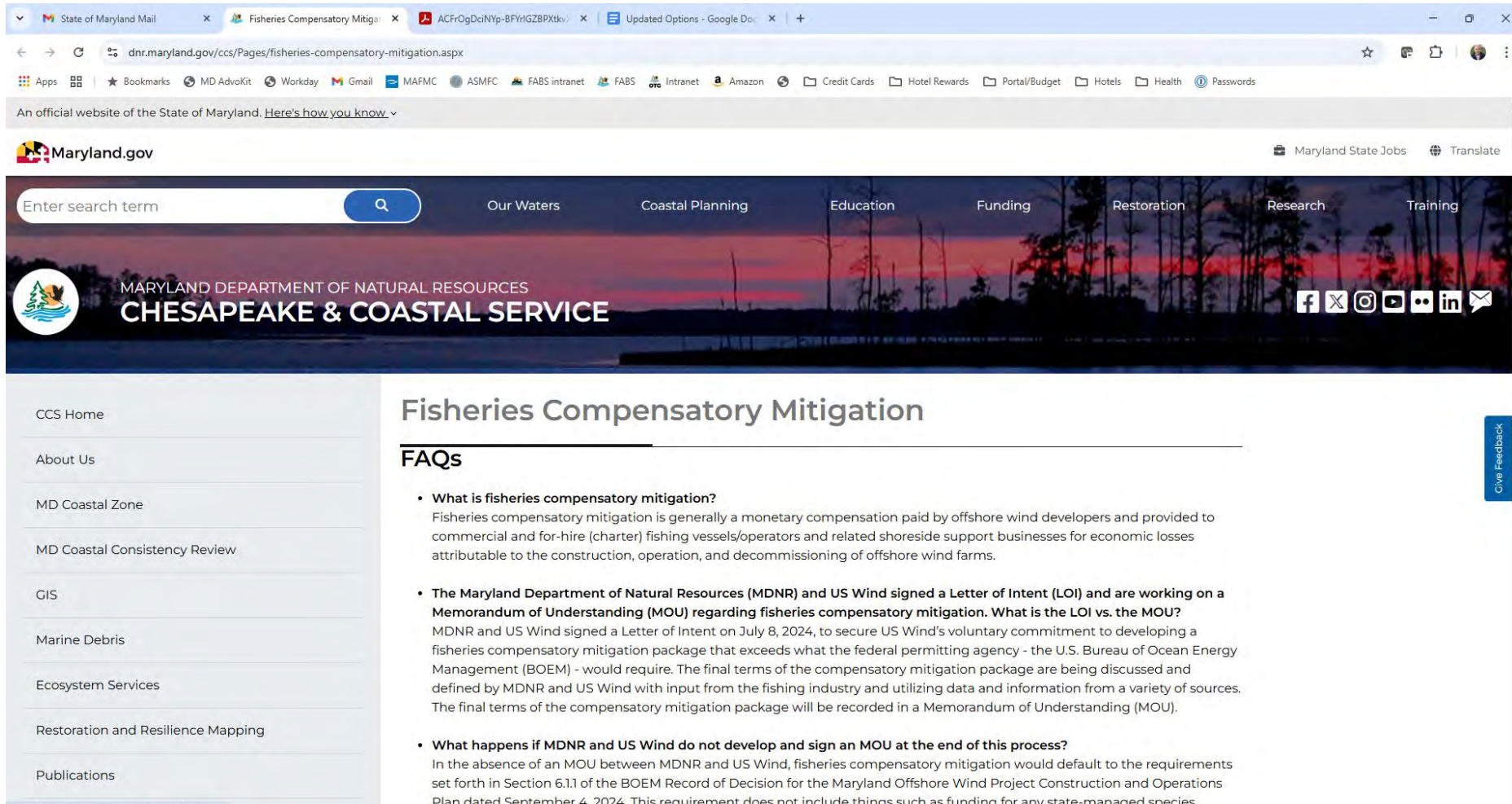
MID-ATLANTIC | FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Recreational Sector Separation and Data Collection Amendment: Recreational for-hire control dates

- Recreational Sector Separation will be developed
- Data Collection will be put on hold for a little bit while some research is done to prepare a white paper on the topic



<https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/fisheries-compensatory-mitigation.aspx>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/fisheries-compensatory-mitigation.aspx. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. Below the browser window, the webpage header features the Maryland.gov logo, a search bar, and navigation links: Our Waters, Coastal Planning, Education, Funding, Restoration, Research, and Training. The main banner image shows a sunset over a body of water with trees in the foreground. The banner text reads "MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CHESAPEAKE & COASTAL SERVICE". On the right side of the banner are social media icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn. A vertical "Give Feedback" button is located on the far right edge of the page.

Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation

FAQs

- **What is fisheries compensatory mitigation?**
Fisheries compensatory mitigation is generally a monetary compensation paid by offshore wind developers and provided to commercial and for-hire (charter) fishing vessels/operators and related shoreside support businesses for economic losses attributable to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of offshore wind farms.
- **The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and US Wind signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) and are working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding fisheries compensatory mitigation. What is the LOI vs. the MOU?**
MDNR and US Wind signed a Letter of Intent on July 8, 2024, to secure US Wind's voluntary commitment to developing a fisheries compensatory mitigation package that exceeds what the federal permitting agency - the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) - would require. The final terms of the compensatory mitigation package are being discussed and defined by MDNR and US Wind with input from the fishing industry and utilizing data and information from a variety of sources. The final terms of the compensatory mitigation package will be recorded in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **What happens if MDNR and US Wind do not develop and sign an MOU at the end of this process?**
In the absence of an MOU between MDNR and US Wind, fisheries compensatory mitigation would default to the requirements set forth in Section 6.1.1 of the BOEM Record of Decision for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project Construction and Operations Plan dated September 4, 2024. This requirement does not include things such as funding for any state-managed species,