



Large-Scale Oyster Restoration in Maryland

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Chesapeake Bay Program

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Who We Are

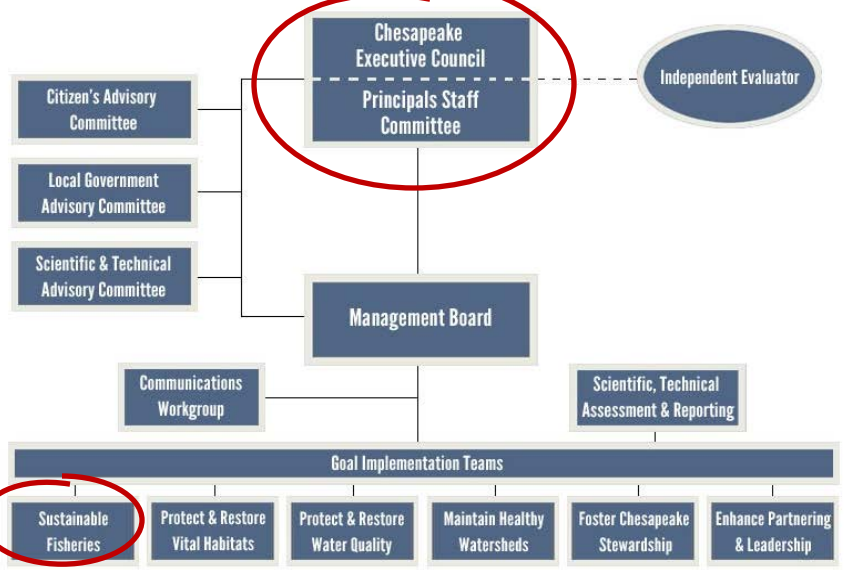
How We Work

How We're Organized

- Chesapeake Executive Council
- Principals' Staff Committee
- Management Board
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Local Government Advisory Committee
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- Communications Workgroup
- Scientific and Technical Assessment and Reporting
- Sustainable Fisheries Implementation Team
- Habitat Goal Implementation Team
- Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

How We're Organized

The Chesapeake Bay Program is organized into committees, goal implementation teams, workgroups and action teams. Click on the boxes in the organizational chart below to learn more about each part of the Bay Program.



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Chesapeake Bay Agreement Oyster Goal:
("restore oyster populations in 10 tributaries by 2025")

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 - Sustainable Fisheries
 - Protect & Restore Vital Habitats
 - Protect & Restore Water Quality
 - Maintain Healthy Watersheds
 - Foster Chesapeake Stewardship
 - Enhance Partnering & Leadership
- Independent Evaluator

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Metrics Team (2011)



Chesapeake Bay Oyster Metrics Team



And 17 consulting scientists

- Developed Bay-wide, science-based consensus definition of:
 - a 'restored reef'
 - Success criteria to be met 6 year post restoration:
 - Oyster density
 - Oyster biomass
 - Presence of multiple year classes
 - Shell budget
 - Reef footprint
 - Reef height
 - a 'restored tributary' (*How many restored reefs do you need for the tributary to be considered 'restored?'*)
- On-the-ground restoration could then be planned & built to meet these metrics



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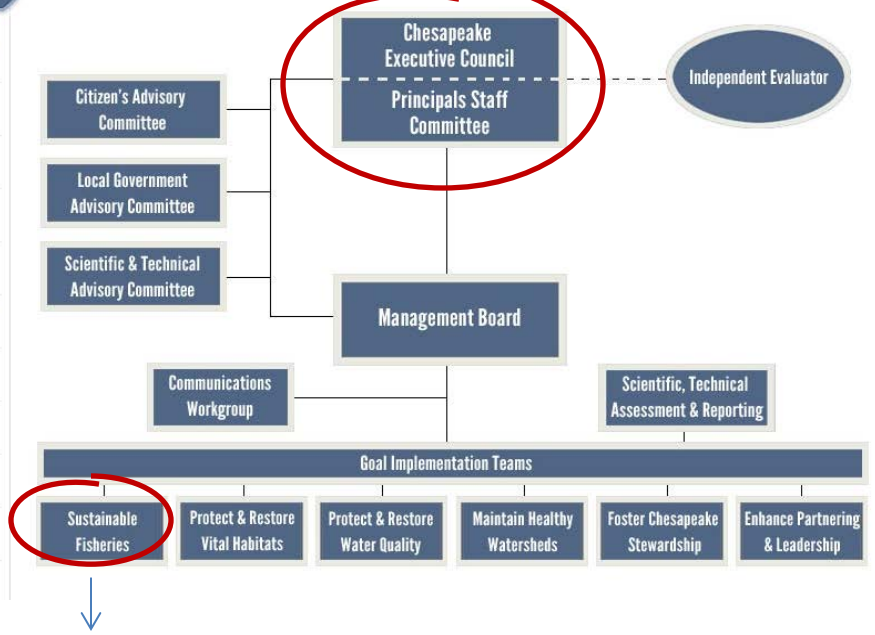
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Maryland Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroup






Maryland Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroup



Coordinates efforts in Maryland among state and federal partners to achieve Chesapeake Bay Agreement oyster goal (“restore oyster populations in 10 tributaries by 2025”)

- Collects input from consulting scientists and the public, and incorporates it into decision making
 - Ex: Held public open houses/ virtual open houses
 - Ex: participated in multiple trips and meetings with watermen community on Tred Avon river;
 - Ex: Held meetings with consulting scientists; asked them to review/ edit tributary plans
 - Ex: Presentations to community groups and organizations as requested
- Develops restoration plans for each tributary
- Coordinates and tracks construction and planting efforts
- Coordinates and tracks monitoring against pre-established success criteria (Chesapeake Bay Oyster Metrics)
- Stephanie Westby (NOAA) is chair

Progress on Large-Scale Oyster Restoration in Maryland

Harris Creek

- 350 acres;
- Initial reef construction and seeding completed Sept 2015

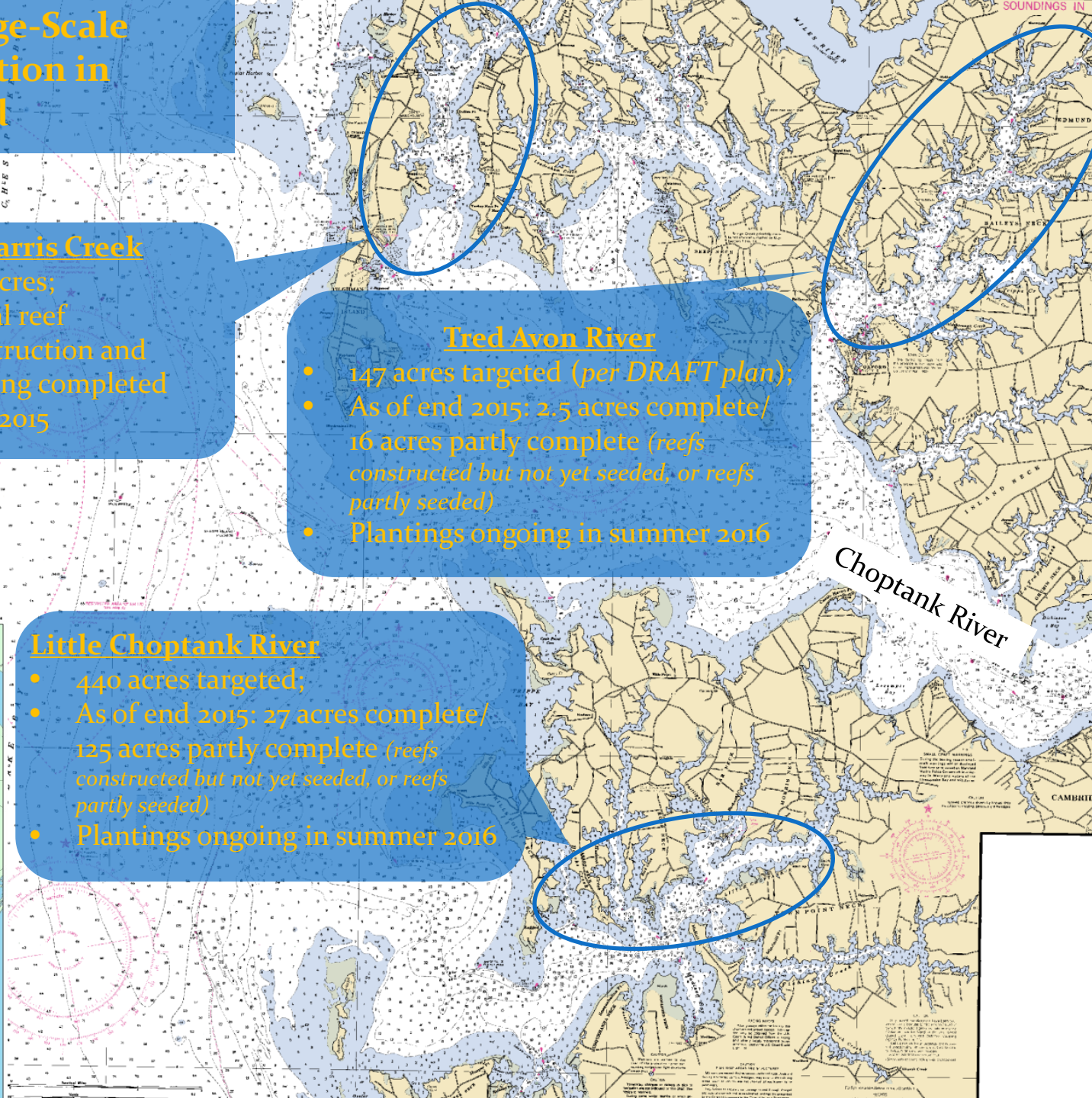
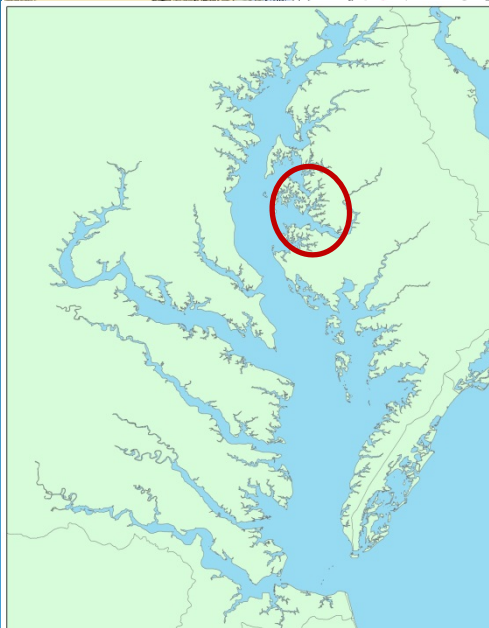
Tred Avon River

- 147 acres targeted (*per DRAFT plan*);
- As of end 2015: 2.5 acres complete/ 16 acres partly complete (*reefs constructed but not yet seeded, or reefs partly seeded*)
- Plantings ongoing in summer 2016

Little Choptank River

- 440 acres targeted;
- As of end 2015: 27 acres complete/ 125 acres partly complete (*reefs constructed but not yet seeded, or reefs partly seeded*)
- Plantings ongoing in summer 2016

Choptank River



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white ruler and a piece of oyster shell. The ruler has the logo for the Virginia Water Resources Institute (VWRI) and text that reads 'LABORATORY APPLIED TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, POLICY, AND MANAGEMENT'. The background is a white tray filled with oysters. The image is partially overlaid by a teal semi-transparent box containing text.

Harris Creek: So how's it doing?

- First 100 acres (planted in 2012) were monitored in fall 2015 to determine whether they meet the Oyster Metrics success criteria (ex: oyster density/biomass; presence of multiple year classes). Remaining acres to be monitored as they age to three years.
 - Fact sheet, <http://www.chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/habitats-hot-topics/preliminary-data-show-harris-creek-oyster-restoration-project-doing-well>
 - Full report expected next week
 - 100% of reefs treated currently meet oyster density and biomass threshold success criteria (15+ oysters per m² over 30% of reef area).
 - 50% of reefs treated currently meet oyster density and target success criteria (50+ oysters per m² over 30% of reef area).
 - Same trend holds true for oyster biomass (100% of reefs meet the threshold; 50% of reefs meet the higher target success criteria.
 - 100% of reef have multiple year classes of oysters present (another success criteria)

Little Choptank:
So how's it doing?



Photo:
Oyster Recovery Partnership



Photo:
Oyster Recovery Partnership

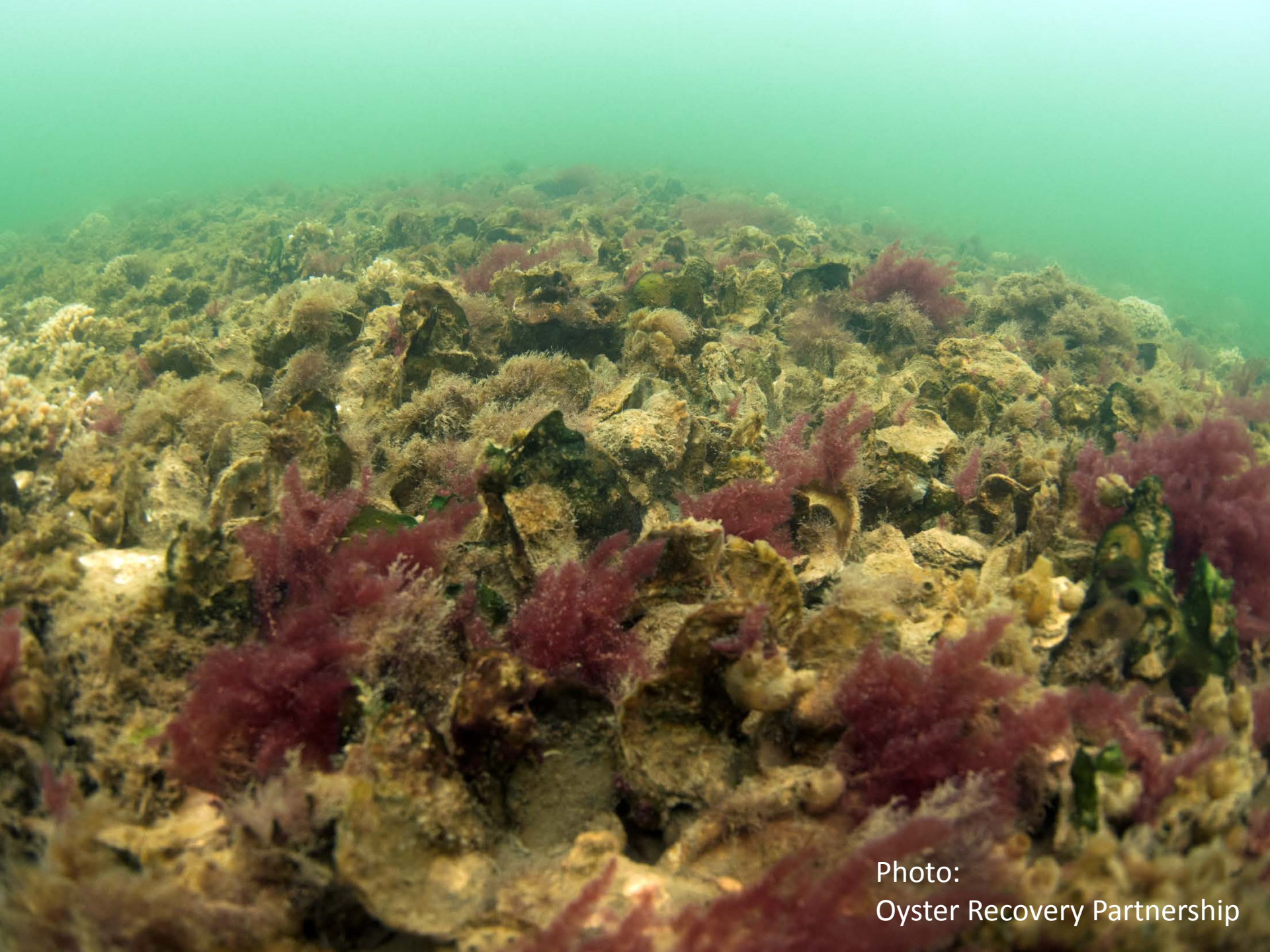


Photo:
Oyster Recovery Partnership



Photo:
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Natural Set on Florida Shell



Photo:
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Natural Set on Stone



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Jay Fleming video

Video:
Oyster Recovery Partnership