



Public – Private Partnership (P3)

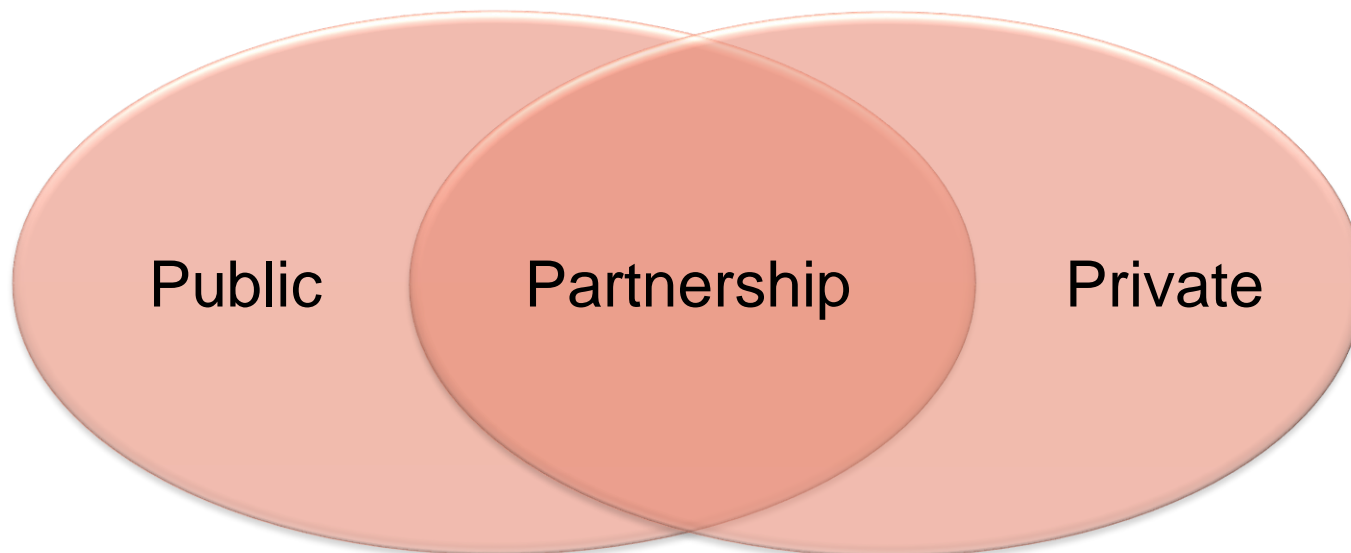
Oyster Pilot Project

Project Objectives

Public-private partnership (P3)

Create a new type of business model for the oyster fishery that is:

Economically and environmentally sustainable





Project Team Members

- Anne Arundel County Oyster Committee
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Oyster Recovery Partnership
- University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center



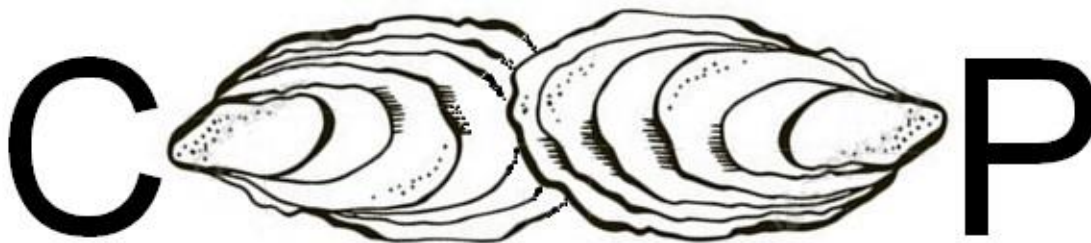
ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER

Grant funding by: NFWF and Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund



Project Components

1. Creating a pilot Oystermen's Cooperative (Co-Op)
2. Scaling and accelerating investment in the productivity of the state's unproductive / low density oyster areas
3. Expanding the project through the use of a revolving fund (seed replanting, expansion to new areas,...)



Oyster Co-Op

Cooperatives:

- Work by allowing producers and businessmen to join their resources together on a particular activity and create a business model that allows for sharing of marketing, equipment, manufacturing, and financing credit when needed.
- Commonly used in agriculture (e.g. Land-O'Lakes, Sunkist, etc.)

Oystermen Cooperative:

- A.A. County would create their own cooperative
- Formal operating structure, bylaws, and business rules
- Policies set by a Board of Directors
 - Who is eligible
 - When they can join
 - Fees to be paid
 - Services offered
 - Harvest and planting rules



Photo credit: <https://easternshorebrent.com/2014/10/09/oyster-season/>



Oyster Productivity

- Select areas to seed (~4 leases, ~40 acres – to be determined)
- Rotationally manage areas
 - Develop a plan for annually seeding and harvesting areas
 - Conduct oyster monitoring to determine oyster abundance and growth
- Significant increase in harvest in a currently non-productive area
 - Water quality benefits
- Create long-term sustainable employment opportunities for watermen
 - Could harvest outside wild fishery months
 - Provides another economic opportunity in addition to the wild public fishery and aquaculture
- Portion of harvest revenue to cover the costs of replanting areas
 - Grant is covering initial three years of seed
 - Areas could be expanded based on amount being reinvested



Future Expansion

- Use lessons learned from pilot project to expand into other counties
 - Charles County
 - Queens Anne County
 - St Mary's County
 - Worcester County
- Establish a revolving Replenishment Fund
 - Future grant opportunities (both public and private funding)
 - Water quality crediting (future)

Project Timeline

Component 1: Establishing a Co-Op

Oct 2016 to Feb 2017: Different types of Co-Op research

Feb 2017 to Dec 2017: Establish the Co-Op and its bylaws

Jun 2017 to Dec 2017: Established Co-Op Board of Directors

Jun 2017 to Dec 2017: Solicit participation from local waterman

Component 2: Oysters

Jan 2017 to Mar 2017: Locate and select oyster bottom to work on

Jan 2017 to Mar 2017: Develop annual planting, monitoring, and harvest plan

Apr 2017 to Sept 2017: Spat-on-shell production and planting

Apr 2017 to Nov 2017: Monitoring of planted oysters

Apr 2018 to Sept 2018: Spat-on-shell production and planting

Apr 2018 to Nov 2018: Monitoring of planted oysters

Dec 2018 to Mar 2019: Develop harvest management procedures

Apr 2019 to Sept 2019: Spat-on-shell production and planting

Apr 2019 to Nov 2019: Monitoring of planted oysters

2019: Potentially start harvesting 2017 crop



Project Status

Currently

- In beginning stages of project
- Kick off meeting in November
- Started looking at lease locations in the South and Rhode Rivers
- Starting researching cooperative examples to determine what may work best

Next Steps

- Develop a Board of Directors
- Develop bylaws
- Obtain leases
- Start planting next summer