



Environmental Group Proposals: Proposed Changes to the Current Oyster Management Areas



Background

- DNR met with various environmental groups on Nov 9, 2016
- To seek input, as requested by the OAC, regarding possible changes to sanctuary and harvest areas.
- Guidelines:
 - Changes to areas are viewed as limited, not wholesale changes to either sanctuaries or harvest areas
 - Investment of shell or seed is needed for areas that are changed
 - Rotational harvest is suggested for sanctuary areas that become harvest areas
 - Maintain the overall current ratio of sanctuary areas (20%-30%)
 - Equivalent exchange of areas suggested to maintain the sanctuary ratio



Proposals

Received proposals from:

- St. Mary's River Watershed Association
- Asbury Solomons Retirement Community
- Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
- Friends of the Wicomico River
- Phillips Wharf Environmental Center
- Mill Cove Neighbors
- Whitehall Bay Conservancy
- Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society

Received many letters/emails requesting to maintain current sanctuary areas

Received a joint letter from 29 different environmental groups representing Maryland citizens:

- Recommended increasing sanctuary acreage to 30%
- No specific new sanctuary area(s) proposed
- Recommended use of rotational harvest areas within existing public fishery areas and not in sanctuary areas

St. Mary's River Watershed Association

Body of Water: St Mary's River

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary (0 total acres of new sanctuary).

Sanctuary: St Mary's River Sanctuary

Sanctuary Proposal:

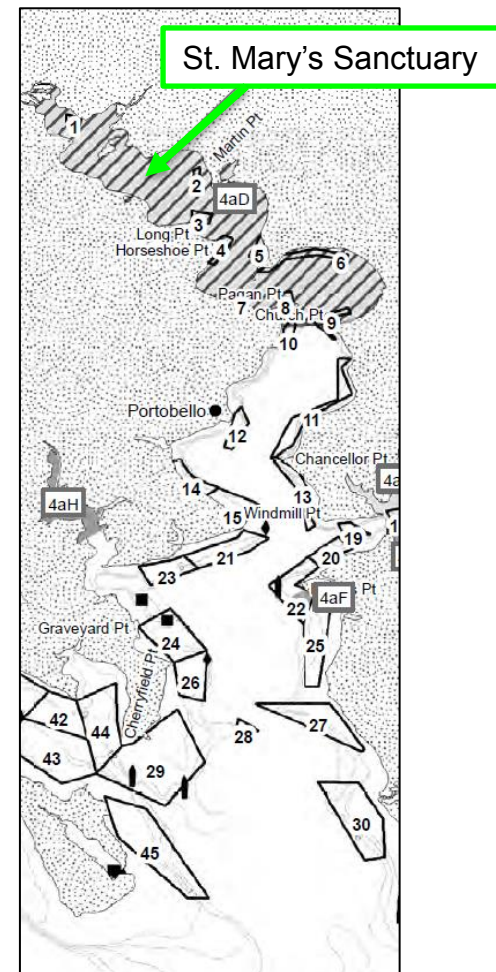
- Maintain the current sanctuary and public fishery areas
- Make the sanctuary area one of the 5 tributaries to receive large scale restoration
- Continue and enhance MGO and institutionally-led restoration and research projects
- No new aquaculture leases in the sanctuary

Public Fishery Proposal:

- Annually designate 30 acres of unproductive bottom for aquaculture within the public fishery area downstream of the sanctuary

Note: "oyster bottom" in the red box for each proposal is defined as the productive oyster bottom as estimated by the 2009 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Oyster Restoration in Chesapeake Bay Including the Use of a Native and/or Nonnative Oyster

MGO = Marylanders Grow Oysters



Asbury Solomons Retirement Community

Body of Water: Lower Patuxent River

Sanctuary Proposal:

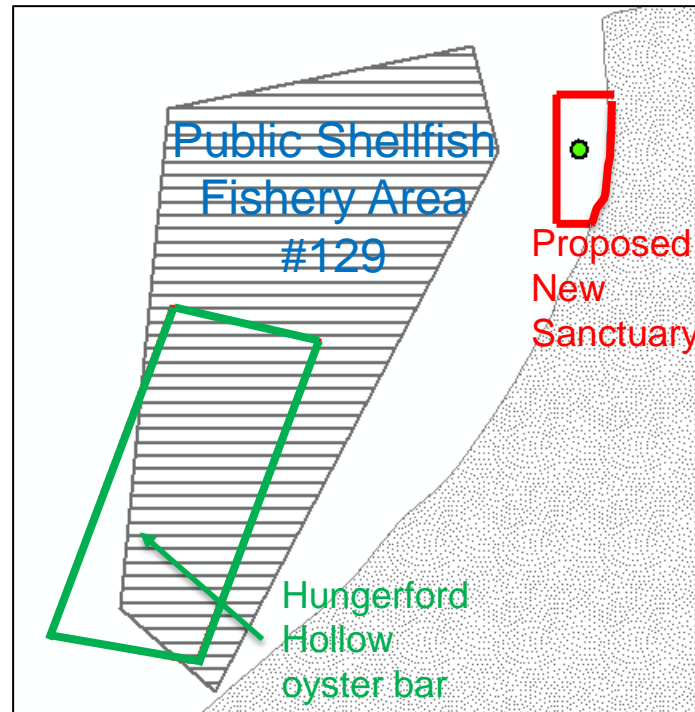
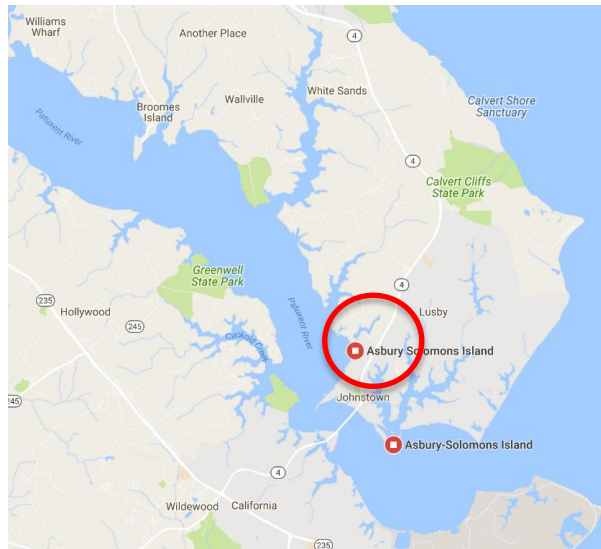
Make a new sanctuary to protect MGO plantings
at the breakwaters: *line location (draft) to be finalized*

Seed Proposal:

Continued annual MGO plantings
within new sanctuary

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of
oyster bottom will become a sanctuary

- 2.3 total acres
- 0 acres of PSFA
- 0 acres of historic charted bottom





Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (proposal #1)

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary (0 total acres of new sanctuary).

Body of Water: Choptank River, Mid Bay, Eastern Bay

Sanctuary: N/A

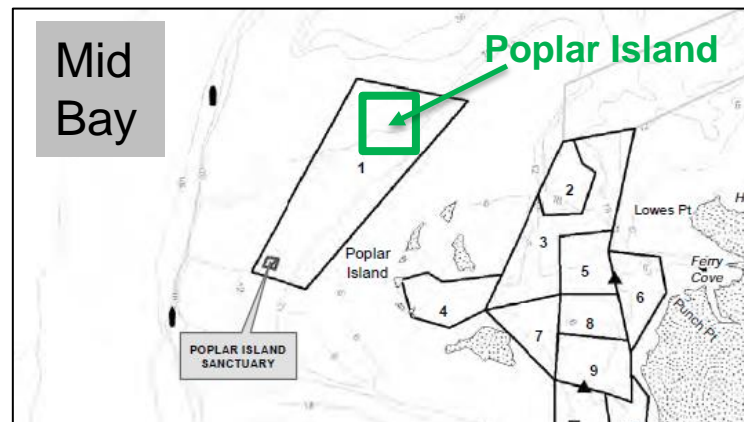
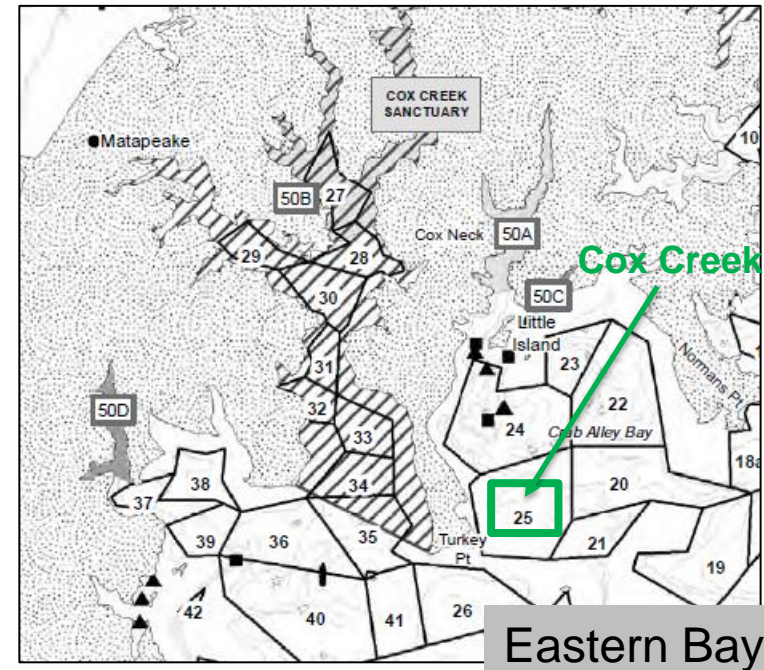
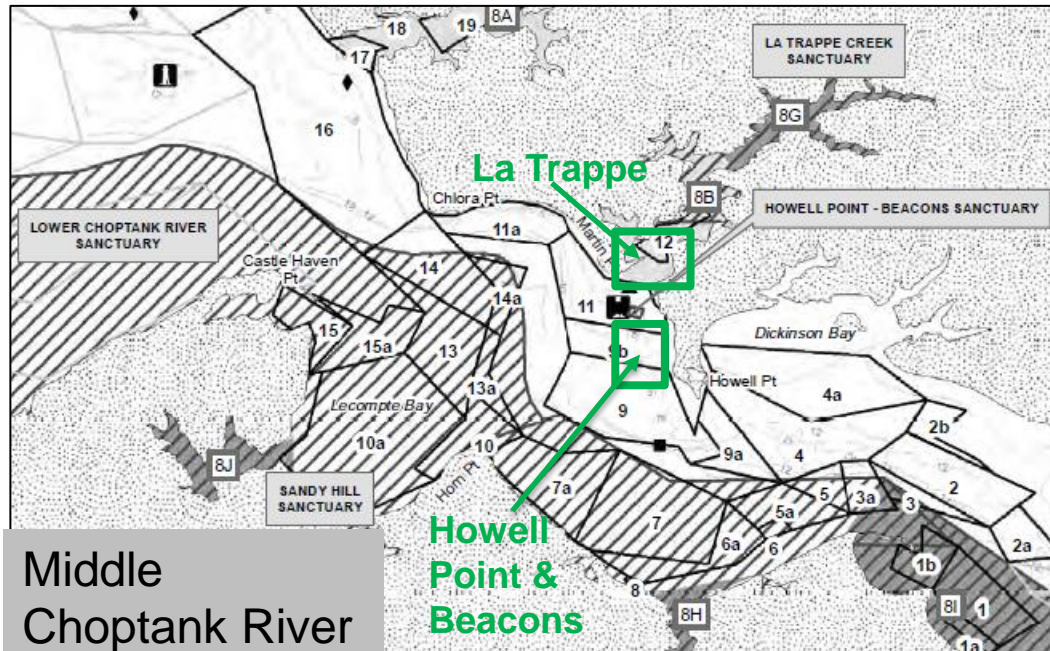
Oyster Bars:

- Howell Point Addition & Beacons
- La Trappe
- Cox Neck
- Poplar Island

Sanctuary Proposal: N/A

Public Fishery Proposal: Create a 3 year rotational harvest plan from these delisted harvest reserve areas. Use diving and hand tong gear only to harvest.

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (proposal #1)



Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (proposal #2)

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary (0 total acres of new sanctuary).

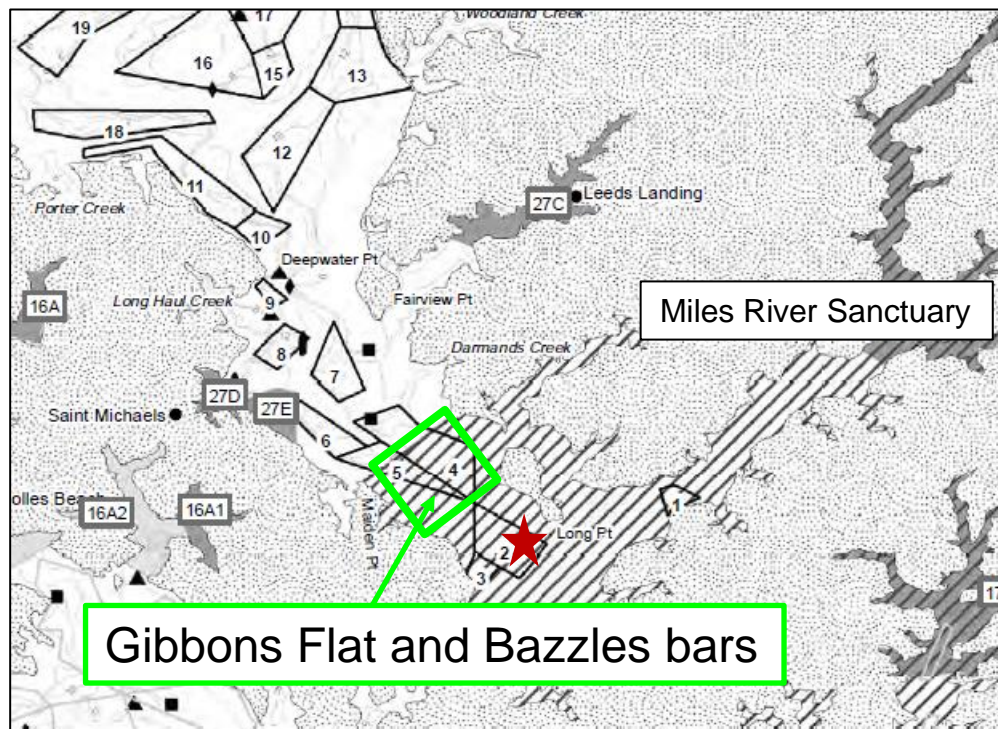
Body of Water: Miles River

Sanctuary: Miles River Sanctuary

Oyster Bars: Gibbons Flat, Bazzles

Sanctuary Proposal: Establish new MGO planting sites

Seed Proposal: Annually plant MGO oysters



★ Current MGO planting site

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (proposal #3)

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary (0 total acres of new sanctuary).

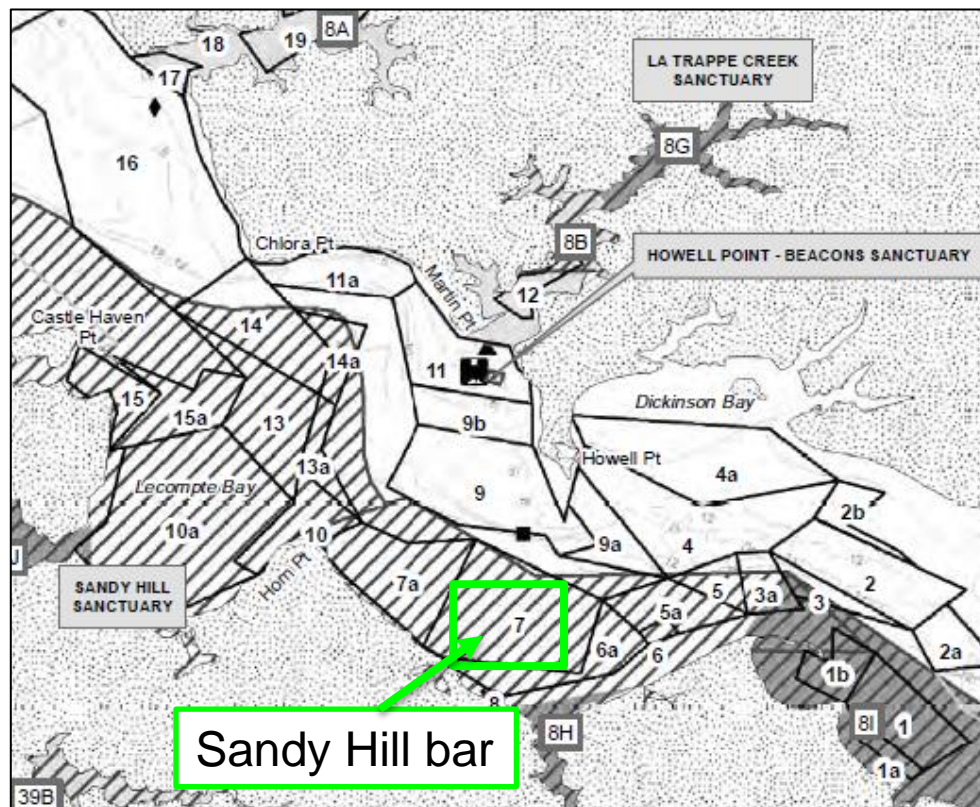
Body of Water: Middle Choptank River

Sanctuary: Sandy Hill Sanctuary

Oyster Bars: Sandy Hill (#7 bar)

Sanctuary Proposal: Establish MGO planting sites

Seed Proposal: Annually plant MGO oysters



Note: There is a current MGO planting site is located at Howell Point - Beacon Sanctuary (bar #11 and #9b)

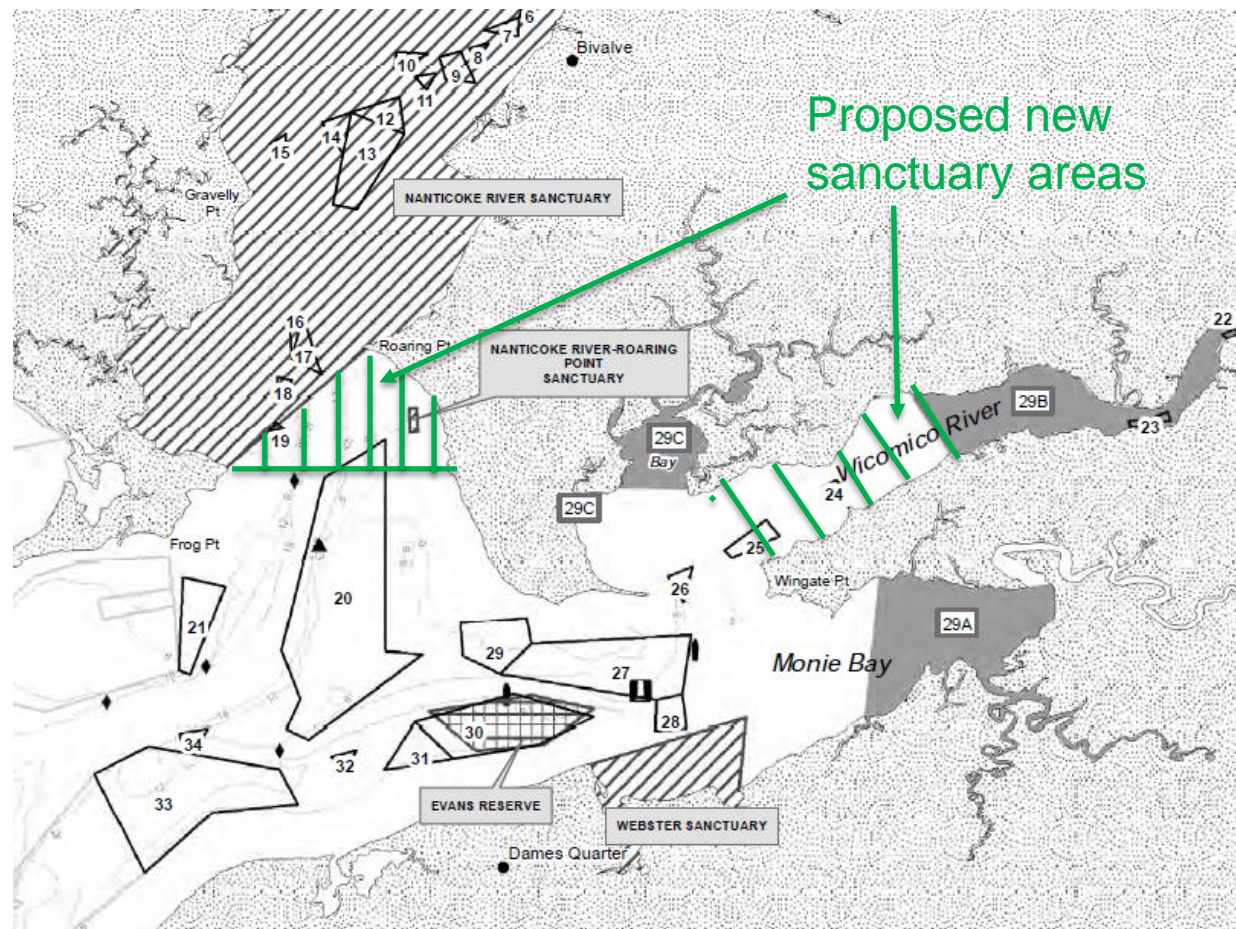
Friends of the Wicomico River

Body of Water: Nanticoke River, Wicomico River

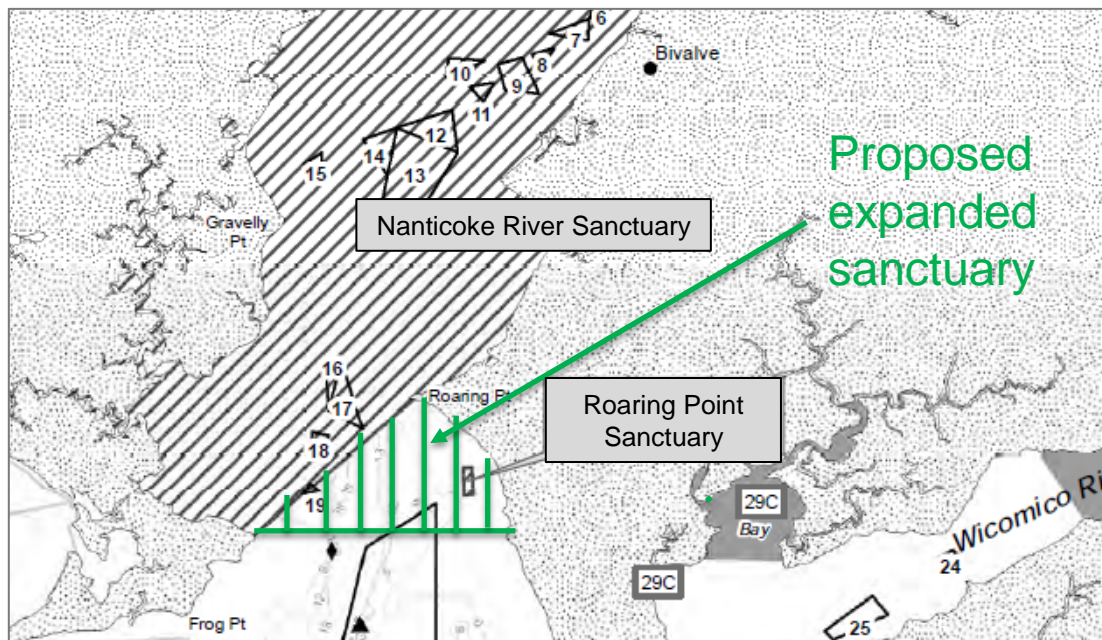
Sanctuary Proposal:

- Expand Nanticoke sanctuary across the mouth of the river from Sandy Point east to Waterview.
- Create a new Sanctuary in the Wicomico River (old MDE Closure area) from Mouth of Ellis Bay across to Mount Vernon Point and up river to the MDE Closure area.
- Needed to protect existing and new aquaculture areas and to continue supporting spat set on Tangier Sound commercial bars

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary (1,755 total acres of new sanctuary).

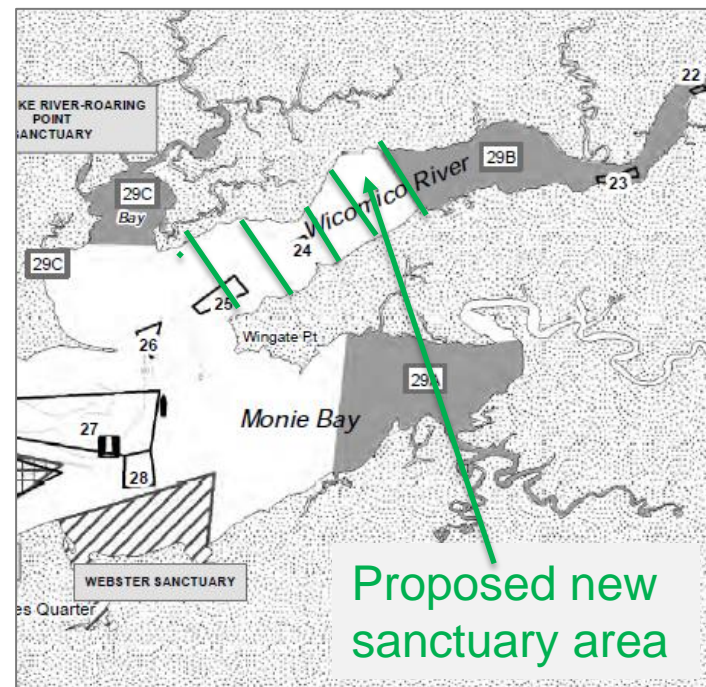


Friends of the Wicomico River



Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary

- 845 total acres
- 0 acres of PSFA
- 65 acres of historic charted bottom



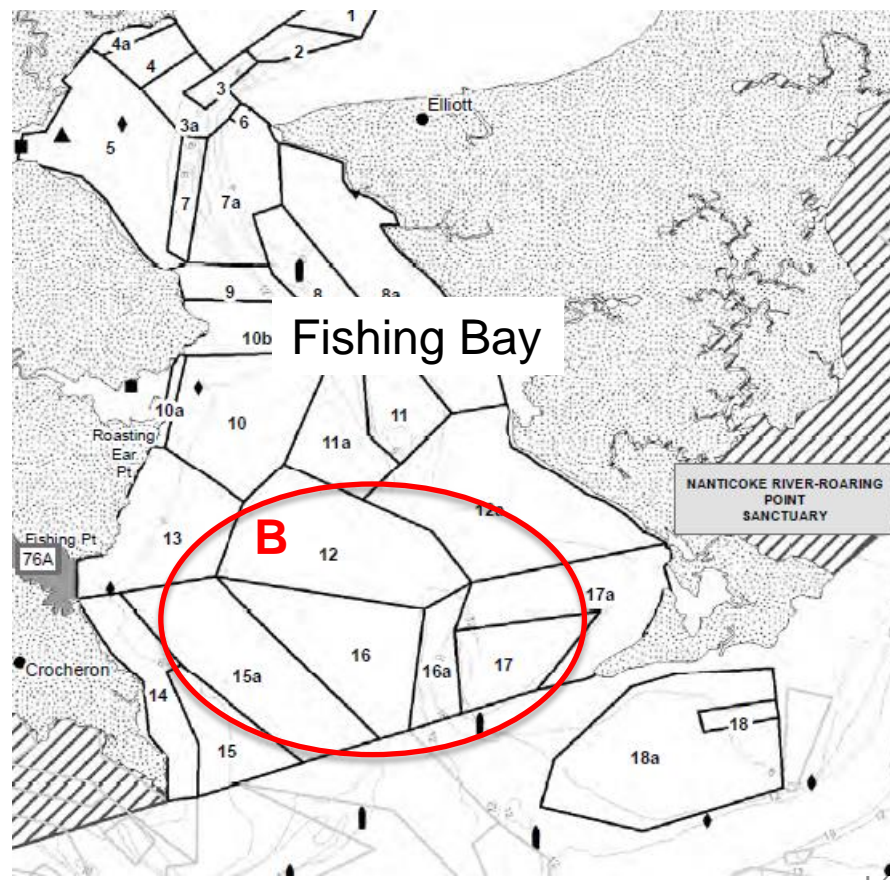
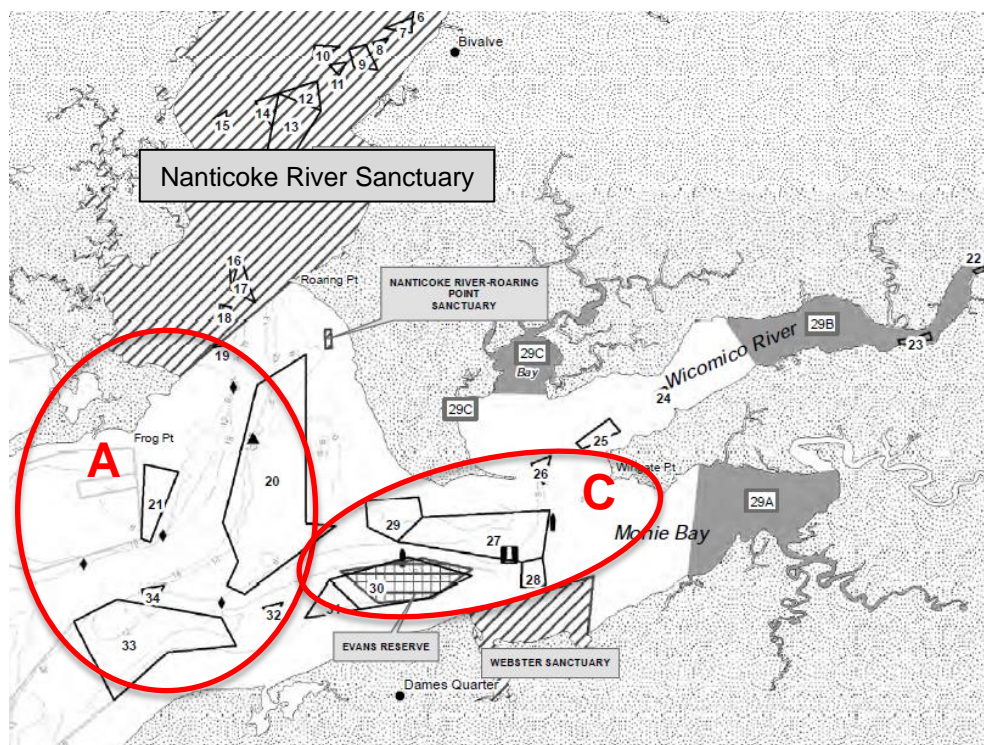
Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary

- 910 total acres
- 0 acres of PSFA
- 18 acres of historic charted bottom

Note: the proposed sanctuary area in Wicomico River was an Maryland Department of Environment restricted shellfish harvest area prior to Spring 2016.

Friends of the Wicomico River

Public Fishery Proposal: Create three commercial rotational harvest areas in Nanticoke River (Area A = bars #20,33,21), Fishing Bay (Area B = bars #12,15,15a, 16), and Wicomico River (Area C = bars #27,29,28,31). These areas are currently within the public fishery.



Phillips Wharf Environmental Center

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary (0 total acres of new sanctuary).

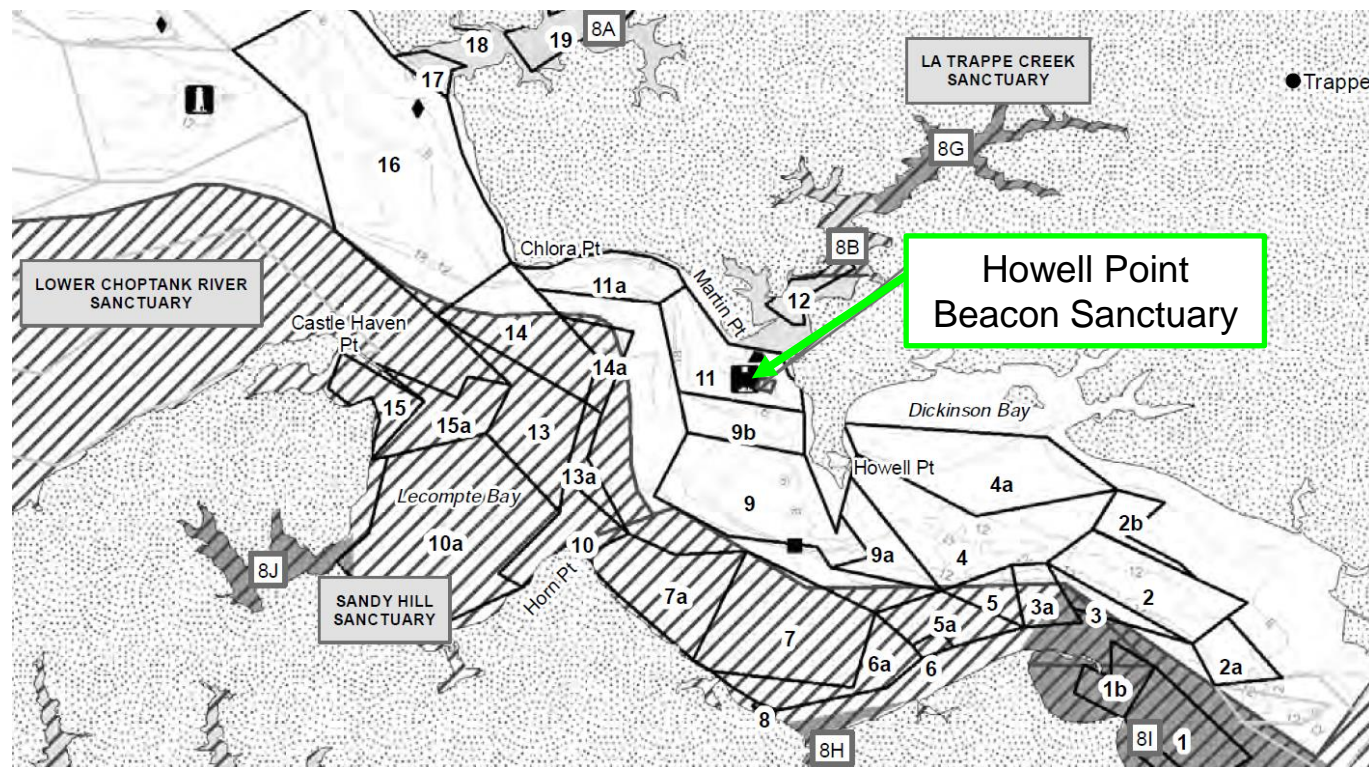
Body of Water:
Choptank River

Sanctuary: Howell
Point Beacon
Sanctuary

Oyster Bars: N/A

Sanctuary Proposal:
N/A

Seed Proposal:
Annually plant ~90
bushels MGO oysters



Note: There is a current MGO site located on Howell Point - Beacon Sanctuary.

Mill Cove Neighbors

Body of Water:

Lower Patuxent River

Sanctuary:

New proposed sanctuary

Oyster Bars: None

Sanctuary Proposal:

Near the mouth of Mill Cove in St. Mary's County

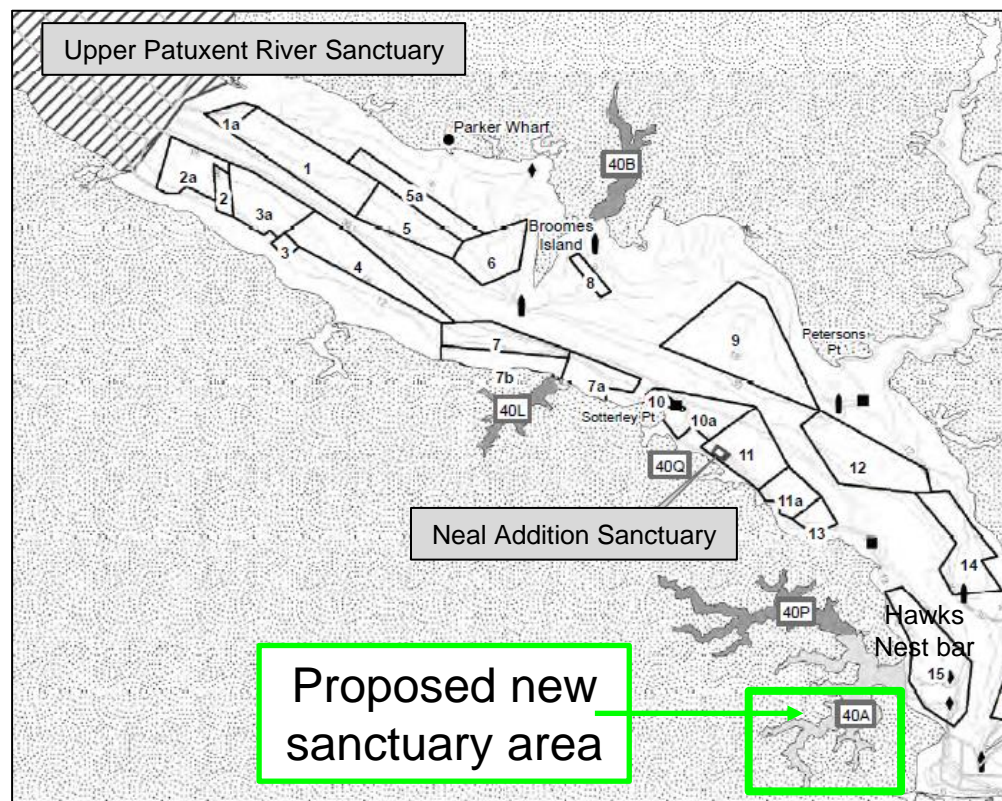
Seed Proposal:

Annually plant MGO oysters on the reef built 6 years ago made up of 50 bushels of clam and oyster shell

Note: this area is classified as a conditional restricted shellfish harvest area by MDE

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary

- 175 total acres
- 0 acres of PSFA
- 0 acres of historic charted bottom



Whitehall Bay Conservancy

Body of Water:

Whitehall Bay

Sanctuary:

New proposed sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

Whitehall Creek (#1) and Sand Spit (#2)

Sanctuary Proposal:

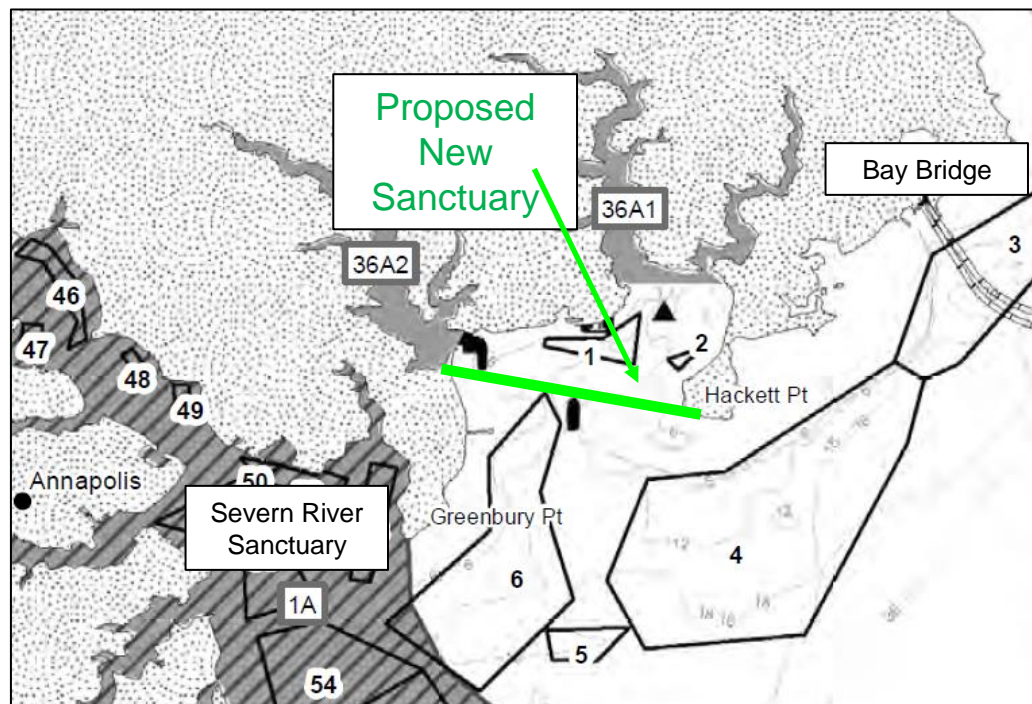
All of Whitehall Bay, from a line beginning at Hackett's Point to Possum Point at the entrance to Mill Creek as denoted by green line.

Seed Proposal:

Plant spat raised by nearly 110 MGO growers located on the various tributaries of Whitehall Bay (~85 bushels).

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary

- 620 total acres
- 0 acres of PSFA
- 52 acres of historic charted bottom



Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society

Body of Water:

Mid Western shore of Chesapeake Bay

Sanctuary:

Herring Bay Sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

Hog Point
(also known as Old Rock)

Sanctuary Proposal:

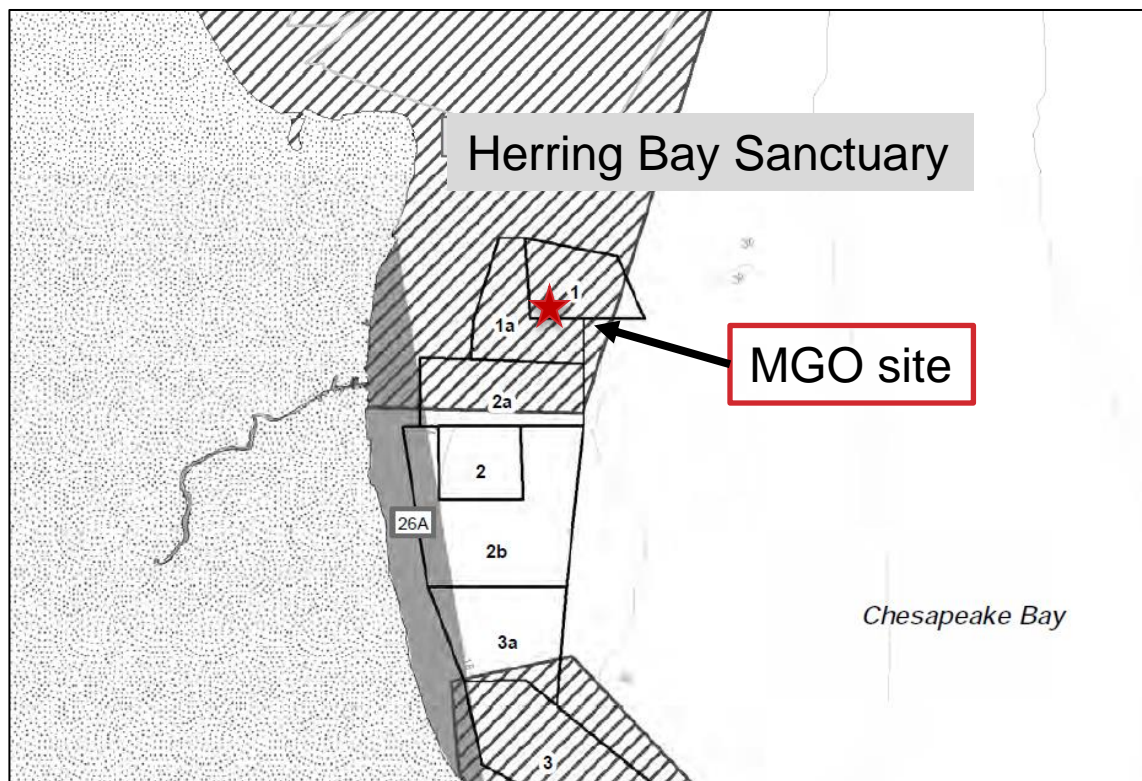
Maintain current MGO site

Seed Proposal:

Continue to plant MGO oysters
annually

Under this proposal, 0 new acres of oyster bottom will become a sanctuary

- 0 total acres
- 0 acres of PSFA
- 0 acres of historic charted bottom





Current Acres per County

County	All Historic Charted Oyster Bottom				Estimated Productive Bottom (PEIS)			
	Total Acres	Total Acres in Sanctuaries	Total Acres not in Sanctuaries	Percentage in Sanctuaries	Total Acres	Total Acres in Sanctuaries	Total Acres not in Sanctuaries	Percentage in Sanctuaries
Anne Arundel	34,112	8,723	25,389	25.6%	4,985	1,063	3,922	21.3%
Baltimore	3,058	1,803	1,255	59.0%	1,881	344	1,537	18.3%
Calvert	18,569	7,203	11,367	38.8%	1,402	654	749	46.6%
Charles	7,854	114	7,740	1.5%	1,363	45	1,318	3.3%
Dorchester	77,149	16,894	60,254	21.9%	5,631	1,681	3,950	29.9%
Kent	13,264	5,446	7,819	41.1%	2,477	910	1,567	36.7%
Queen Anne	27,951	7,986	19,965	28.6%	3,132	1,157	1,974	37.0%
St Mary's	39,219	5,900	33,320	15.0%	4,732	940	3,792	19.9%
Somerset	66,060	17,274	48,785	26.1%	4,571	792	3,779	17.3%
Talbot	39,140	7,166	31,974	18.3%	5,623	880	4,743	15.6%
Wicomico	2,188	433	1,754	19.8%	304	97	207	31.8%
Worcester	1,637	0	1,637	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	330,200	78,941	251,259	23.9%	36,101	8,563	27,538	23.7%
	Area is based on the historic oyster bottom as charted in the Yates Oyster Survey from 1906 to 1912 plus its amendments.				Area is based on the PEIS estimate of productive oyster bottom using a reduction factor applied to the 1974-1983 Bay Bottom Survey			

Proposed Acres per County (Based on All Proposals)

County	Estimated Proposed Acres In Sanctuaries			
	Total Acres of All Historic Charted Oyster Bottom	% of All Historic Charted Oyster Bottom	Total Acres of Estimated Productive Bottom	% of Estimated Productive Bottom
Anne Arundel	8,775	25.7%	1,063	21.3%
Baltimore	1,803	59.0%	344	18.3%
Calvert	7,203	38.8%	654	46.6%
Charles	114	1.5%	45	3.3%
Dorchester	16,894	21.9%	1,681	29.9%
Kent	5,446	41.1%	910	36.7%
Queen Anne	7,986	28.6%	1,157	37.0%
St Mary's	5,900	15.0%	940	19.9%
Somerset	17,274	26.1%	792	17.3%
Talbot	7,166	18.3%	880	15.6%
Wicomico	516	23.6%	97	31.8%
Worcester	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	79,076	23.9%	8,563	23.7%

There is a total of 330,210 acres based on the historic oyster bottom as charted in the Yates Oyster Survey from 1906 to 1912 plus its amendments.

There is a total of 36,101 acres based on the PEIS estimate of productive oyster bottom calculated using a reduction factor applied to the 1974-1983 Bay Bottom Survey. This is the acreage used to determine the percentage currently in sanctuaries.