Science, Service, Stewardship

Progress Update: Executive Order oyster goal, Harris Creek focus

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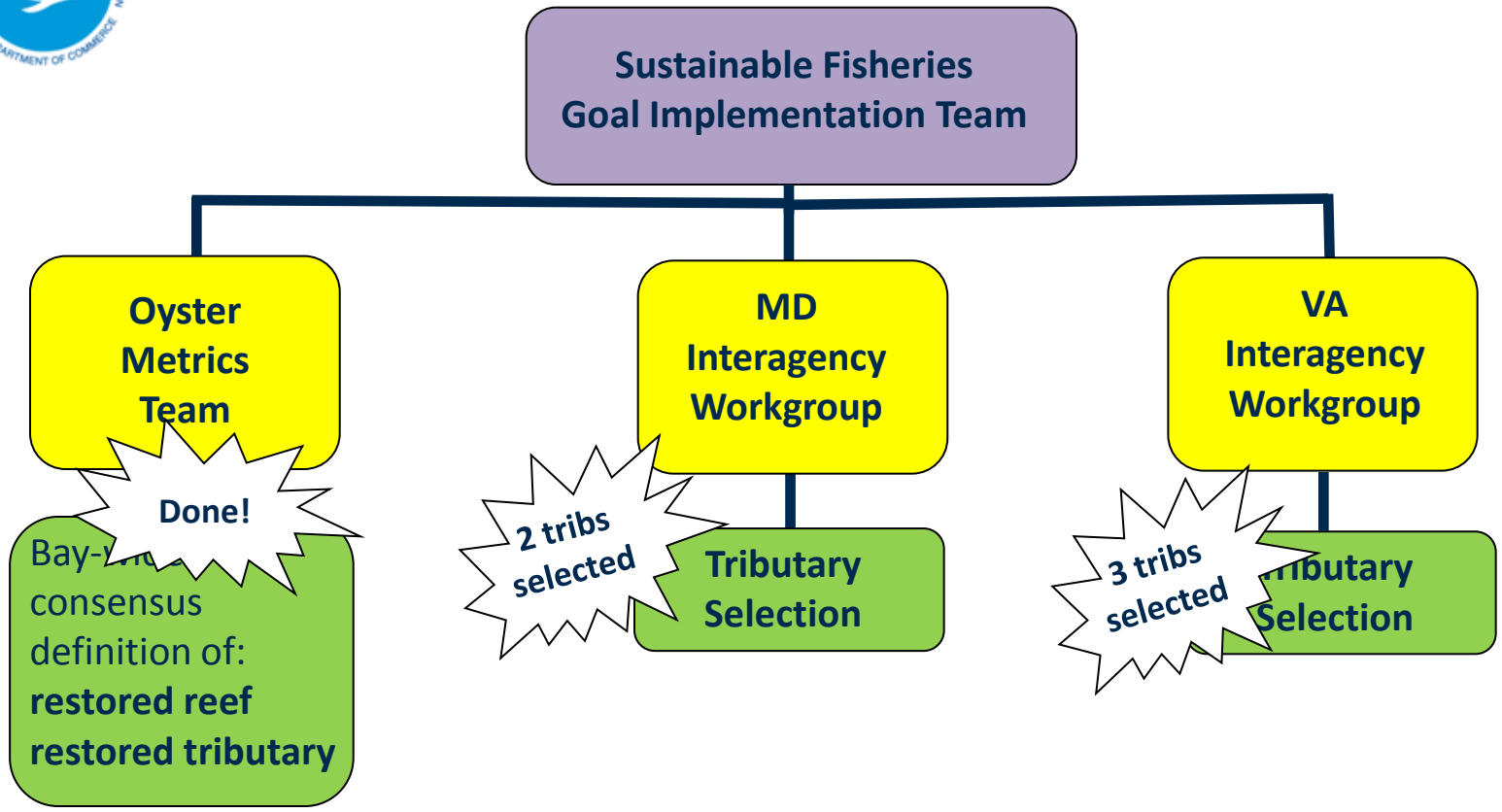
Goal:
Restore oyster populations in 20 tributaries by 2025



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Tributaries Selected for Targeted Oyster Restoration

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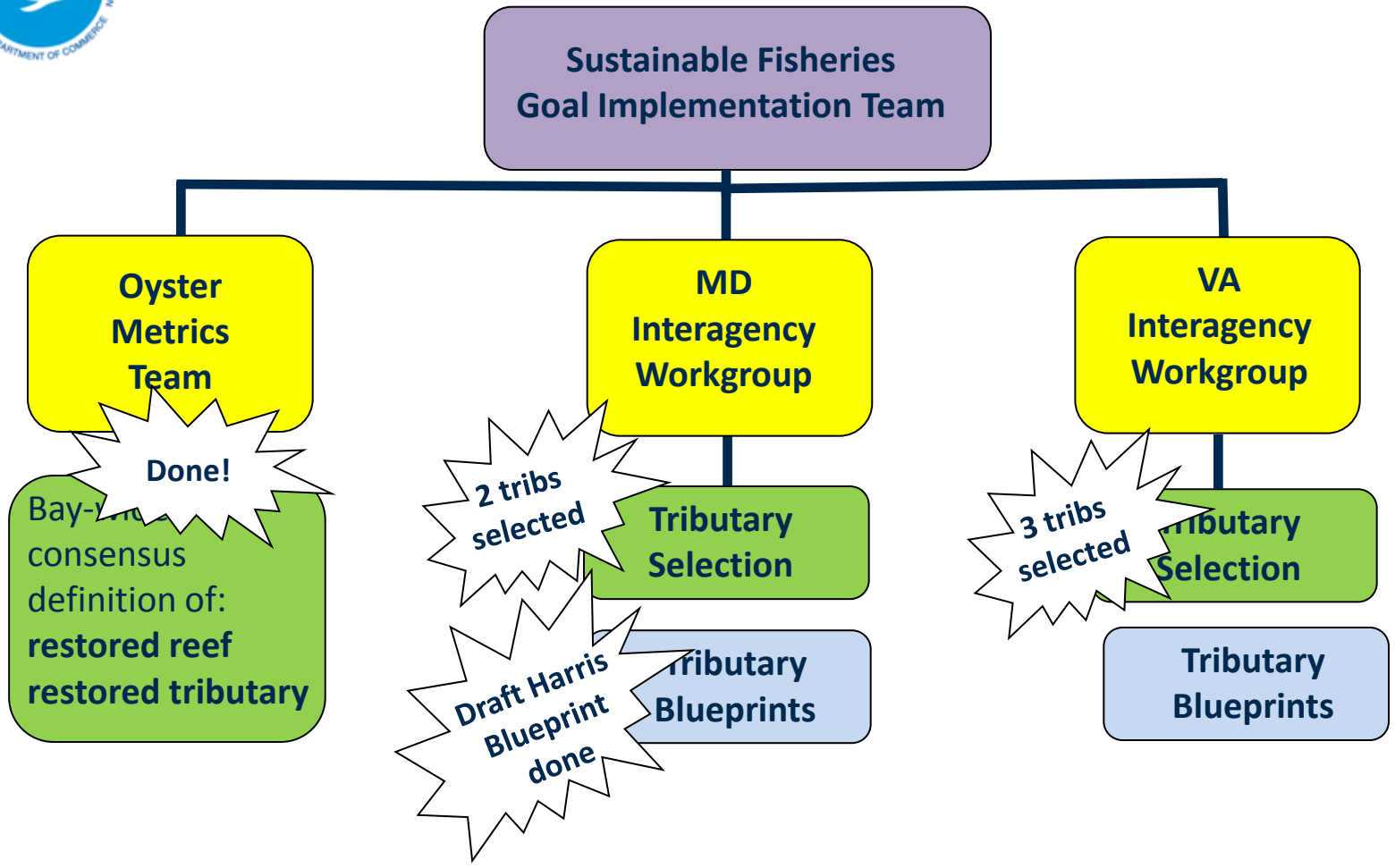

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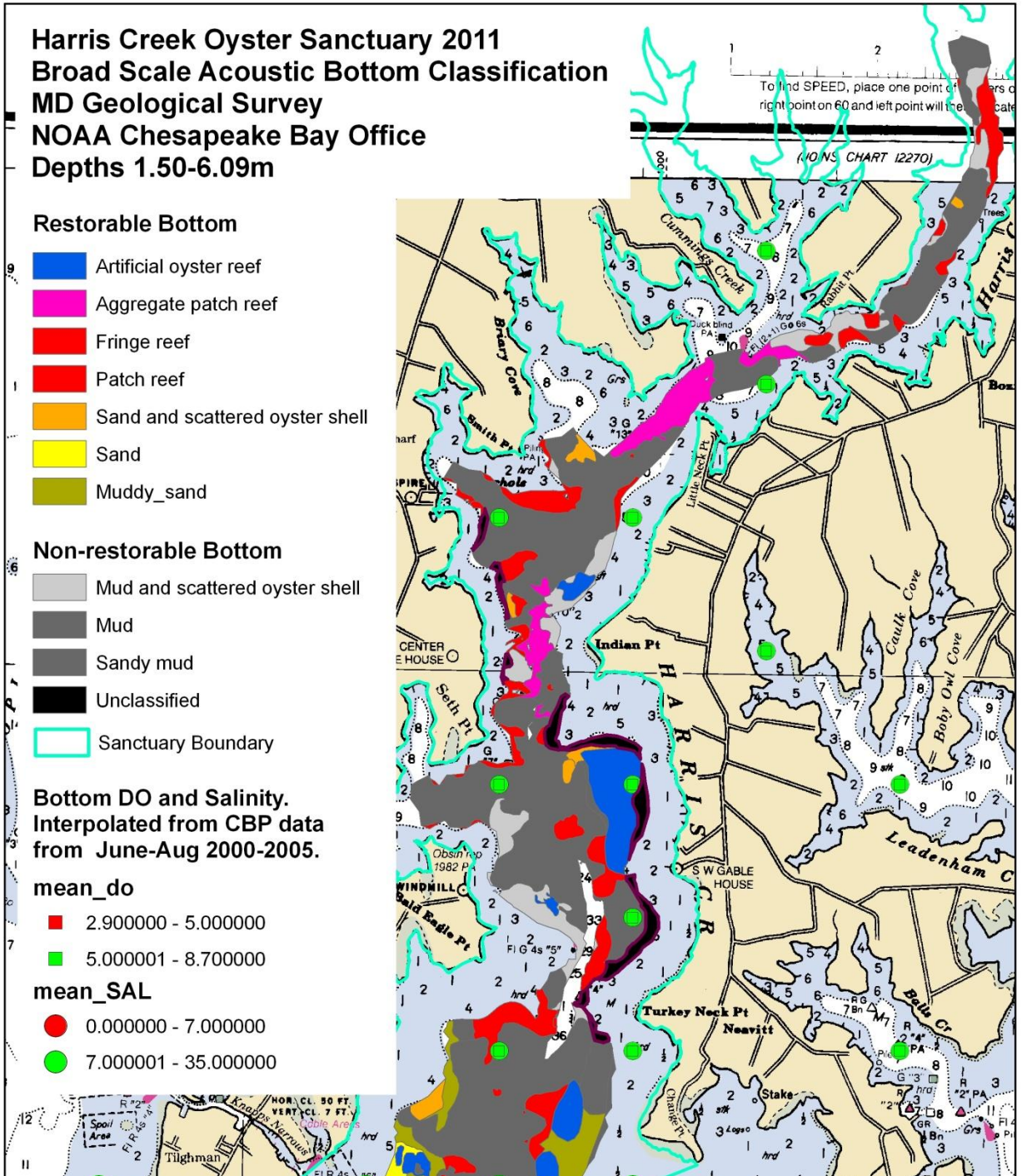
Harris Blueprint Process

- Restorable bottom analysis: *where is the suitable bottom?*



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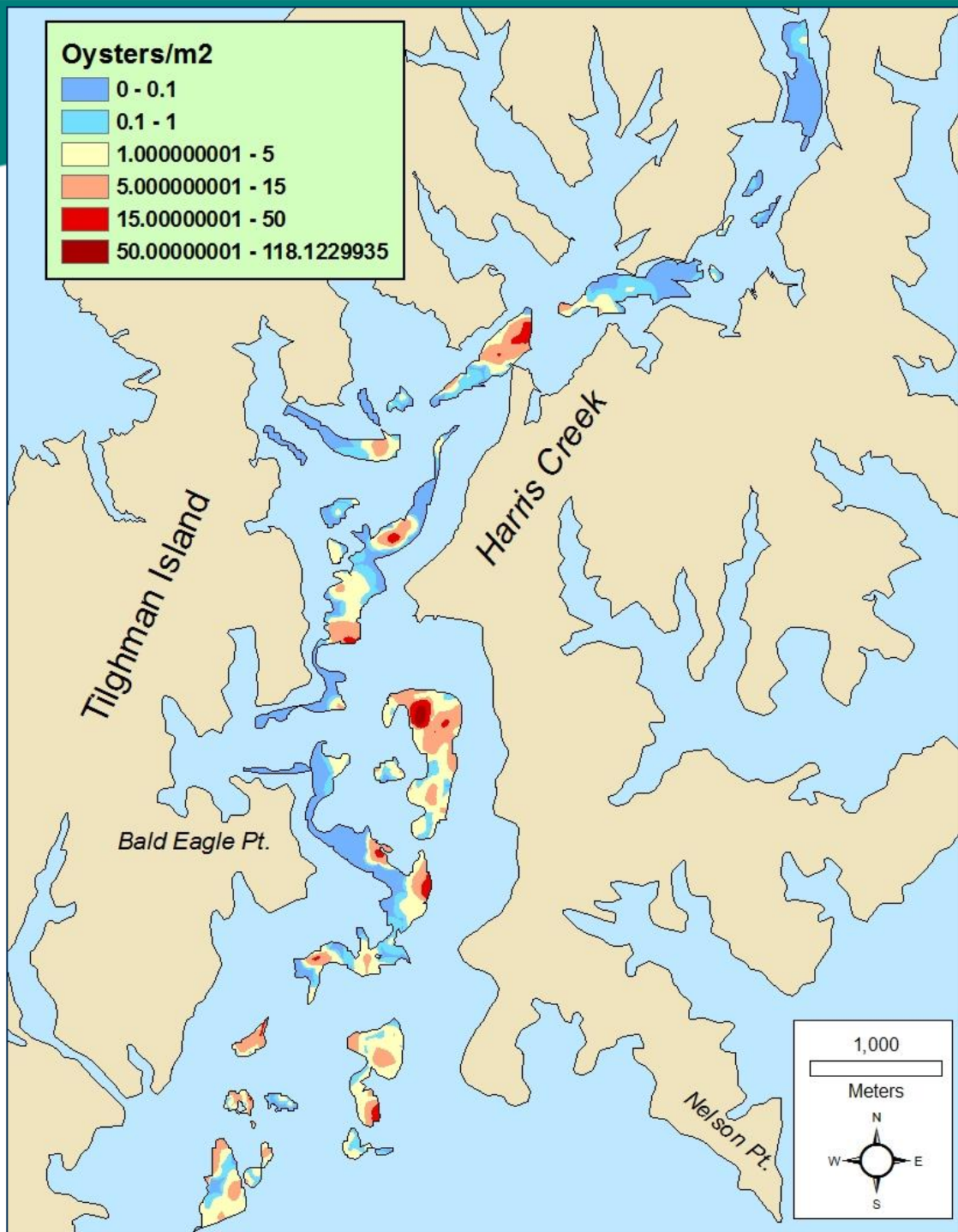
Harris Blueprint Process

- Restorable bottom analysis: where is to suitable
- **Oyster population surveys:** *where are the existing oysters, and at what density?*



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Harris Blueprint Process

- Restorable bottom analysis: where is to suitable
- Oyster population surveys: *where are the existing oysters, and at what density?*
- ***Open House:*** *what does the public think of this?*

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Harris Blueprint Process

- Restorable bottom analysis: where is to suitable
- Oyster population surveys: *where are the existing oysters, and at what density?*
- *Open House: what does the public think of this?*
- ***Assumptions & cost estimates:*** *ex: oyster mortaility rate, natural spat set, cost per acre for substrate, cost per million planted seed, etc.*

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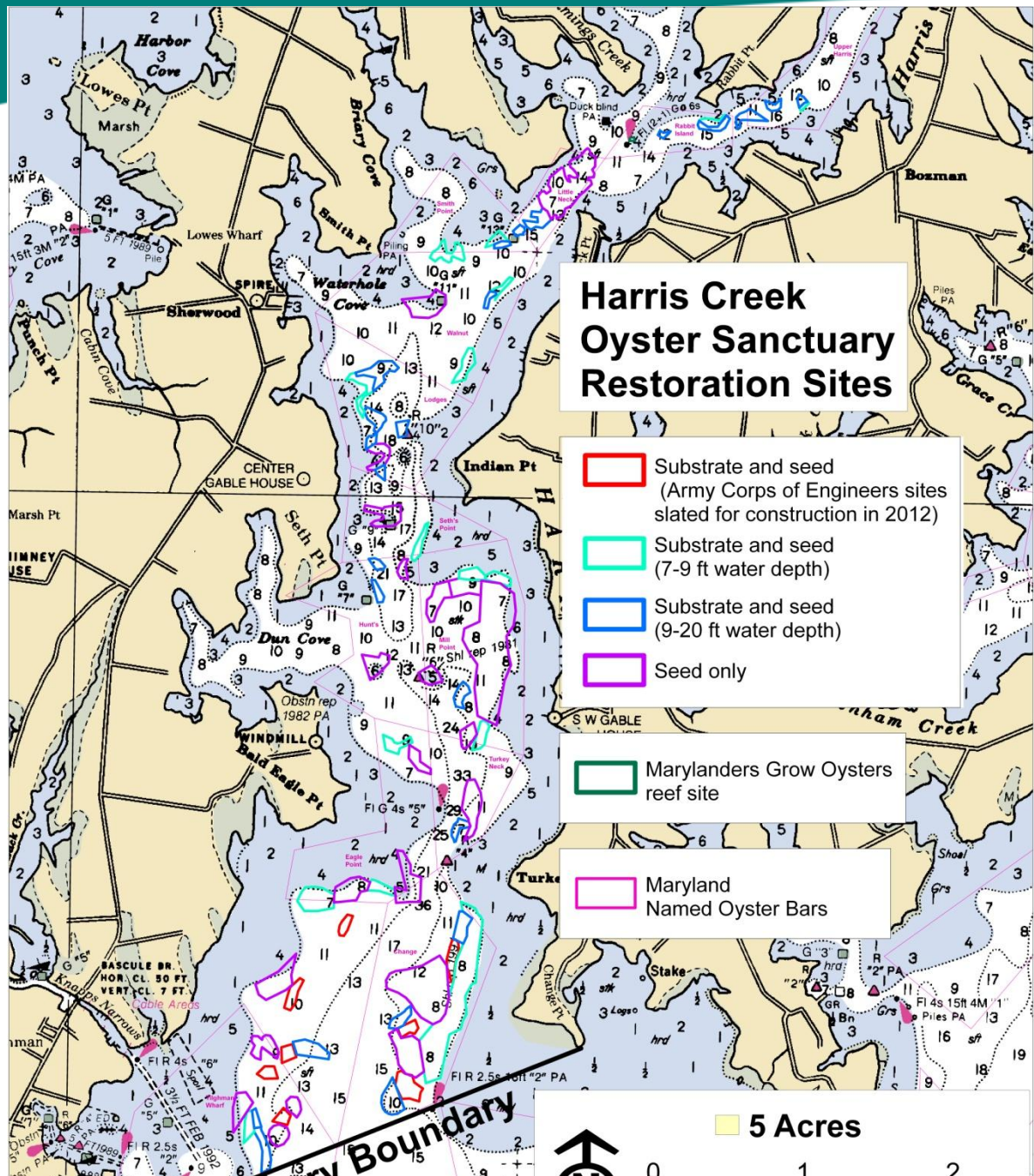
Draft Harris Creek Blueprint

- Acres targeted: 360
- Seed required: 2 billion
- Substrate needed: 250,000 cubic yards

- Cost: $27 million



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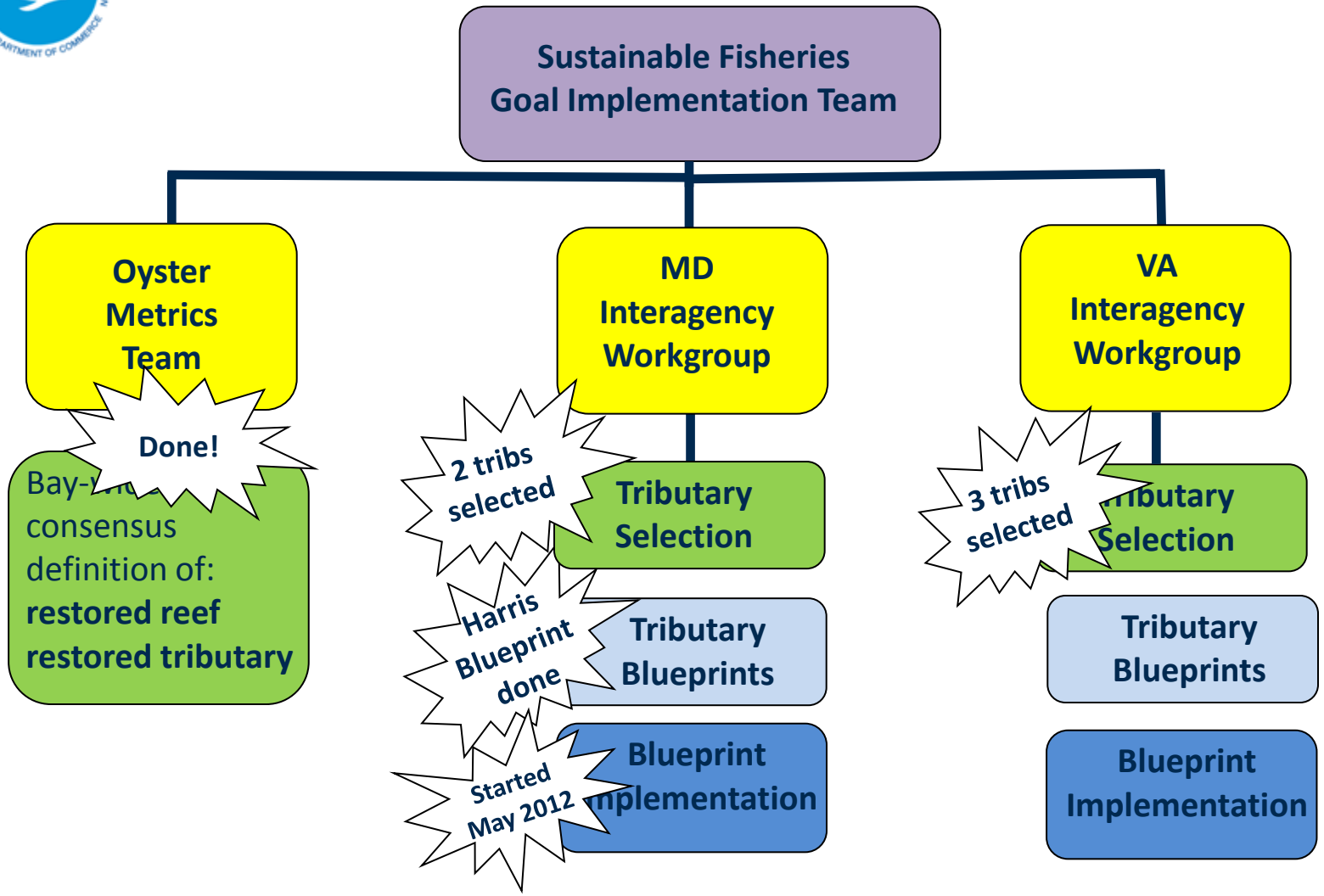

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Roles of NOAA, Army Corps, DNR

NOAA:

- Benthic mapping for site selection & post-construction monitoring; restorable bottom analysis
- Funding to DNR for production & planting of seed oysters
- Funded population surveys on Harris & Little Choptank

USACE, Baltimore District:

- Reef construction, etc. (presentation to follow)

DNR:

- Funding for production & planting of seed oysters
- Manages bay bottom
- Holds permits
- Benthic mapping (MGS)
- Reef construction ($7 m from O'Malley for Harris)
- Population surveys on other sanctuaries
- Monitoring

Collective:

- Planning, coordination, collaboration, trib selection

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Harris Blueprint Progress

- 22 acres of reefs were constructed by USACE Baltimore this summer.

•As of yesterday, NOAA completed post-construction survey work and analysis on these 22 acres of reefs.

• With FY11 NOAA funding to MD DNR, Over $00 million seed oysters have been produced and planted on Harris this summer (NOAA, ORP and DNR funding).

•NOAA is funding the production and planting of another 300 million oyster seed to be planted on 60 acres in Harris Creek in summer 2013 (FY12 funding).

•USACE Baltimore plans to construct approximately another 25-30 acres of reefs in summer 2013.

•MD's Governor O'Malley has put approximately $7 million into the state budget for restoration in Harris Creek.

•NFWF has expressed interest in contributing funding for implementation of oyster restoration in Harris Creek.