

# Oyster Advisory Commission Land Use Subcommittee report

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# Subcommittee history & mission

- Formed by the OAC in July, 2013
  - *Charge: Work collaboratively with the Bay Program Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team and others to educate local land-use planners and decision makers about the importance of land use decisions to oysters.*
  - *Outcome: Provide an overview of the connections between land use and oyster restoration, making recommendations that inform land use decisions to improve the success of oyster restoration.*
- White paper reviewing relevant studies was completed and circulated in early September
- Subcommittee discussed it by phone yesterday
- Still need to discuss with SF GIT, and refine recommendations for restoration



# White paper key findings

- High impervious surface values (over about 20%) are not conducive to healthy oysters, probably due to sediment, bacteria, hypoxia, and contaminant impacts
- Concentrated nutrient sources (such as animal feed lots) are also harmful to oysters
- It is difficult to directly link specific land use stressors to resulting impacts in oyster health, due to complex interactions, but we can rank them by likely importance



# Next steps

- Cite more studies of land use impacts:
  - hypoxia impacts (such as Denise Breitburg's)
  - on whether reef elevation confers resistance to land use impacts (sedimentation, disease, and hypoxia)
- Find the most effective ways to use this information with land use planners
- Consider working with the oyster aquaculture community on outreach to land use planners—many common interests with restoration



# Example: overlay oyster bars and restoration sites with land use data

