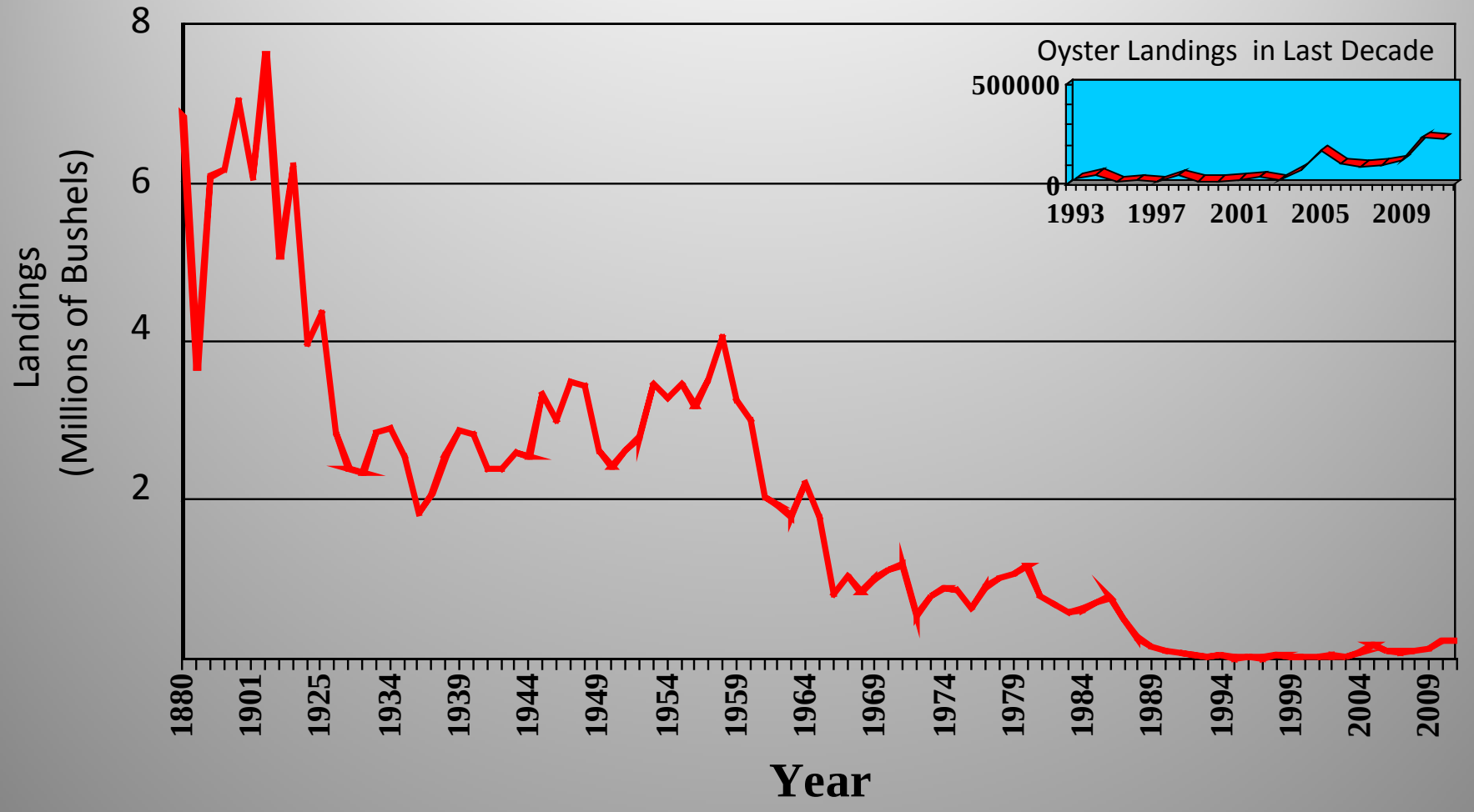
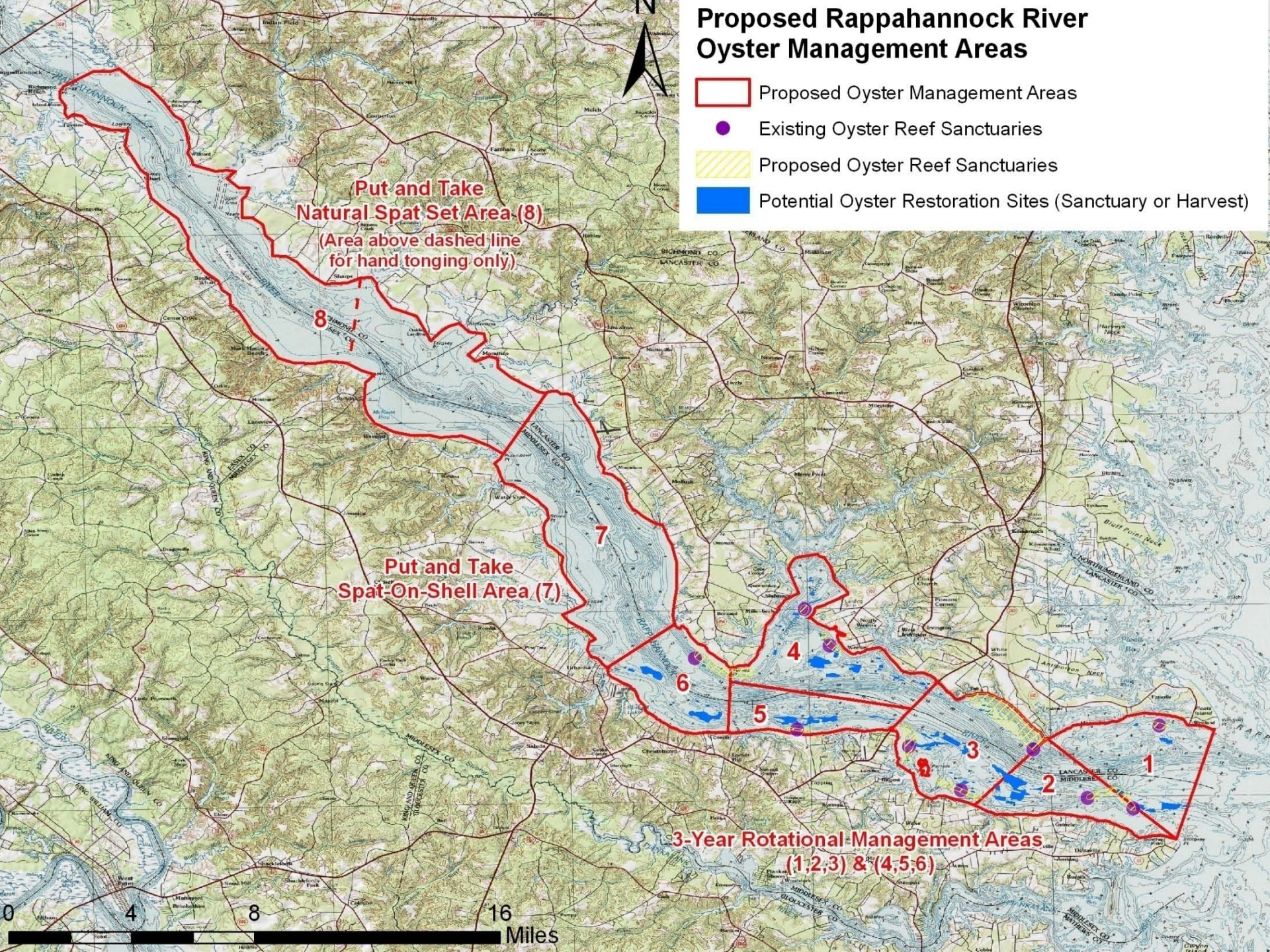
Engaging Stakeholders

Virginia Oyster Heritage Program

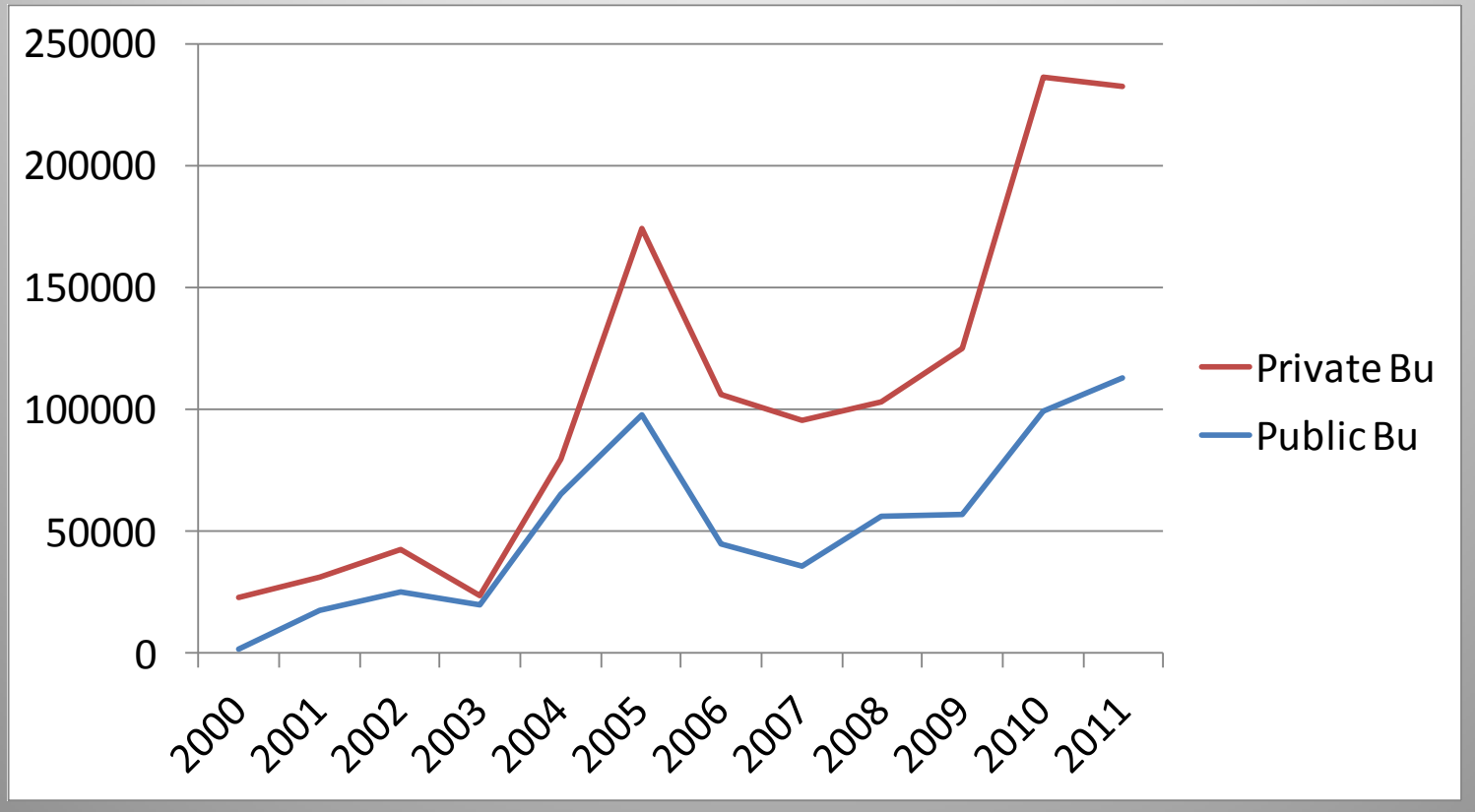
Rotational Harvest in the Rappahannock River

Oyster Landings (1880 - 2011)




Proposed Rappahannock River
Oyster Management Areas
Proposed Oyster Management Areas
Existing Oyster Reef Sanctuaries
Proposed Oyster Reef Sanctuaries
Potential Oyster Restoration Sites (Sanctuary or Harvest)
N
Put and Take
Natural Spat Set Area (8)
(Area above dashed line
for hand tonging only)
8
Put and Take
Spat-On-Shell Area (7)
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
3-Year Rotational Management Areas
(1,2,3) & (4,5,6)
0
4
8
16
Miles

Public vs. Private Oyster Harvest

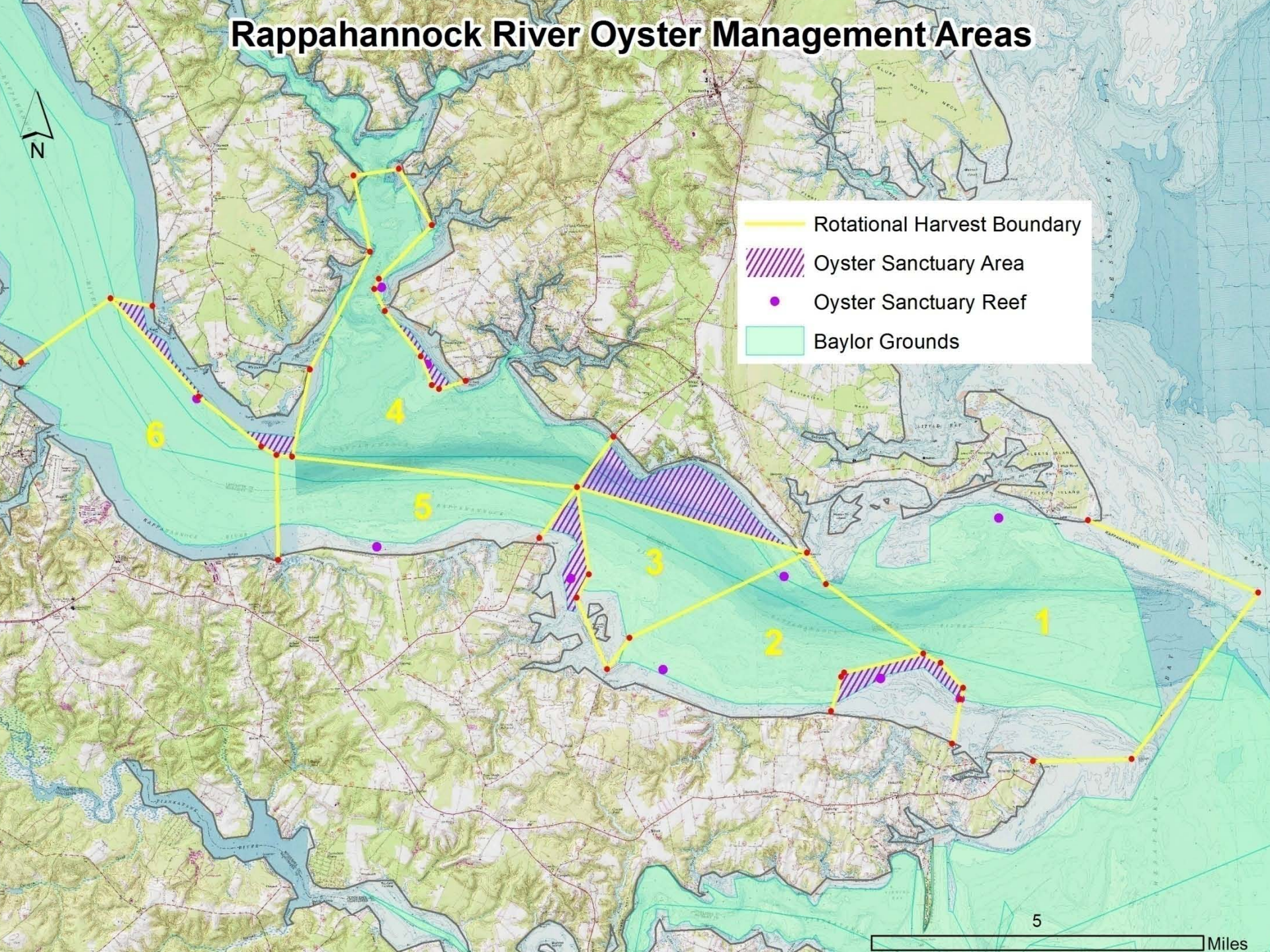


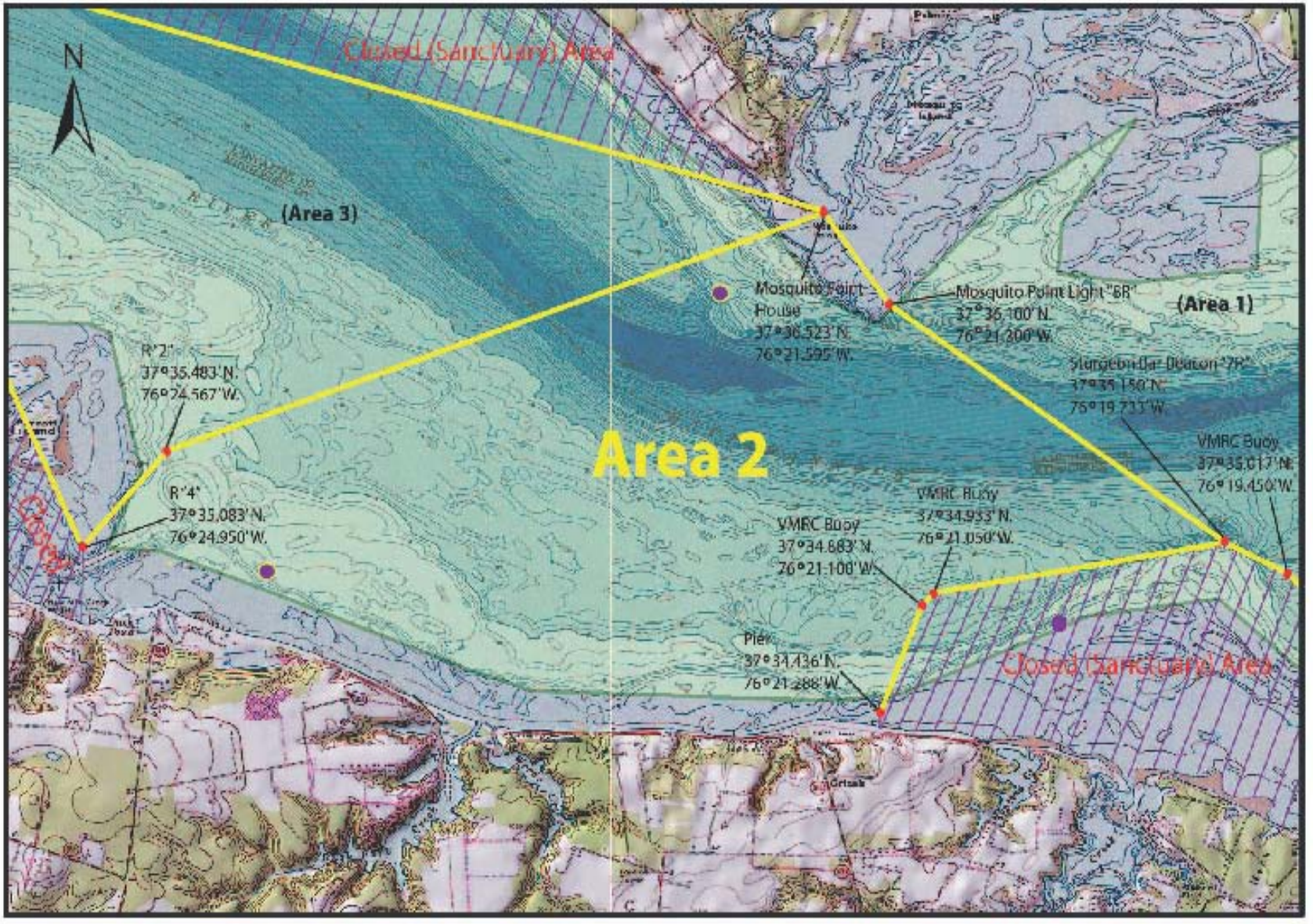
What Can We Do As Managers

Control Harvest

Replace Shells

Rappahannock River Oyster Management Areas





Rappahannock River Oyster Management Area - Rotational Harvest Area # 2

- Baylor Grounds
- Rotational Harvest Boundary
- Oyster Sanctuary Reef - CLOSED TO HARVESTING
- Oyster Sanctuary Area - CLOSED TO HARVESTING

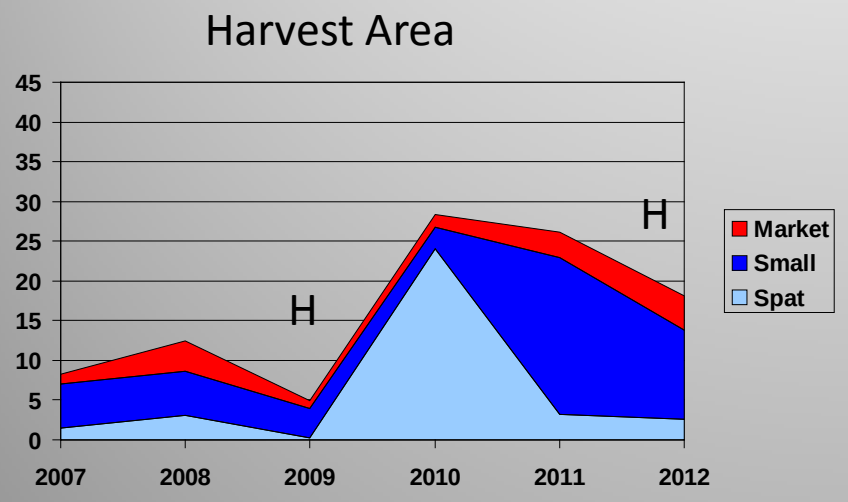
4 VAC 20-720-10 ET. SEQ.

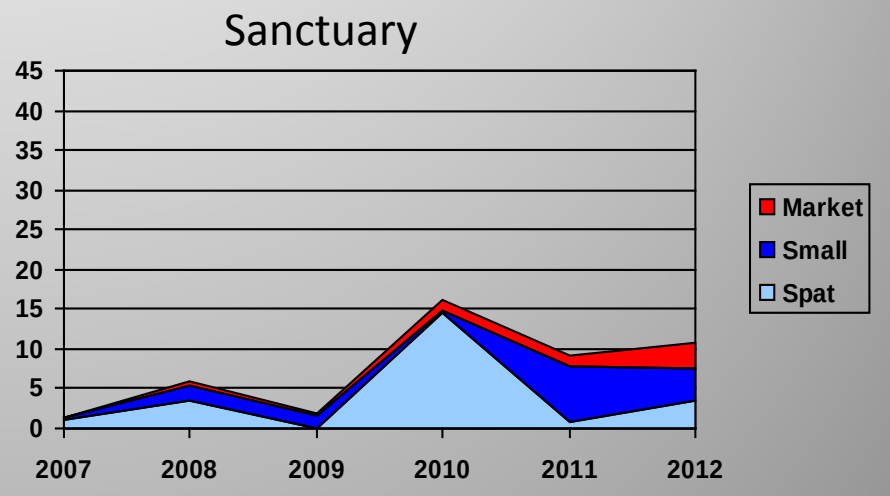
(Open in 2008)

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

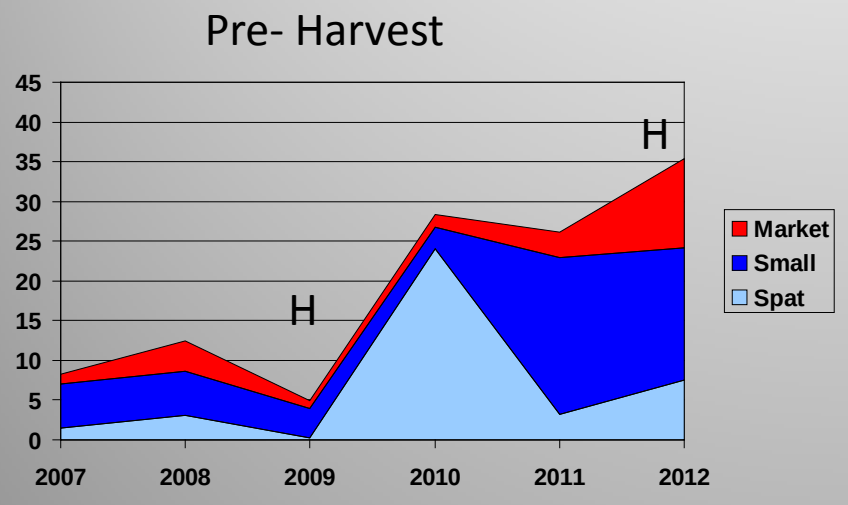
Map produced by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Office

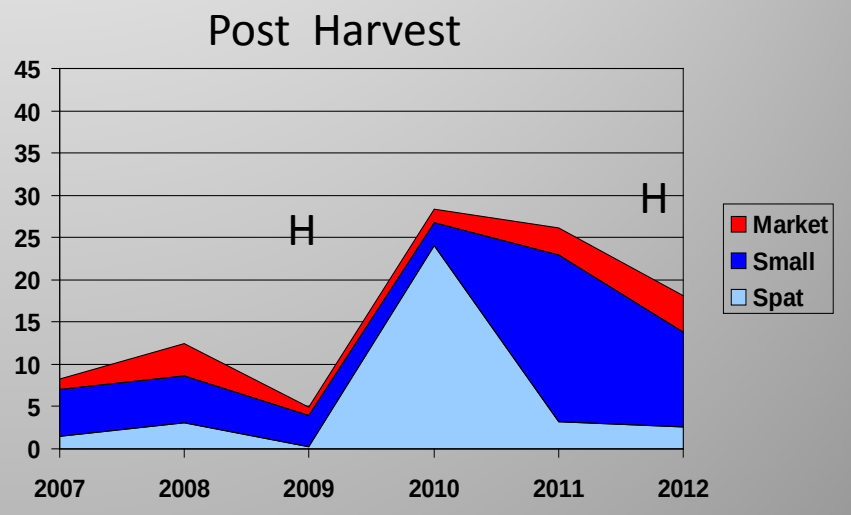
Rappahannock River
Area 5
(Oys/m)



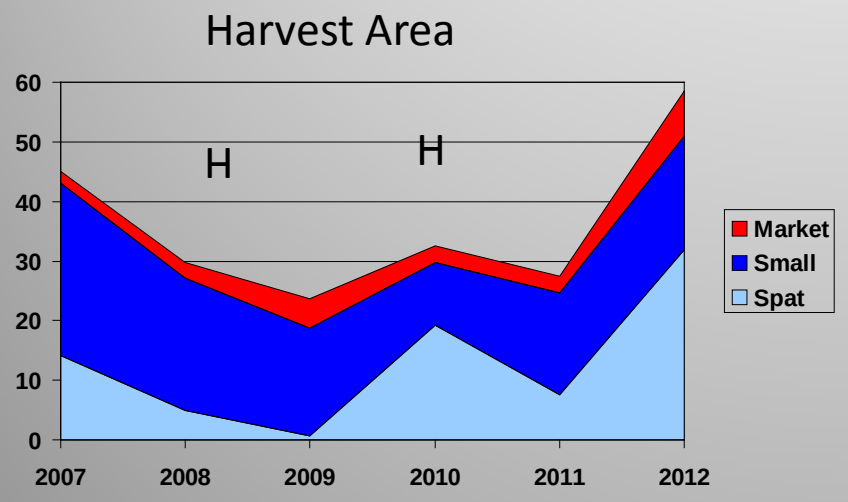


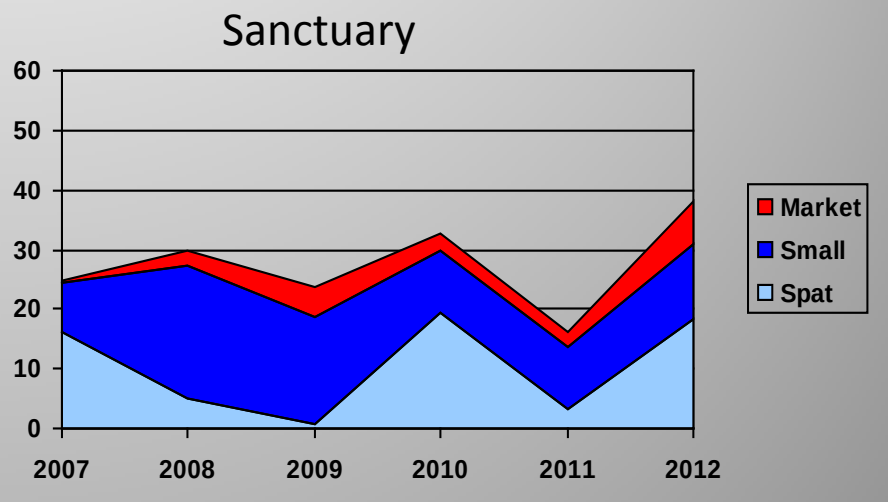
Rappahannock River
Area 5
(Oys/m)



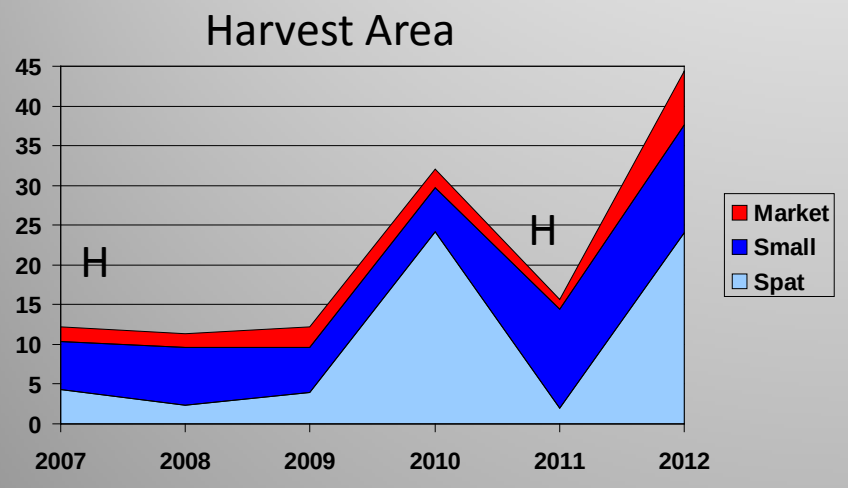


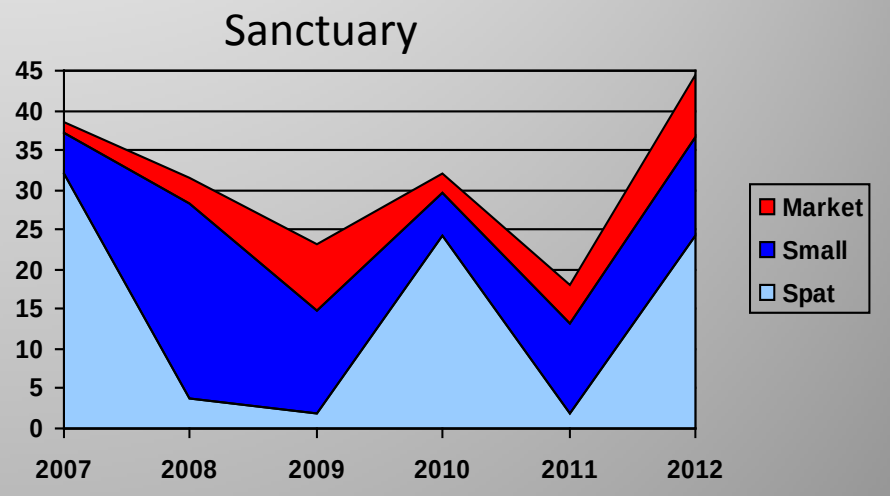
Rappahannock River
Area 4
(Oys/m)





Rappahannock River
Area 1
(Oys/m)





Public Ground Oyster Harvest

- Limited By:
  - Oyster Disease
  - Availability of Large Amounts of Cultch
  - Tragedy of the Commons

Virginia Economic Value

Current Oyster Use

500,000 bushels handled - $46M

235,000 (2010)Virginia Harvest-$22M

265,000 bushels imported- $24M which is available for the Virginia oyster industry to produce.

Public Ground Oyster Harvest

- Controlled By MRC Fisheries Management Through:
- Seasons
- Limits
- Gear Types
- Public restoration funding

Virginia Oyster Heritage Program

Rotational Harvest in the Rappahannock River