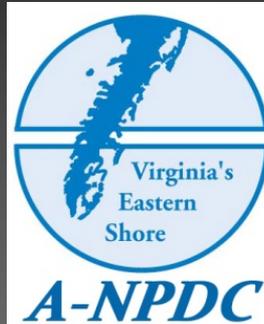


Seaside Special Area Management Plan



Curt Smith, Director of Planning
Accomack-Northampton
Planning District Commission
December 11, 2014



Seaside History

Early accounts tell of an amazing wealth of oysters



“mussels and oysters . . . lay on the ground as thick as stones.” - 1607, Captain John Percy (one of John Smith’s shipmates)

“The abundance of oysters is incredible. There are whole banks of them so that the ships must avoid them. . . . They surpass those in England by far in size, indeed they are four times as large.” - 1701, Francis Louis Michel

19th Century Prosperous

Commercial Uses

- Virginia's abundant oysters provided cheap food for increasing populations of European settlers
- In the 19th century, after the civil war, the oyster industry exploded



- Oyster populations were being decimated by dredging
- Legislation to address this issue resulted in clashes between authorities, legal watermen, and oyster pirates known as the Oyster Wars

19th Century Thriving Recreational Uses



Recreational Fishing



Hunting Lodges on Barrier Islands

T. L. COBB,
J. T. SPADY.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR

THE GRANDEST SURF-BATHING ON THE ATLANTIC COAST
BOATING, HUNTING, FISHING.
THE HUNTER'S PARADISE.

COBB'S ISLAND HOTEL,
COBB & SPADY, PROPRIETORS,
COBB'S ISLAND, NORTHAMPTON CO., VA.

TERMS: →

Per Day	\$ 2.50
Per Week	12.00
Per Month	40.00

Children under twelve years old and Servants—Half Price.



New York, NY

Philadelphia, PA

Baltimore, MD

Washington, DC

Richmond, VA

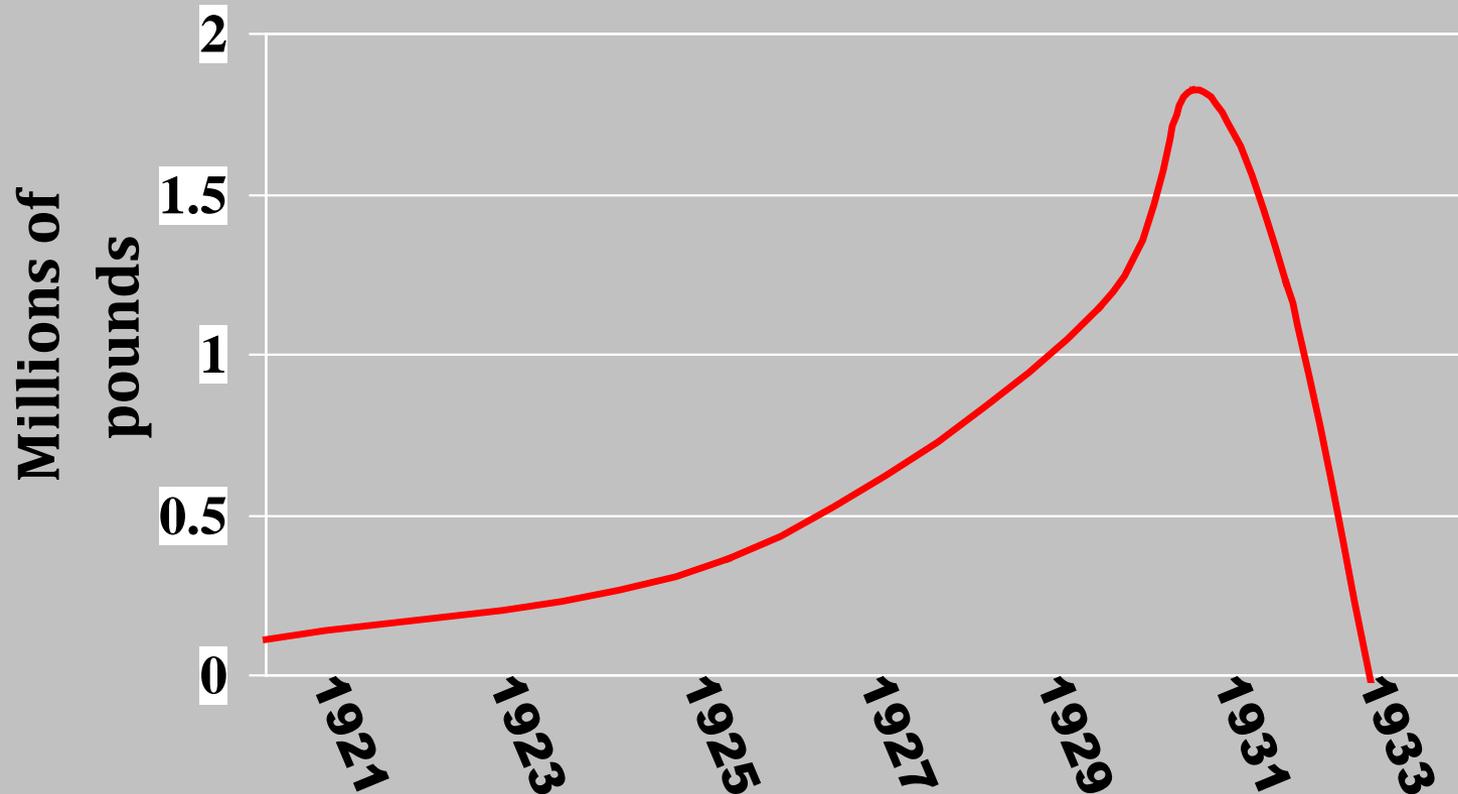
Norfolk, VA

Atlantic Ocean

The Problem:

By the 1930's, hurricanes, eelgrass disease and over-harvesting wiped out the seaside's natural resources and ecotourism.

Annual Seaside Bay Scallop Harvests 1920- 1933



The Rebirth:

1960s to Present: Land protected ensuring high water quality

- Over \$100 Million public & private funds invested
- 112,000 acres protected

1980s: Clam aquaculture launched

- Grown to over \$50 Million annual industry

1999 to 2006: Seaside Heritage Program

- \$2.7 Million CZM/NOAA investment
- Restore coastal habitats & promote sustainable economies (ecotourism & aquaculture)

2006 to 2010: Seaside SAMP Effort

2010: Eelgrass, oyster, & bay scallop restoration project

- \$2.2 Million NOAA grant

2011 to 2015: Seaside SAMP Effort



Seaside SAMP

2006-2010



FY 2007 Projects

96.01	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	<u>Estuarine Blue Infrastructure: Priority Conservation Areas for the Seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore</u>
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FY 2008 Projects

96.01	The Nature Conservancy	<u>Project Team Administration and Avian Distribution Evaluation</u>
96.02	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	<u>Spatial Information Analysis and Interpretation for Shellfish Grounds and SAV Beds</u>

FY 2009 Projects

96.01	The Nature Conservancy	<u>Project Team Administration and Habitat Distribution and Suitability Evaluation</u>
96.02	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	<u>Spatial Information Analysis and Interpretation for Shellfish Grounds and SAV Beds</u>

- *SAMP Project Team Established*
- *Priority Conservation Areas Identified*
- *Naturally-Occurring Shellfish and SAV areas mapped and suitability assessed*

Seaside SAMP

2011-2015



FY 2010 Projects		
96.01	A-NPDC	<u>Phase 3 Technical Assistance</u>
96.02	The Nature Conservancy	<u>Habitat Suitability and Evaluation Project Team Administration and Public Outreach Coordination</u>
96.03	VIMS	<u>Synthesis and Evaluation</u>
96.04	VIMS CCRM	<u>Geo-spatial Assessment of Activities Occurring on Privately Leased State-owned Bottom</u>
FY 2011 Projects		
96	A-NPDC	<u>Recreational Uses on the Seaside and Adjacent Atlantic Ocean and SAV Restoration Goals</u>
FY 2012 Projects		
96	A-NPDC	<u>Recreational & Commercial Fishing Uses on the Seaside and Adjacent Atlantic Ocean and SAV Restoration Goals</u>

- *SAMP Project Team Coordination*
- *Assessment of Activities on Privately Leased State-Owned Bottom*
- *Recreational Uses Assessed*
- *Commercial Fishing Use Assessment (underway)*

SAMP Project Team:

Members:

- VIMS
- A-NPDC
- VMRC
- Nature Conservancy
- Eastern Shorekeeper
- Private Aquaculture

Purpose:

- Map and analyze past, present and future uses and allocations of space to better understand natural productivity and habitats
- Re-evaluate these uses in light of current and projected conditions
- Recommend guidelines for the allocation of space and resources that optimizes the environmental and socio-economic benefits



*Marine Spatial
Plan*

Seaside Eastern Shore South of Chincoteague (Boundary is Wallops Flight Facility to southern tip of Chincoteague, to east end of Beach Road.)	ACRES	%
Unassigned	68,606	53.3
Baylor Grounds*	44,660	34.7
Private Leases*	15,510	12.0
Open Water	128,776	100.0
Current Eelgrass Restoration	4,643	3.6
<i>Potential Additional Eelgrass Restoration**</i>	<i>7,712</i>	<i>6.0</i>

*Baylor and Private Lease acreages exclude areas covering marsh or Atlantic Ocean.

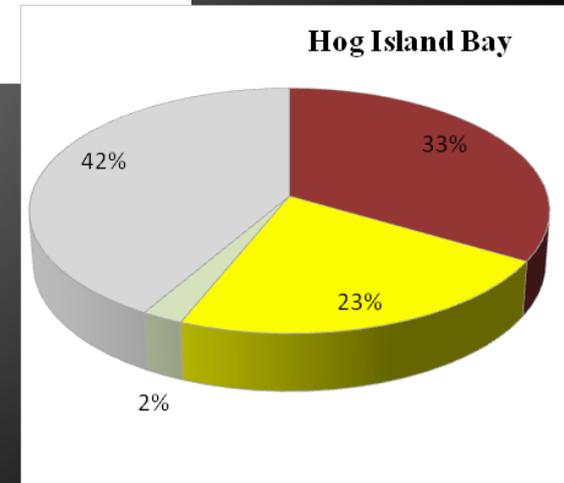
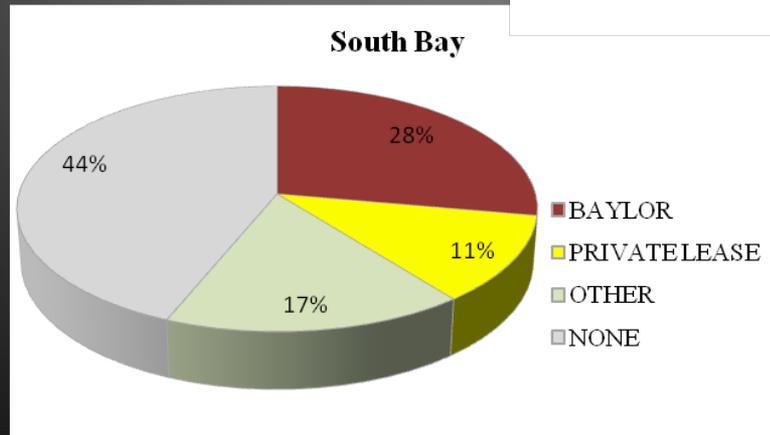
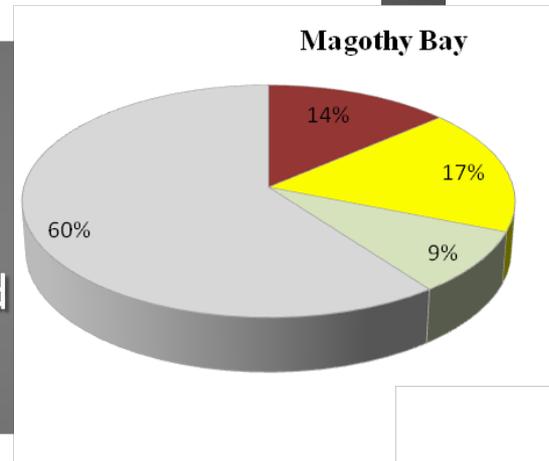
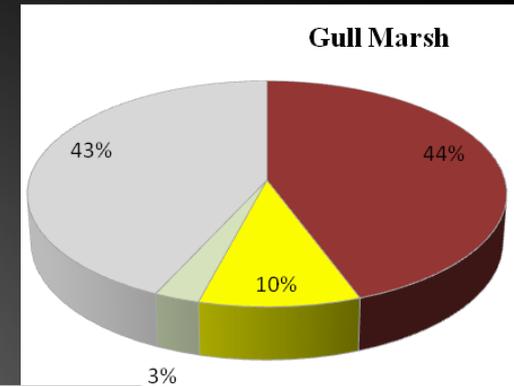
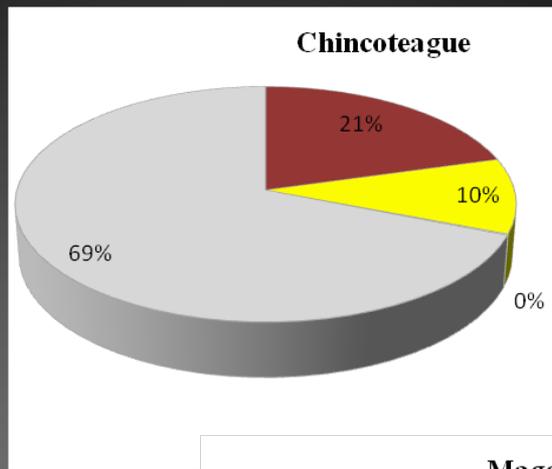
**Additional eelgrass coverage may only be possible in South Bay and/or Spidercrab Bay.

Examples

Bottomland Classifications

- Baylor Ground (red)
- Private Leases (yellow)
- Other (light green)
- None (gray)

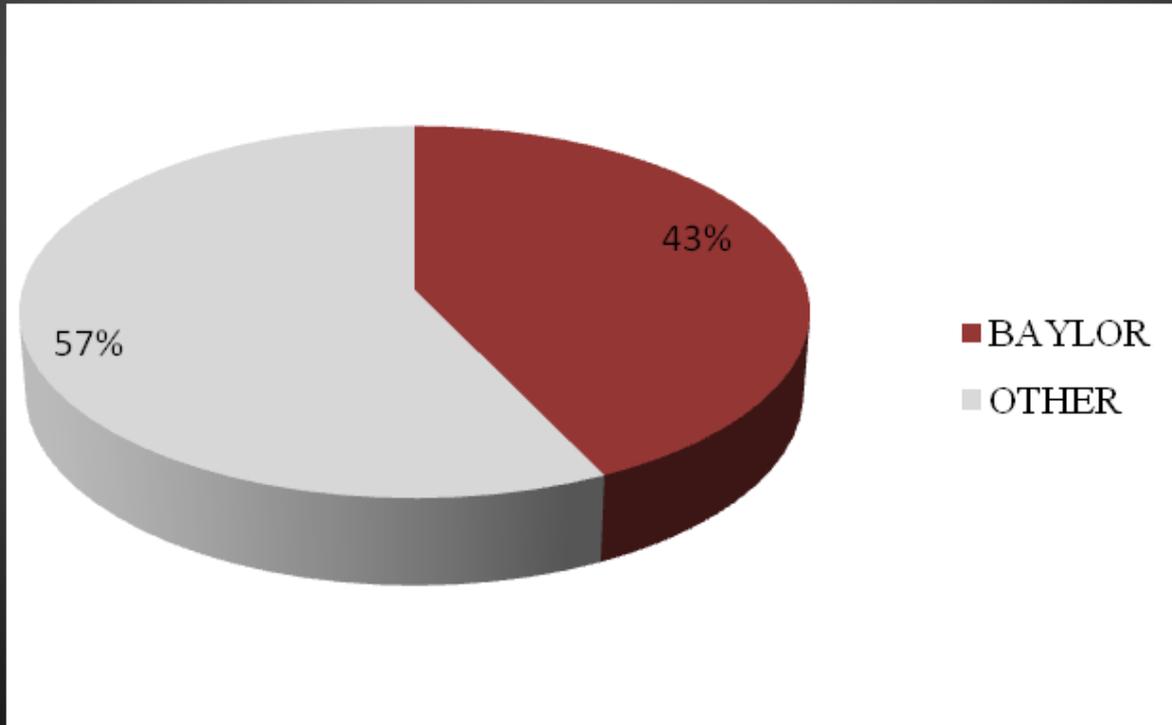
“Other” denotes either areas of reefs or SAV outside of Baylor and Private Leases, while “None” refers to either “Unassigned Bottom” or emergent marsh/uplands.



Examples

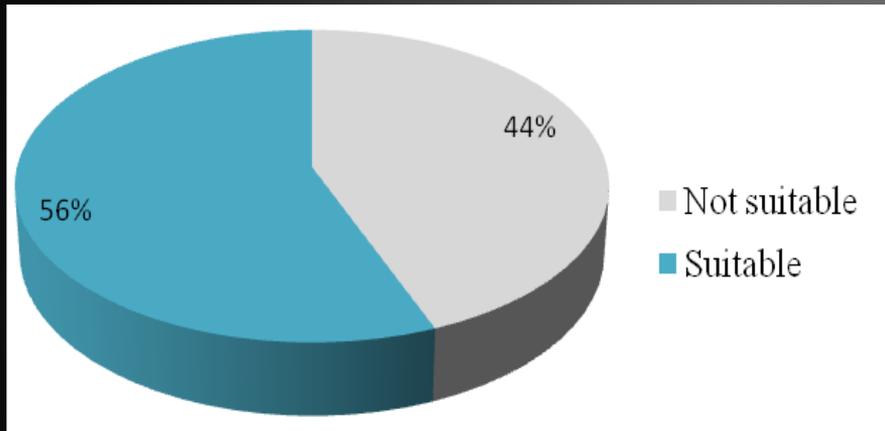
Percentage of “natural” reefs area in Baylor Ground vs. Other bottom designations.

Only 43% of natural oyster reefs are within Baylor Grounds

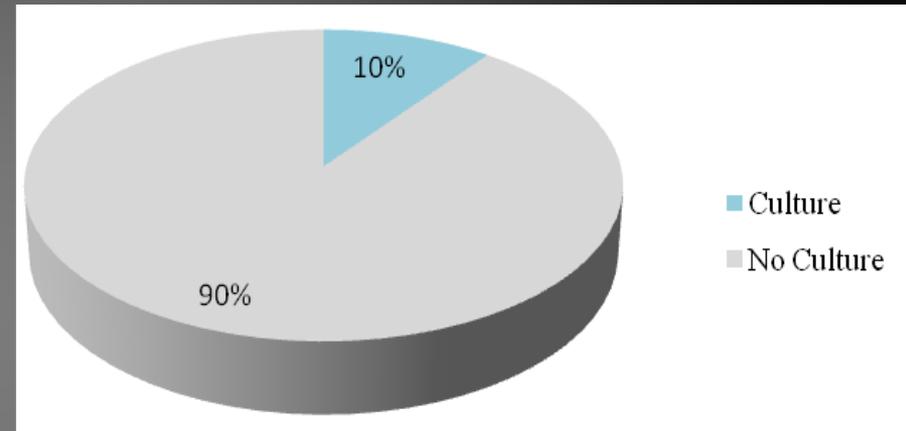


Examples

Percent of Baylor Ground with oysters or suitable for oyster restoration



Percent of Baylor Ground suitable for hard clam and oyster cultivation



The Bottom Line:

The Baylor Survey still captures some of the natural oyster beds on the seaside (and places appropriate for restoring them), but not all of them.

The majority of the remaining area is not necessarily desirable for shellfish aquaculture.

2011 SAMP Public Input Workshop

Purpose:

- Present SAMP Project Team information
- Solicit input to help guide VMRC's and state legislature's future actions
 - 2012 Virginia Study Panel to assess habitats, uses and suitabilities and report back to legislature with more flexible and efficient management approaches



Recreational Use Assessment

Purpose:

- Determine where recreational uses predominantly and generally occur
- Compiled existing data
- Create stakeholder input maps
- Engage stakeholders to review data and solicit input
- Validate maps using aerial surveys



RECREATIONAL USE ASSESSMENT REPORT – SEASIDE OF VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

SEPTEMBER 2013

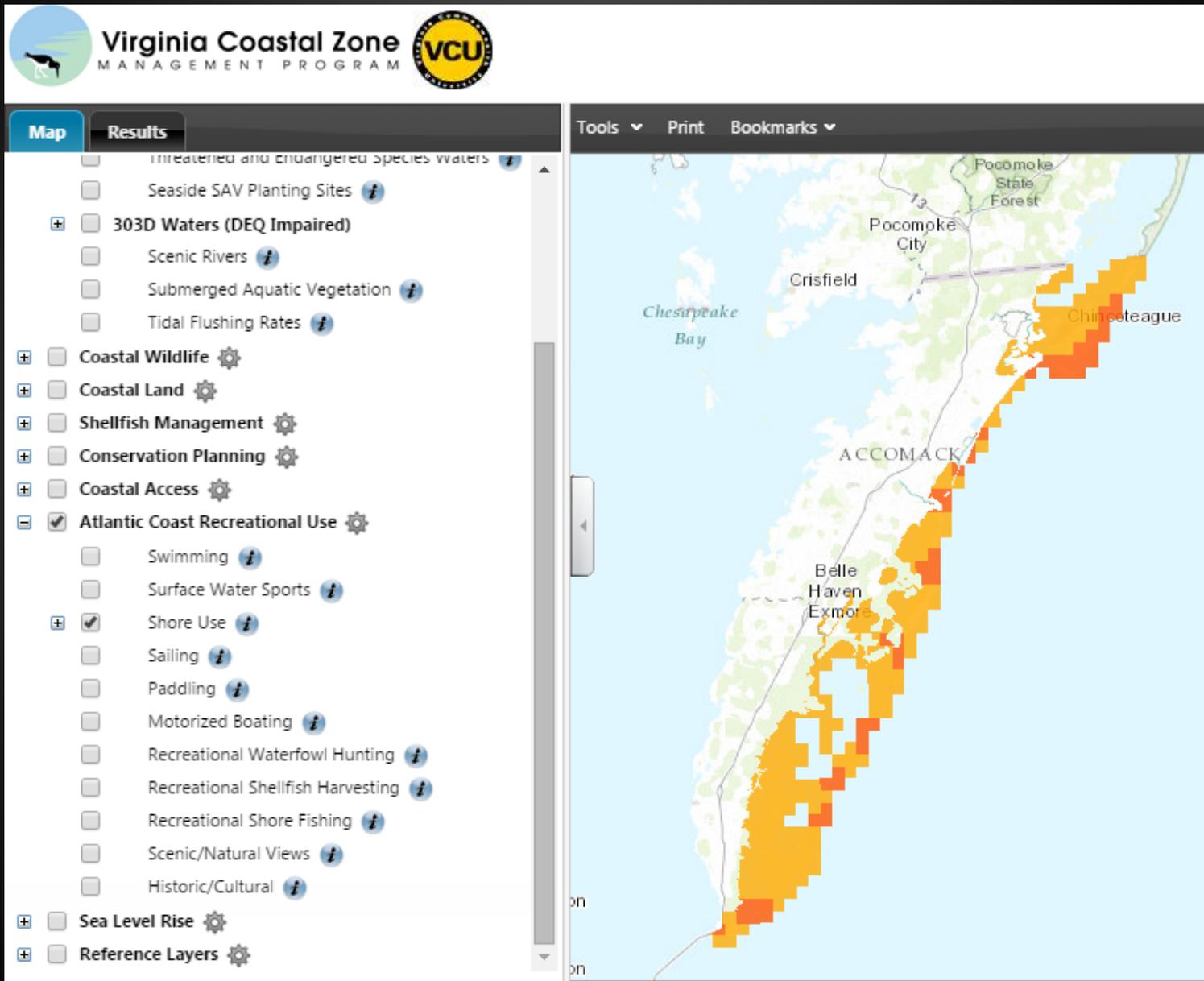
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

NOAA Grant # NA11NOS4190122

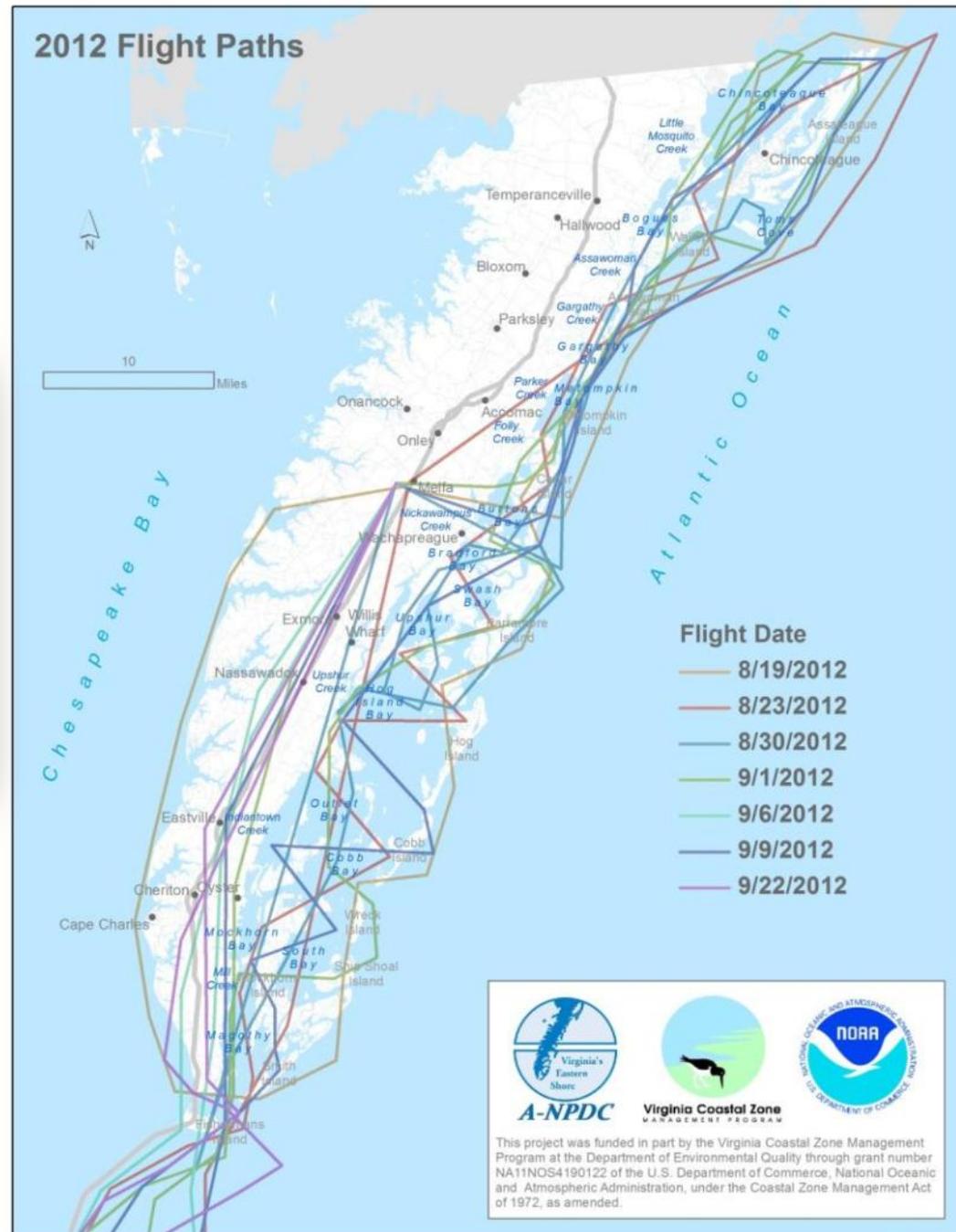
Grant Year 2011, Task 96



Recreational Use Assessment



Recreational Use Assessment

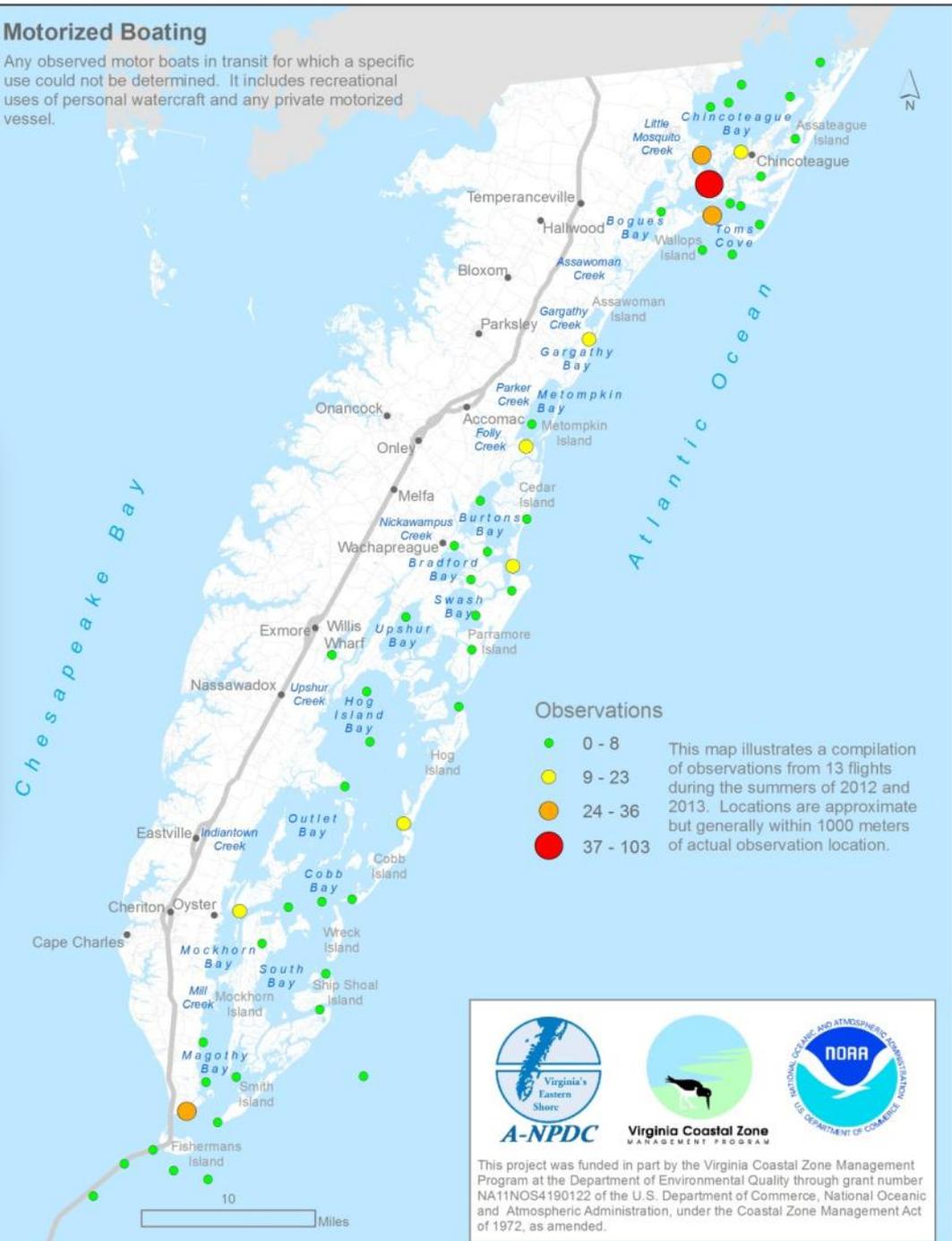


Recreational Use Assessment

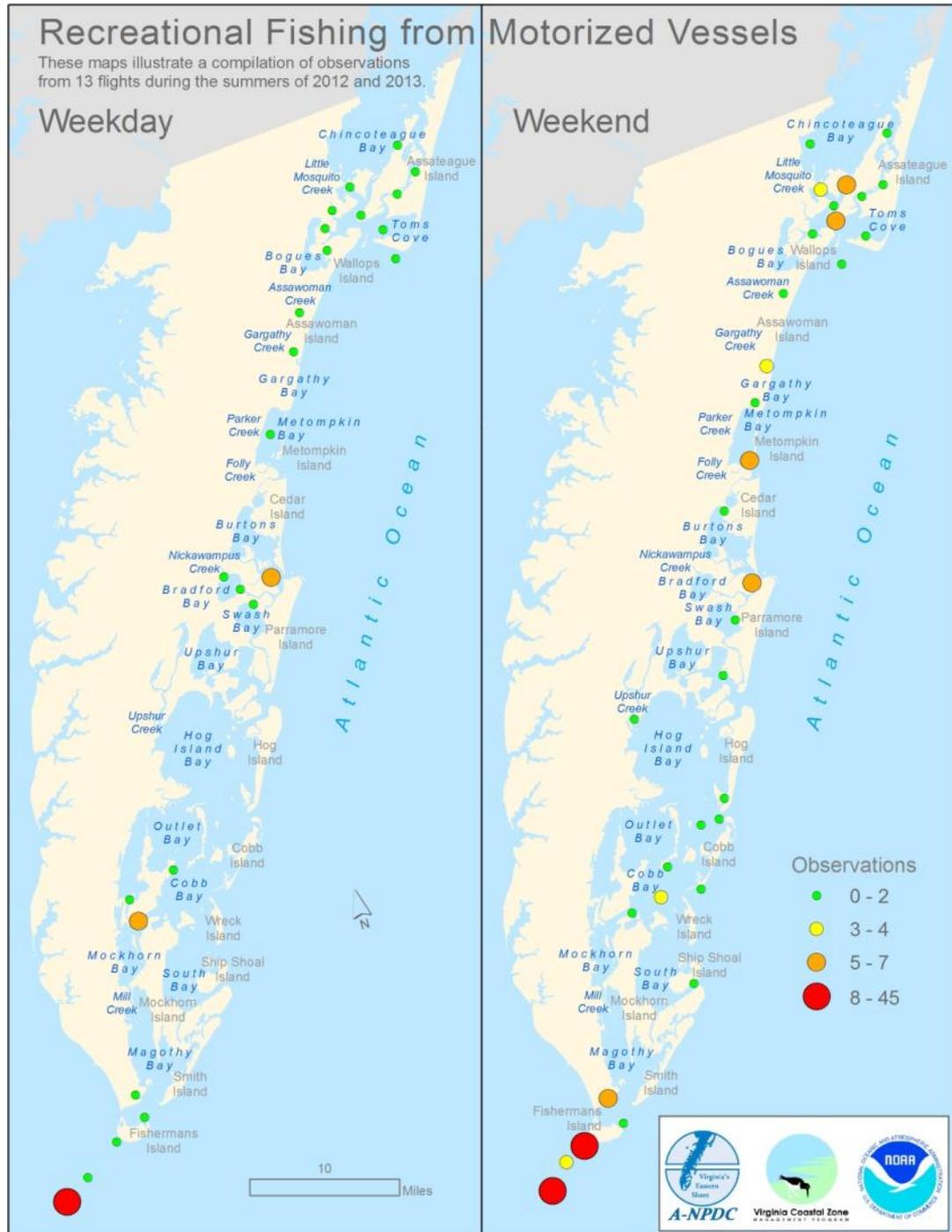


Motorized Boating

Any observed motor boats in transit for which a specific use could not be determined. It includes recreational uses of personal watercraft and any private motorized vessel.



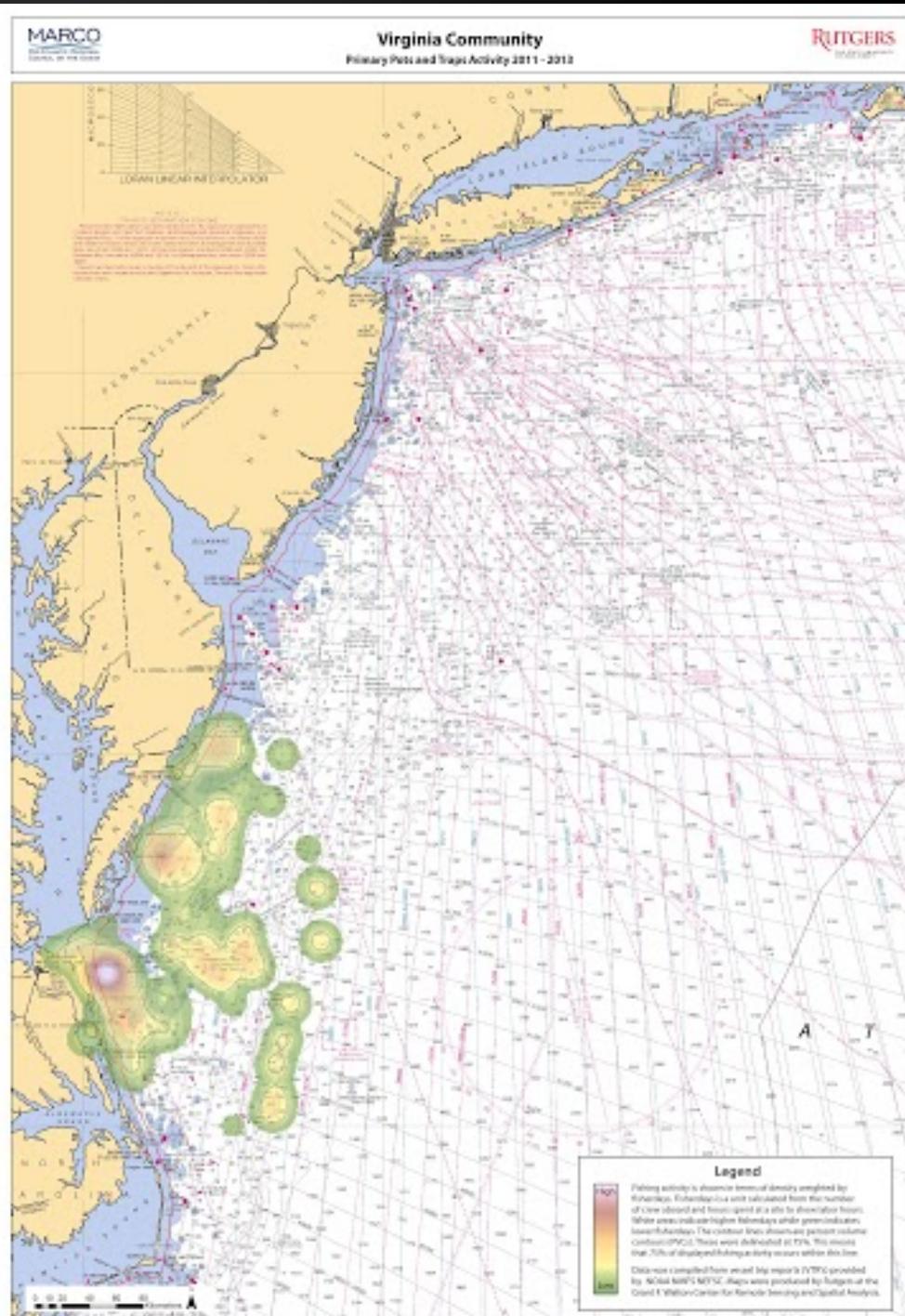
Recreational Use Assessment



Commercial Fishing Assessment

Purpose:

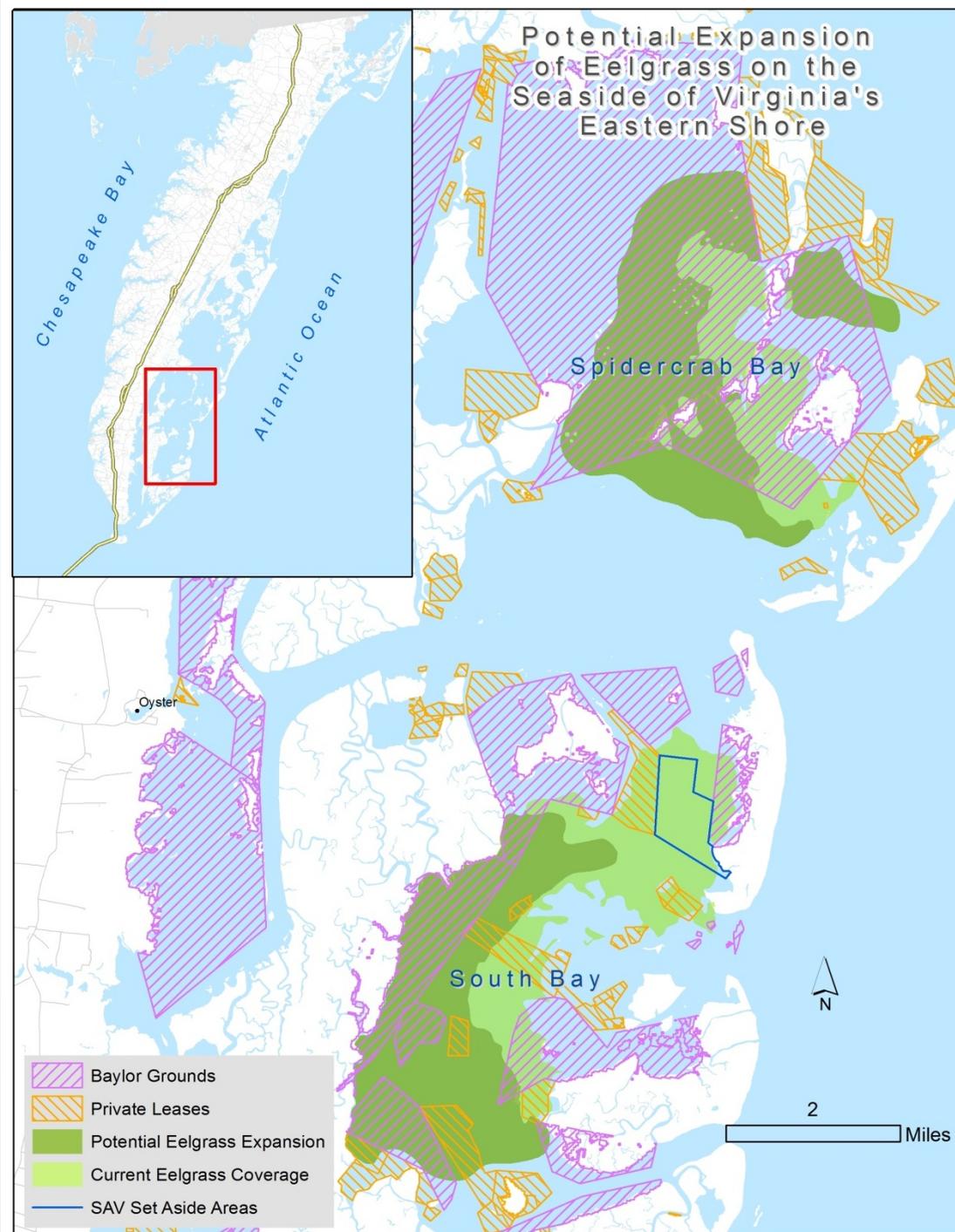
- Determine where commercial fishing occurs
- Create maps
- Engage fishermen to review data and solicit input



Eelgrass and Bay Scallop Restoration

Purpose:

- Identify areas suitable for SAV restoration that could support Bay Scallop economy that are currently not in Baylor Ground or private lease
 - Spidercrab Bay
 - South Bay
- Present to VMRC to recommend establishing SAV set-aside areas



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