

FINAL REPORT
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Seaside Heritage Program: Oyster Reef Restoration

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NOAA Grant # NA06NOS4190241, Task 10.21

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Oyster reefs were constructed along Running Channel within Public Ground No. 27 in South Bay, Northampton County. A total of 2.93 acres of fringing oyster reefs were created with 43,871 bushels of conch and dredged fossil shells using CZM funding. An additional 3.04 acres of oyster reefs were created with 59,169 bushels of dredged fossil shells using VMRC state funding. The entire 5.97 acres has been set aside and marked as oyster sanctuary areas with “No Harvest” and “Seaside Heritage Program” signage.



Figure 1: Site Map, Running Channel

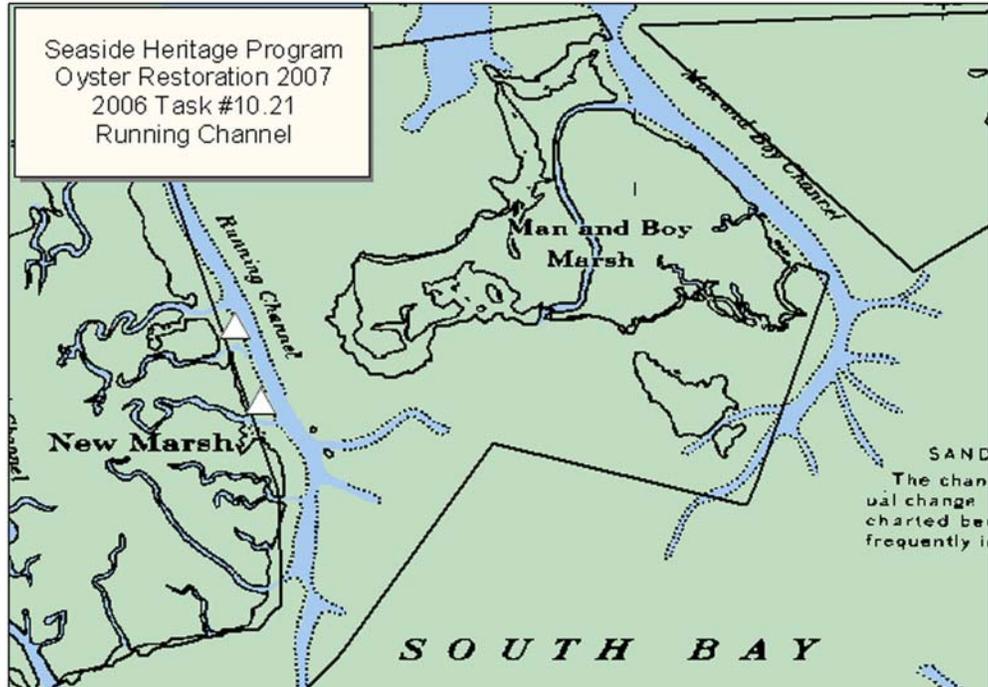


Figure 2: Site Map, Running Channel

Spatsets were excellent on all of Seaside in 2007. Spatsets averaged 1,331 spat per meter on the Running Channel reef sites.

Fifty multicolor, plastic signs were purchased which will identify the Seaside Heritage Program reef sites. These signs have been placed on all of the Seaside Heritage Program sites in Northampton and Accomack Counties.

Poaching on sanctuary reef sites continues to be a problem. New regulations to license aquaculturists and people who work on private grounds have been implemented by VMRC, and penalties for harvesting on sanctuaries have been made more severe. Along with the improved signage, these measures should moderate the poaching to some degree.



Figure 3: Running Channel with Signage



Figure 4: Running Channel



Figure 5: Running Channel



Figure 6: Running Channel



Figure 7: Running Channel

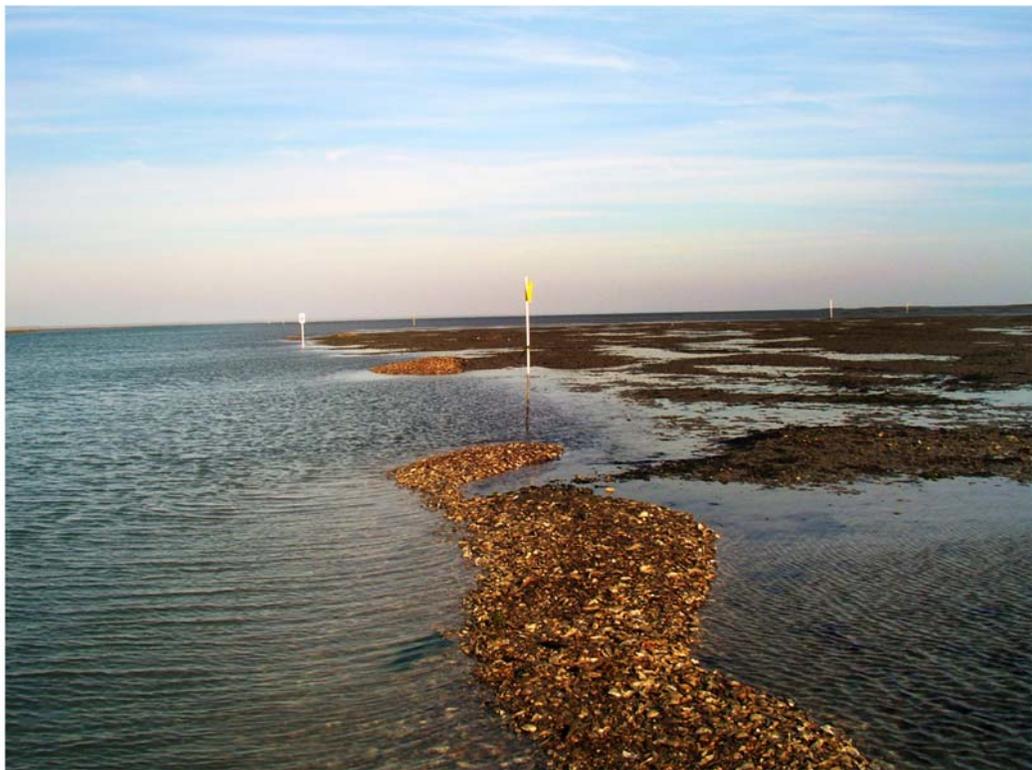


Figure 8: Running Channel