**SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION, 2/24/2026**

**DISCUSSION:**

Modification of the 2026 Oyster Replenishment and Restoration Plan (ORP).

**ISSUES:**

The Commission unanimously approved the 2026 ORP at the February Commission meeting. A significant portion of the plan, as approved, included proposals to plant between 600,000 and 800,000 bushels of shell from a variety of sources. For many decades, the largest available source of shell has been deposits in the James River, where shell is extracted by a highly specialized hydraulic dredge and sorting apparatus. Approximately 85% of the shell planted over the last several decades has come from this single source. On March 6, 2026, Commission staff received notification from the company that owns this equipment that, due to a marine incident (grounding and subsequent damage), the dredge will not be available to perform this work in 2026.

**BACKGROUND:**

Current harvest levels are dependent on continued public investment in replenishment efforts, such as shell planting, seed planting, and other substrates. Recent studies and VIMS-VMRC annual stock assessment (Patent Tong Survey) data continue to show that areas open to harvest by dredge or scrape require significantly more replenishment than areas open to less impactful harvest gears. Dredges and scrapes are currently the dominant gear types in the public oyster fishery.

Prior to the adoption of the 2026 ORP, public oyster resources were in relatively stable or good condition in most areas. Harvest reached a record high in the 2022–2023 season; however, the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 harvests saw modest declines toward a longer-term average of approximately 250,000 bushels from public oyster grounds. Preliminary estimates for the 2025–2026 season indicate a further decrease in reported harvest related to poor market conditions and reduced access to the resource to do freezing temperatures.

With the resource stable and harvest pressure depressed, the approved ORP included proposals for planting "new" locations that have received limited replenishment in recent decades. It also targeted existing harvest areas identified as most in need of replenishment by the VIMS-VMRC annual stock assessment (Patent Tong Survey). Approximately 85% of the shell required to implement the ORP was intended to come from James River deposits, which required the specialized dredge that is no longer available.

As a result of losing this shell source, the ORP must be modified to focus replenishment on the areas in greatest need. Efforts will still utilize the largest quantity of comparable shells available at the lowest per-unit price; however, the total volume of available shell will likely be considerably lower, and per-unit costs may increase in some locations. Consequently, the overall scale of the ORP, in both budget and material volume, will likely be lower than initially approved.

**Non-Federal Funding Sources and total dollar amounts available for replenishment and restoration in 2026.**

| NON-FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES | AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| General Funds Replenishment (GF) | $2,500,000 |
| General Funds Restoration (GF) | $1,500,000 |
| Non-General Funds (NGF) Oyster Resource User Fees | $300,000 |
| Other Non-General Funds | Up to $500,000 |
| Total | $4,800,000 |

**Federal Funding Sources and total dollar amounts available restoration in 2026.**

| FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES | AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| NOAA | Up to $700,000 |
| Total | $700,000 |

# 2026 OYSTER REPLENISHMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

## SEED TRANSFER:

### James River

After receiving input from the Shellfish Management Advisory Committee (SMAC), the Shellfish Management Division (SMD) has established an additional area suitable for seed removal by dredge. This follows a successful shell planting in a new location in the Jail Island area of the James River, which received a very good spat set and is now available as a "new" seed source.

Following extensive discussion with SMAC, the committee recommended, and the Commission approved, an ORP that initially limited seed transport to just one of the Potomac tributaries. Two areas in the Coan River were selected for seed transplanting, with the seed originating from the new shell plant at Jail Island. This modification to the ORP will increase proposed seed transporting and planting to levels similar to previous years.

The SMD may contract to harvest and transport seed taken from hand tong areas, the existing seed removal site in the lower James River, and the newly established Jail Island seed area. These will be moved to up to four areas that do not consistently receive high spat sets from shell planting alone. The areas suitable for planting include the Potomac River tributaries, Areas 7 and 8 in the Rappahannock River, a portion of the Pocomoke Sound, and the York River hand tong areas.

Areas planted with seed may not be opened for immediate harvest; staff will evaluate these areas prior to opening them. The cost for each bushel of seed to be harvested by dredge, transported, and planted will be at least $7.00 per bushel. Additionally, a notice to transport seed oysters from hand tong areas may be issued to solicit individuals willing to conduct this work at the offered price. The cost to harvest, transport, and plant hand tong seed shall not exceed $15.50 per bushel.

| | |
|---|---|
| Proposed Project | Up to 20,000 bushels of seed oysters $7.00-$15.50/bu. |
| Estimated Cost | $300,000 |
| Funding Sources | GF (Replenishment) |

## SHELL PLANTING:

### Bay and Tributaries:

This year's modified shell replenishment effort will focus on adding new shell to areas in the greatest need and those recently opened to public oyster harvest. The objective is to maintain a minimum shell volume, as observed in the fall survey, of 5 liters per square meter where practical, with a target goal of 10 liters per square meter or more.

Table 1 lists all areas and acreages of oyster beds that the VIMS-VMRC survey indicates are in need of shell for 2026. In total, more than 6,000 acres of bottom require replenishment based on current shell volume. However, a considerable portion of the locations most in need are in the upper James River and are not currently practical or feasible to replenish on a large scale. These areas will continue to be monitored to assess their decline.

The SMD will seek to plant the largest quantity of comparable shells for the lowest area-dependent per-unit price. This will likely involve a combination of house and dredged shells. The estimated cost ranges from $2.50 to $6.50 per bushel planted; final costs may vary depending on specific location and contract sizes.

| | |
|---|---|
| Proposed Project | 100 – 250 acres of oyster shell restoration @ 750-1,000 bushels/acre @ $3.50 - $6.50/bushel |
| Estimated Cost | $750,000-$1,500,000 |
| Funding Sources | GF |

**Eastern Shore:**

Naturally occurring shallow shell deposits are located in several areas on the Seaside of the Eastern Shore. These shells can be harvested with oyster dredges, similar to those used in the fishery but considerably larger, and have been successfully used for replenishment projects on the Eastern Shore.

Up to 30 acres of replenishment is currently planned as part of the ORP, utilizing approximately 40,000 bushels of shell. An additional 30,000 to 60,000 bushels could be harvested and planted in 2026 from this local source. Shell from this area could likely be economically planted in locations near Saxis Harbor that were previously slated for replenishment with reef or "fossil" shell. Furthermore, an additional 30,000 to 60,000 bushels could be harvested and stockpiled over the fall and winter for planting in 2027.

The estimated cost range is $2.50–$6.50 per bushel for planting and $2.00–$3.50 per bushel for harvest and stockpiling. Costs may vary depending on individual locations and contract size.

| | |
|---|---|
| Proposed Project | 60-90 acres @ 750-10,000 bushels/acre @ $2.50 - $6.50/bushel and 30-60,000 bushels stockpiled @ $2.00 - $3.50/bushel |
| Estimated Cost | Up to $700,000 |
| Funding Sources | NGF and GF (restoration) |

**<u>ALTERNATIVE CULTCH PROJECTS:</u>**

The supply of shell for restoration, replenishment, and aquaculture will be significantly limited in 2026. In most years, the demand for shell already exceeds the supply, leading to rising prices.

For over a decade, the SMD and its restoration partners have utilized alternative substrates in certain areas. Non-harvest locations have been planted with larger-sized substrates, while harvest areas have been planted with smaller-sized materials. However, not all areas are suitable for stone or concrete; the bottom must be firmer than areas typically planted with shell.

The SMD has identified several locations with suitable bottom types for alternative cultch plantings. These areas typically feature sandier bottoms and low oyster densities. VMRC holds existing Joint Permit Applications (JPAs) for several sites, including the Deep Rock area, multiple locations in the Rappahannock River, the lower James River near Nansemond Ridge, and the lower Pocomoke Sound adjacent to Onancock Rock. Only a small portion of the permitted areas will be planted at any given time. Due to shell acquisition challenges, these sites will be utilized based on resource conditions and bottom type. This year, previously permitted areas in the lower Rappahannock that were planted with stone will be utilized, and additional areas will be evaluated for future placement.

In addition to these harvest areas, VMRC, in partnership with NOAA, USACE, and various NGOs, will continue alternative cultch projects focused primarily on non-harvest restoration. Current efforts are centered in Mobjack Bay but may expand to include the Rappahannock River and the Pocomoke and Tangier Sounds. The SMD will continue to carefully select locations for alternative substrate planting to minimize potential user conflict. The intent is to create "new oyster reefs" that provide multiple benefits to adjacent areas through improved water quality, increased fish habitat, and oyster larval transport to both public and private grounds.

The estimated cost range is $50.00 to $90.00 per ton planted; costs may vary depending on specific locations and contract sizes.

| | |
|---|---|
| Proposed Project | 25-100 acres @80-250 tons/acre @ $50.00-$90.00/ton<br>Up to 100 acres @ 250-1000 tons/acre |
| Estimated Cost | $750,000-$2,000,000 |
| Funding Sources | GF Restoration and Replenishment, Federal, Non- General Fund |

**Summary of proposed projects and costs for oyster replenishment and restoration for 2026.**

| **Proposed Project** | **Estimated Cost** | **Funding Sources** |
|---|---|---|
| Seed Oysters - Up to 20,000 bushels @ $7.00-$15.00/bu. | $300,000 | NGF and GF (Replenishment) |
| 100 – 250 acres of oyster shell restoration @ 750-1,000 bushels/acre @ $3.50 - $6.50/bushel | $750,000-$1,500,000 | GF Replenishment |
| Eastern Shore Shell Planting | $700,000 | GF Restoration and TNC |
| 25-100 acres @80-250 tons/acre @ $50.00-$90.00/ton Up to 100 acres @ 250-1000 tons/acre | $750,000-$2,000,000 | GF Restoration and Replenishment and Federal |

**Attachments:**

1. Table 1 Summary of existing potential areas in need of oyster replenishment and restoration activity.
2. Table 2 List of all areas surveyed in 2025 and summary information.
3. Table 3 Summary of “new” areas for proposed restoration and replenishment projects.

| Table 1. Summary of potential areas of oyster replenishment and | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Acreage | Bushels Needed (1,000 | Cost Estimate ($4/bu) |
| Total Most in Need of Replenishment (Shell Volume less than 5L) | 3,969 | 3,969,000 | $ 15,876,000 |
| Total in Need of Replenishment (Shell volume less than 10L) | 6,639 | 6,639,000 | $ 26,556,000 |
| **Total Targeted*** | **417** | **417,000** | **$ 1,668,000** |
| *Cost based on Shell Only | | | |
| *Does not inlcude total acerage for Wreck or Offshore Jail | | | |

| COLOR LEGEND | |
|---|---|
| Most in need | Shell volume less than 5L |
| In need | Shell volume less than 10L |
| unless open to harvest | Shell volume greater than 10L |
| New Area | |

**Table 2. Areas available for oyster replenishment and restoration activity for the 2026 Oyster Replenishment Plan.**

**Notes:**

**-The cost estimate is based on average estimated price of $4 per bushel for shell**

**-These are average prices based on a range of work that has been conducted in the past, the price paid will vary depending on location and the size of the project.**

**-The average markets and Brown Shell Volume are derived from the annual VIMS/VMRC Joint oyster assessment survey.**

**-Areas are targeted based on criteria outlined in the ORP that include brown shell volume and open harvest status, this incorporates the input of SMAC and the Commission.**

| Area Name | Average Number of Markets | Average Brown Shell Volume (L) | Acreage | Minium Bushels Needed (750 bu/acre) | Maximum Bushels Needed (1,000 bu/ac) | Cost Estimate | Notes (S=Sanctuary, H=Harvest Area, O=Open Area 25/26, T=Target for 2026 planting, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **James River** | | | | | | | |
| UPPER JAIL ISLAND | 1.2 | 0.9 | 612 | 459,000 | 612,000 | $2,448,000 | H,O |
| LOWER JAIL ISLAND | 4.4 | 1.4 | 150 | 112,500 | 150,000 | $600,000 | H,O |
| OFFSHORE SWASH | 1.3 | 1.6 | 641 | 480,750 | 641,000 | $2,564,000 | H,O |
| SWASH MUD SLOUGH | 2.6 | 1.8 | 1,230 | 922,500 | 1,230,000 | $4,920,000 | H,O |
| OFFSHORE JAIL ISLAND | 5.3 | 3.5 | 1,017 | 762,750 | 1,017,000 | $4,068,000 | H,O,T |
| MULBERRY POINT | 2.3 | 4.4 | 48 | 36,000 | 48,000 | $192,000 | H,O |
| WRECK INSHORE | 11.8 | 5.7 | 585 | 438,750 | 585,000 | $2,340,000 | S,O,T |
| SWASH | 4.8 | 5.8 | 201 | 150,750 | 201,000 | $804,000 | H,O |
| DAYS POINT | 3.1 | 6.3 | 275 | 206,250 | 275,000 | $1,100,000 | H,O |
| NANSEMOND RIDGE | 9.6 | 8.4 | 100 | 75,000 | 100,000 | $400,000 | H,O |
| DOG SHOAL UPPER | 14.0 | 8.7 | 35 | 26,250 | 35,000 | $140,000 | H,O |
| LONG ROCK also Cross Rock | 8.0 | 9.4 | 41 | 30,750 | 41,000 | $164,000 | H,O |
| THOMAS ROCK UPPER | 22.0 | 9.5 | 93 | 69,750 | 93,000 | $372,000 | H,O |
| HOTEL ROCK | 6.3 | 9.8 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | H,O |
| BALLARD'S MARSH | 18.0 | 10.0 | 78 | 58,500 | 78,000 | $312,000 | H,O |
| DOG SHOAL LOWER | 21.0 | 10.6 | 35 | 26,250 | 35,000 | $140,000 | H,O |
| Upper Brown Shoal | 23.0 | 11.6 | 23 | 17,250 | 23,000 | $92,000 | H,O |
| SHANTY ROCK | 16.0 | 12.0 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | H,O |
| THOMAS ROCK LOWER | 19.4 | 12.0 | 93 | 69,750 | 93,000 | $372,000 | H,O |
| HIGH SHOAL | 16.6 | 14.0 | 44 | 33,000 | 44,000 | $176,000 | H,O |
| V-ROCK | 19.1 | 14.0 | 76 | 57,000 | 76,000 | $304,000 | H,O |
| Lower Brown Shoal | 24.1 | 14.1 | 82 | 61,500 | 82,000 | $328,000 | H,O |
| MIDDLE HORSEHEAD | 43.5 | 15.1 | 44 | 33,000 | 44,000 | $176,000 | H,O |
| DRY LUMPS | 34.0 | 15.3 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H,O |
| CRUISER'S SHOAL | 16.0 | 15.7 | 55 | 41,250 | 55,000 | $220,000 | H,O |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| POINT OF SHOALS | 40.0 | 15.8 | 155 | 116,250 | 155,000 | $620,000 | H,O |
| LOWER HORSEHEAD | 12.4 | 15.8 | 21 | 15,750 | 21,000 | $84,000 | H,O |
| LOWER DEEP WATER SHOAL | 37.5 | 16.3 | 20 | 15,000 | 20,000 | $80,000 | H,O |
| SNYDER'S ROCK | 16.0 | 16.7 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | H,O |
| UPPER DEEP WATER SHOAL | 71.9 | 16.7 | 313 | 234,750 | 313,000 | $1,252,000 | H,O |
| White Shoal | 32.6 | 17.4 | 26 | 19,500 | 26,000 | $104,000 | H,O |
| TRIANGLE ROCK | 39.3 | 18.0 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H,O |
| MOON ROCK | 23.3 | 20.0 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | H,O |
| UPPER HORSEHEAD | 36.3 | 26.3 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | H,O |

| Area Name | Average Number of Markets | Average Brown Shell Volume (L) | Acreage | Minium Bushels Needed (750 bu/acre) | Maximum Bushels Needed (1,000 bu/ac) | Cost Estimate | Notes (S=Sanctuary, H=Harvest Area, O=Open Area 25/26, T=Target for 2026 planting, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **York and Mobjack** | | | | | | | |
| Sarah's Creek 2 | 4.2 | 2.0 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | H,O |
| Tow Stake West | 2.0 | 2.0 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | H,O,T |
| Tow Stake East | 3.0 | 2.8 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H,O,T |
| Timberneck | 3.8 | 5.6 | 47 | 35,250 | 47,000 | $188,000 | H,O |
| PULTZ BAR | 11.3 | 5.8 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | H,O,T |
| Brown's Bay #1 | 12.6 | 5.9 | 83 | 62,250 | 83,000 | $332,000 | S |
| Sarah's Creek 1 | 9.2 | 6.8 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | S |
| Aberdeen Rock | 10.0 | 7.8 | 45 | 33,750 | 45,000 | $180,000 | H,O,T |
| Pages Rock | 7.4 | 9.6 | 116 | 87,000 | 116,000 | $464,000 | H,O |
| Brown's Bay #2 | 8.5 | 10.3 | 22 | 16,500 | 22,000 | $88,000 | S |
| Indian Field PG 2 | 11.8 | 10.5 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | S |
| Cheatham PG 1 | 7.5 | 12.3 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | S |

| Area Name | Average Number of Markets | Average Brown Shell Volume (L) | Acreage | Minium Bushels Needed (750 bu/acre) | Maximum Bushels Needed (1,000 bu/ac) | Cost Estimate | Notes (S=Sanctuary, H=Harvest Area, O=Open Area 25/26, T=Target for 2026 planting, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Piankatank/Deep Rock** | | | | | | | |
| DOCS VIEW | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | S |
| THOMPSONS | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | S |
| PALACE BAR B also PALACE BA | 1.7 | 1.4 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | S |
| SHIPLEYS EDGE | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | S |
| Iron Point Reef - TNC | 1.8 | 2.4 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | S |
| Fishing Point | 4.7 | 3.1 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | S |
| STOVE POINT | 5.8 | 3.8 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| Heron Rock NOAA Stone Plant | 7.5 | 4.1 | 13 | 9,750 | 13,000 | $52,000 | S |
| COBBS CREEK | 3.7 | 5.0 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | S |
| HERON ROCK | 7.4 | 6.4 | 13 | 9,750 | 13,000 | $52,000 | S |
| BLAND POINT | 5.4 | 6.6 | 11 | 8,250 | 11,000 | $44,000 | H,O |
| Bland Point NOAA Stone Plant | 6.5 | 7.8 | 11 | 8,250 | 11,000 | $44,000 | S |
| GINNEY POINT | 8.8 | 7.9 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H,O |
| Palace Bar NOAA Stone Plant | 5.7 | 8.1 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | S |
| HILLS BAY | 1.5 | 9.1 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| DEEP ROCK 4 | 16.2 | 9.1 | 8 | 6,000 | 8,000 | $32,000 | S |
| PALACE BAR also PALACE BAR | 6.6 | 9.7 | 38 | 28,500 | 38,000 | $152,000 | H |
| BURTON POINT B | 24.3 | 10.0 | 8 | 6,000 | 8,000 | $32,000 | S |
| Stove Point NOAA Stone Plant | 12.0 | 10.1 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | S |
| Ginney Point NOAA Stone Plant | 16.6 | 10.7 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | S |
| BEVERLYS 4 | 18.0 | 11.0 | 15 | 11,250 | 15,000 | $60,000 | S |
| BEVERLYS 1 | 18.0 | 11.0 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | S |
| Cape Toon NOAA Stone Plant | 13.7 | 11.2 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| CAPE TUNE | 3.8 | 11.8 | 41 | 30,750 | 41,000 | $164,000 | H,O |
| ISLAND BAR | 8.7 | 13.3 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| Island Bar NOAA Stone Plant | 14.3 | 13.7 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | S |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BURTON POINT | 10.9 | 14.7 | 39 | 29,250 | 39,000 | $156,000 | H,O |
| THREE BRANCHES | 25.0 | 16.0 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | H |
| Burton Point NOAA Stone Plant | 22.3 | 17.8 | 16 | 12,000 | 16,000 | $64,000 | H |
| DEEP ROCK | 34.0 | 18.0 | 38 | 28,500 | 38,000 | $152,000 | S |
| MILFORD HAVEN | 50.0 | 18.7 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | H |
| BEVERLYS 2 | 35.0 | 19.8 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H |
| BEVERLYS 3 | 52.0 | 21.3 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H |
| | | | | | | | |
| **Area Name** | **Average Number of Markets** | **Average Brown Shell Volume (L)** | **Acreage** | **Minium Bushels Needed (750 bu/acre)** | **Maximum Bushels Needed (1,000 bu/ac)** | **Cost Estimate** | **Notes (S=Sanctuary, H=Harvest Area, O=Open Area 25/26, T=Target for 2026 planting,** |
| **Rappahannock River** | | | | | | | |
| Drumming Ground sanctuary 2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | S,T |
| Larson's Upper sanctuary | 7.5 | 3.8 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $32,000 | S,T |
| Corrotoman sanctuary | 13.3 | 5.3 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $72,000 | S,T |
| Temple Bay 2 (S.P. 136) | 8.5 | 5.5 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H |
| Mill Creek sanctuary | 18.5 | 5.9 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | S,T |
| Mosquito Island | 19.3 | 6.2 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $16,000 | H |
| Bush Park | 10.0 | 6.3 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H,O,T |
| Parrot Rock sanctuary | 12.0 | 6.7 | 10 | 7,500 | 10,000 | $40,000 | H |
| Larsons Bay | 10.7 | 7.0 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | S |
| Corrotoman Point C-2 | 11.6 | 7.2 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | H,O,T |
| Temple Bay sanctuary | 13.7 | 7.7 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | S |
| Middle Ground | 11.4 | 7.8 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | H,O,T |
| Little Wicks A | 6.7 | 8.3 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H,O |
| Butler's Hole West | 11.0 | 8.6 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H |
| Sturgeon Bar East (S.P. 551) | 19.8 | 8.8 | 11 | 8,250 | 11,000 | $44,000 | H,O,T |
| Punch Bowl | 13.0 | 8.9 | 45 | 33,750 | 45,000 | $180,000 | H,O |
| Parrot's Rock West | 14.0 | 9.0 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | H |
| Parrot's Rock East | 17.0 | 9.2 | 11 | 8,250 | 11,000 | $44,000 | H,O |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Broad Creek | 10.0 | 9.3 | 16 | 12,000 | 16,000 | $64,000 | H |
| Larson's Lower sanctuary | 22.7 | 9.3 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | HS |
| North End S.P. 553 | 16.8 | 9.3 | 10 | 7,500 | 10,000 | $40,000 | H |
| MORATTICO BAR | 19.0 | 9.5 | 121 | 90,750 | 121,000 | $484,000 | H,O |
| Sturgeon Bar West (S.P. 552) | 17.7 | 9.7 | 8 | 6,000 | 8,000 | $32,000 | H,O,T |
| Little Wicks B | 15.8 | 9.8 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H,O |
| Bush Park 2018 (Stone) | 8.9 | 10.0 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H |
| Temple Bay 4 | 13.3 | 10.0 | 12 | 9,000 | 12,000 | $48,000 | H |
| Corrotoman Point C-1 | 14.0 | 10.2 | 8 | 6,000 | 8,000 | $32,000 | H,O,T |
| Drumming Ground Inshore | 18.5 | 11.0 | 29 | 21,750 | 29,000 | $116,000 | H,O,T |
| Broad Creek Inshore | 16.3 | 11.1 | 8 | 6,000 | 8,000 | $32,000 | H |
| Corrotoman Point C-3 | 16.2 | 11.4 | 10 | 7,500 | 10,000 | $40,000 | H,O,T |
| STOVE POINT | 25.5 | 11.5 | 30 | 22,500 | 30,000 | $120,000 | H,O |
| Lower Edge Broad Creek Middle | 9.8 | 11.8 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | H |
| Butler's Hole gravel plant | 13.2 | 12.0 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | H |
| Temple Bay 3 | 14.5 | 12.0 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | H |
| Spike | 18.0 | 12.2 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H |
| Whiting Creek | 21.3 | 12.8 | 13 | 9,750 | 13,000 | $52,000 | H |
| Butler's Hole East | 17.4 | 13.0 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H |
| Smokey Point | 28.4 | 13.0 | 26 | 19,500 | 26,000 | $104,000 | H,O |
| Monaskin Bluff | 19.8 | 13.3 | 162 | 121,500 | 162,000 | $648,000 | H,O |
| Drumming Ground sanctuary 1 | 24.8 | 13.5 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | S |
| Big Wicks B | 32.3 | 13.8 | 24 | 18,000 | 24,000 | $96,000 | H,O |
| Temple Bay 1 (S.P. 138) | 23.0 | 13.8 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H |
| Big Wicks C | 24.8 | 14.0 | 24 | 18,000 | 24,000 | $96,000 | H,O |
| Ferry Rock | 30.3 | 14.3 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H,O,T |
| Lower Edge Broad Creek East | 19.9 | 14.3 | 18 | 13,500 | 18,000 | $72,000 | H |
| Drumming Ground Offshore Ad | 41.4 | 14.6 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H,O |
| Hog House Offshore | 30.5 | 15.0 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H |
| Spike A | 31.0 | 15.0 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | H |
| Spike B offshore | 17.0 | 15.0 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H |
| Waterview B | 33.5 | 15.0 | 20 | 15,000 | 20,000 | $80,000 | H,O |
| Waterview C | 36.8 | 15.0 | 20 | 15,000 | 20,000 | $80,000 | H,O |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drumming Ground Offshore | 36.8 | 15.1 | 28 | 21,000 | 28,000 | $112,000 | H,O |
| Temple Bay 5 | 23.3 | 15.5 | 18 | 13,500 | 18,000 | $72,000 | H |
| Lower Sturgeon sanctuary | 39.0 | 15.7 | 1 | 750 | 1,000 | $4,000 | S |
| Lower Edge Broad Creek West | 26.1 | 15.8 | 22 | 16,500 | 22,000 | $264,000 | H |
| Upper Sturgeon sanctuary | 30.0 | 16.0 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $60,000 | S |
| Broad Creek sanctuary | 33.3 | 16.8 | 8 | 6,000 | 8,000 | $32,000 | S |
| Whitehouse West | 31.6 | 17.6 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | S |
| Whitehouse East | 48.8 | 18.4 | 13 | 9,750 | 13,000 | $52,000 | S |
| Butler's Hole sanctuary | 62.0 | 23.0 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | S |
| Hog House Inshore | 70.5 | 26.8 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H |
| **Area Name** | **Average Number of Markets** | **Average Brown Shell Volume (L)** | **Acreage** | **Minium Bushels Needed (750 bu/acre)** | **Maximum Bushels Needed (1,000 bu/ac)** | **Cost Estimate** | **Notes (S=Sanctuary, H=Harvest Area, O=Open Area 25/26, T=Target for 2026 planting,** |
| **Great Wicomico/Black Berry** | | | | | | | |
| VMRC 12/GW Corps 17 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | S |
| Mill Creek East | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2 | 1,500 | 2,000 | $8,000 | H,O |
| VMRC 10/GW Corps 12, 13 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| VMRC 15/GW Corps 21 | 4.8 | 2.1 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | S |
| VMRC 9/GW Corps 10 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | S |
| VMRC 8/GW Corps 9 | 4.4 | 2.3 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | S |
| ROGUE POINT | 4.0 | 4.5 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | S |
| VMRC 11/GW Corps 14,15 & 16 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | S |
| Cockrell Creek Expansion Ston | 11.5 | 4.8 | 10 | 7,500 | 10,000 | $40,000 | S |
| SHELL BAR | 9.3 | 6.5 | 18 | 13,500 | 18,000 | $72,000 | H |
| VMRC 4/GW Corps 5 | 6.0 | 7.1 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | S |
| Rogue Point Expansion Stone 2 | 17.5 | 7.2 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| HARCUM FLATS | 12.0 | 7.3 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | S |
| Dameron Marsh East | 17.0 | 8.0 | 15 | 11,250 | 15,000 | $60,000 | H,O |
| HAYNIE POINT | 9.6 | 8.2 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| HILLY WASH | 18.0 | 8.5 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | S |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SANDY POINT | 12.4 | 8.7 | 12 | 9,000 | 12,000 | $48,000 | H |
| FLEET POINT | 22.2 | 9.0 | 15 | 11,250 | 15,000 | $60,000 | H,O |
| VMRC 1/GW Corps 1&2 | 13.0 | 9.8 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | S |
| Cockrell Creek | 30.0 | 11.7 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H,O |
| INGRAM'S Bay North | 16.6 | 11.8 | 22 | 16,500 | 22,000 | $88,000 | H,O |
| VMRC 16/GW Corps 22, 23 & 2 | 14.8 | 11.8 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | S |
| VMRC 13/GW Corps 18 & 19 | 9.5 | 12.0 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | S |
| VMRC 3/GW Corps 4 | 21.7 | 13.0 | 3 | 2,250 | 3,000 | $12,000 | S |
| CRANES CREEK also WHALEYS | 22.0 | 14.0 | 13 | 9,750 | 13,000 | $52,000 | H,O |
| INGRAM'S Bay South | 18.0 | 14.0 | 15 | 11,250 | 15,000 | $60,000 | H,O |
| BLACKBERRY HANG | 36.3 | 14.8 | 11 | 8,250 | 11,000 | $44,000 | H,O |
| Back Yard Stone 2021 | 8.3 | 14.8 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| Shell Creek Expansion Stone 2( | 13.3 | 15.1 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |

| Area Name | Average Number of Markets | Average Brown Shell Volume (L) | Acreage | Minium Bushels Needed (750 bu/acre) | Maximum Bushels Needed (1,000 bu/ac) | Cost Estimate | Notes (S=Sanctuary, H=Harvest Area, O=Open Area 25/26, T=Target for 2026 planting, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tangier/Pocomoke** | | | | | | | |
| Public Ground #10 H-2 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 21 | 15,750 | 21,000 | $84,000 | H,O,T |
| Public Ground #10 H-1 | 6.3 | 4.0 | 70 | 52,500 | 70,000 | $280,000 | H,O,T |
| PG13 H-5 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 19 | 14,250 | 19,000 | $76,000 | H |
| Public Ground 11-1 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 37 | 27,750 | 37,000 | $24,000 | H |
| PG17 Parker's Rock A | 4.2 | 5.0 | 34 | 25,500 | 34,000 | $136,000 | H,O |
| PG13 H-3 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 24 | 18,000 | 24,000 | $96,000 | H |
| PG08-H3 California Rock | 6.5 | 6.5 | 24 | 18,000 | 24,000 | $96,000 | H |
| PG13 H-2 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 40 | 30,000 | 40,000 | $160,000 | H |
| Public Ground #9 H-1 | 12.8 | 6.8 | 21 | 15,750 | 21,000 | $24,000 | H,O |
| Upper Dogfish | 6.5 | 6.8 | 24 | 18,000 | 24,000 | $96,000 | H |
| PG07 H-3 Thoroughfare | 13.0 | 7.0 | 26 | 19,500 | 26,000 | $104,000 | H,O |
| PG07 H-5 Thoroughfare | 13.5 | 7.0 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | H,O |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PG04 Johnson's Rock | 13.3 | 7.7 | 41 | 30,750 | 41,000 | $164,000 | H,O |
| Cod Harbour | 26.8 | 8.0 | 5 | 3,750 | 5,000 | $20,000 | S |
| PG08-H1 California Rock | 24.8 | 8.0 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | H |
| PG08-H2 California Rock | 9.5 | 8.0 | 9 | 6,750 | 9,000 | $36,000 | H |
| PG07 H-2 Thoroughfare | 22.0 | 8.4 | 15 | 11,250 | 15,000 | $104,000 | H,O |
| Public Ground #9 H-2 | 19.0 | 8.5 | 32 | 24,000 | 32,000 | $128,000 | H,O |
| Island Rock | 22.4 | 8.9 | 48 | 36,000 | 48,000 | $192,000 | H,O |
| Lower Dogfish | 1.7 | 9.0 | 51 | 38,250 | 51,000 | $204,000 | H |
| PG01 Hurley's | 21.3 | 9.0 | 7 | 5,250 | 7,000 | $28,000 | H,O |
| PG05 H-1 Fox Island Rock | 27.3 | 9.0 | 6 | 4,500 | 6,000 | $24,000 | H,O |
| PG08-H4 California Rock | 27.2 | 9.6 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H |
| PG07 H-1 Thoroughfare | 27.4 | 10.0 | 14 | 10,500 | 14,000 | $56,000 | H,O |
| PG13 H-1 | 13.1 | 10.0 | 31 | 23,250 | 31,000 | $124,000 | H |
| Byrd Rock | 6.8 | 10.5 | 13 | 9,750 | 13,000 | $52,000 | H,O |
| PG18 Onancock Rock A | 15.0 | 10.8 | 10 | 7,500 | 10,000 | $40,000 | H,O |
| PG07 H-4 Thoroughfare | 30.3 | 12.7 | 4 | 3,000 | 4,000 | $16,000 | H,O |

**Table 3. Additional areas with planned replenishment and restoration activity for the 2026 Oyster Replenishment Plan.**

Note:
These are new areas that are not currently surveyed as part of the VIMS/VMRC survey.
The size is estimated based on past work. Adjustments may be made in the field by Division staff

| Area Name | Acreage | Cost Estimate | Funding Source (GF = General Funds, NGF =Non General Funds, F =Federal) | Substrate Type (SH=Shell, A= Alternative Substrate/ Rocks, SD =Seed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Upper Rappahannock | up tp 80 | $ 320,000.00 | GF | SH |
| Eastern Shore Seaside | ~15 | $ 200,000.00 | NGF/GF | SH |
| Eastern Shore Bayside | ~15 | $ 225,000.00 | NGF/GF | SH |
| Mobjack Bay | ~20 | $ 750,000.00 | F/GF | A |
| Pocomoke | ~40 | $ 160,000.00 | GF | SH |
| Black Berry Hangs | ~10 | $ 24,000.00 | GF/NGF | SH |