

Natural capital and ecosystem service valuation as tools to guide restoration and climate adaptation in the Delaware Estuary



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Science Director
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary



To be discussed

The Delaware Estuary

brief orientation

Making our efforts count:

why are NCV & ESV tools needed?

Example: Regional Restoration

goals & approach

restoration matrices

NCV & ESV framework

case studies

Other Applications

climate adaptation

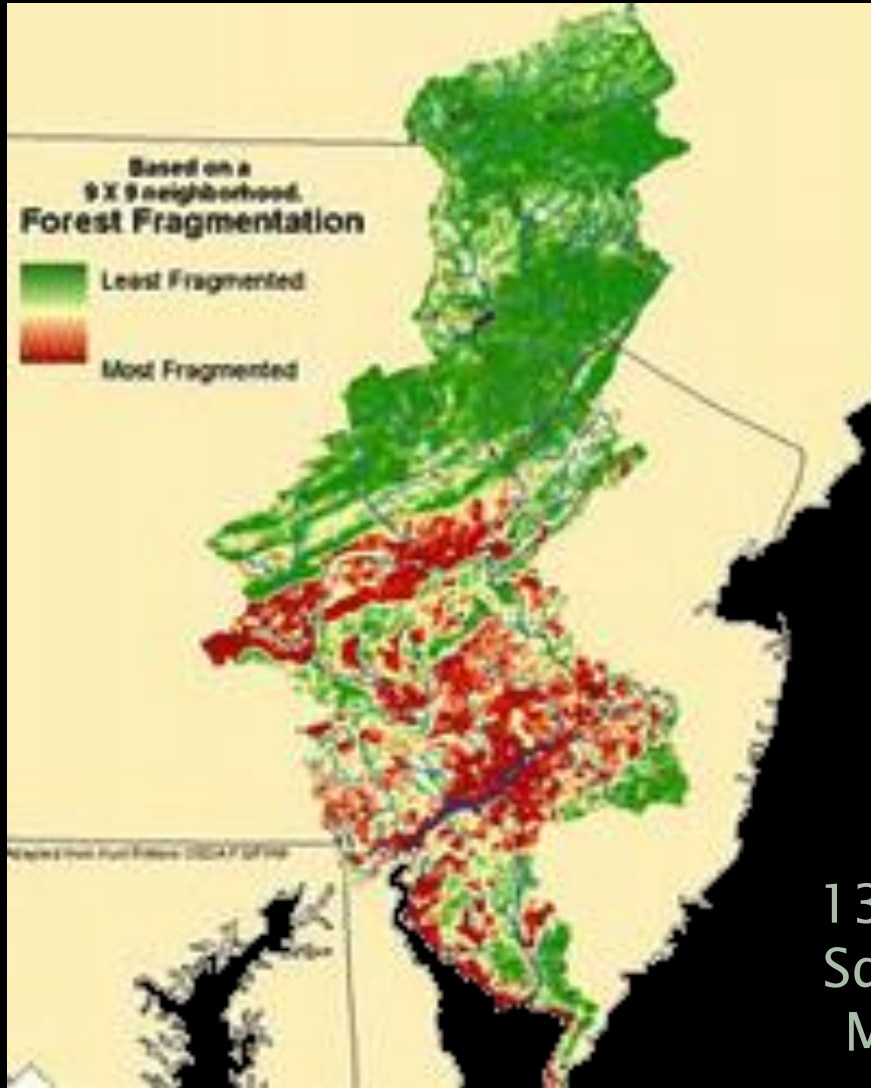
ecological inventories

on the ground projects

Caveat – An Ecological Manhattan Project?



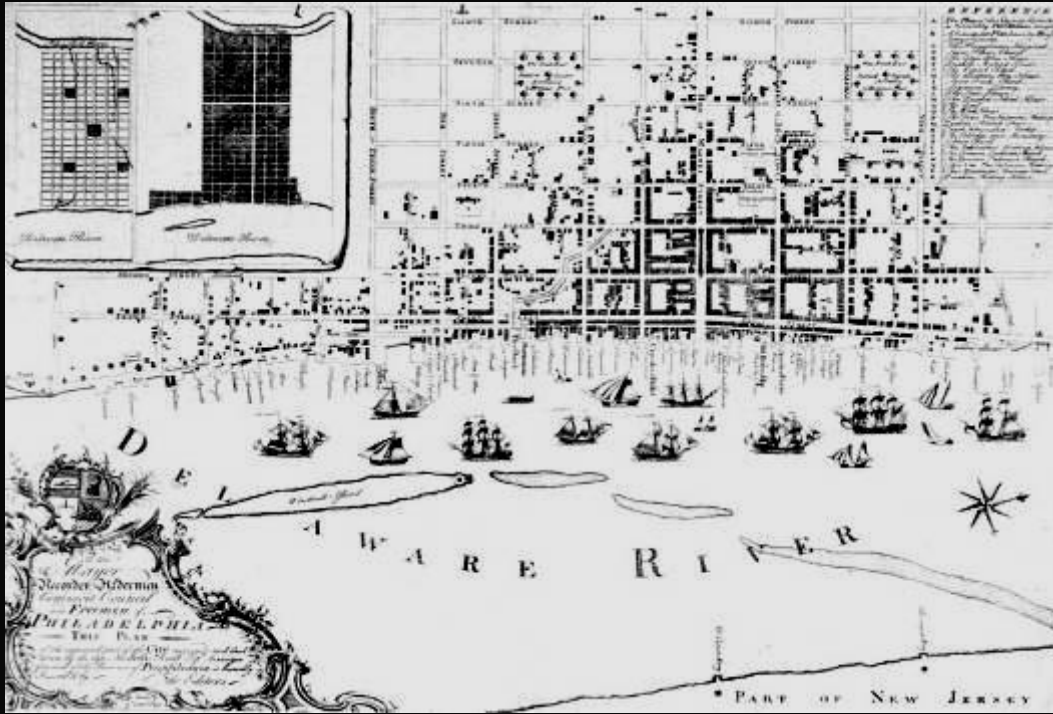
The Watershed



13,611
Square
Miles



History as a “Working River”



1762 map showing Philadelphia on the Delaware River



The Philadelphia Waterfront in the 1850's

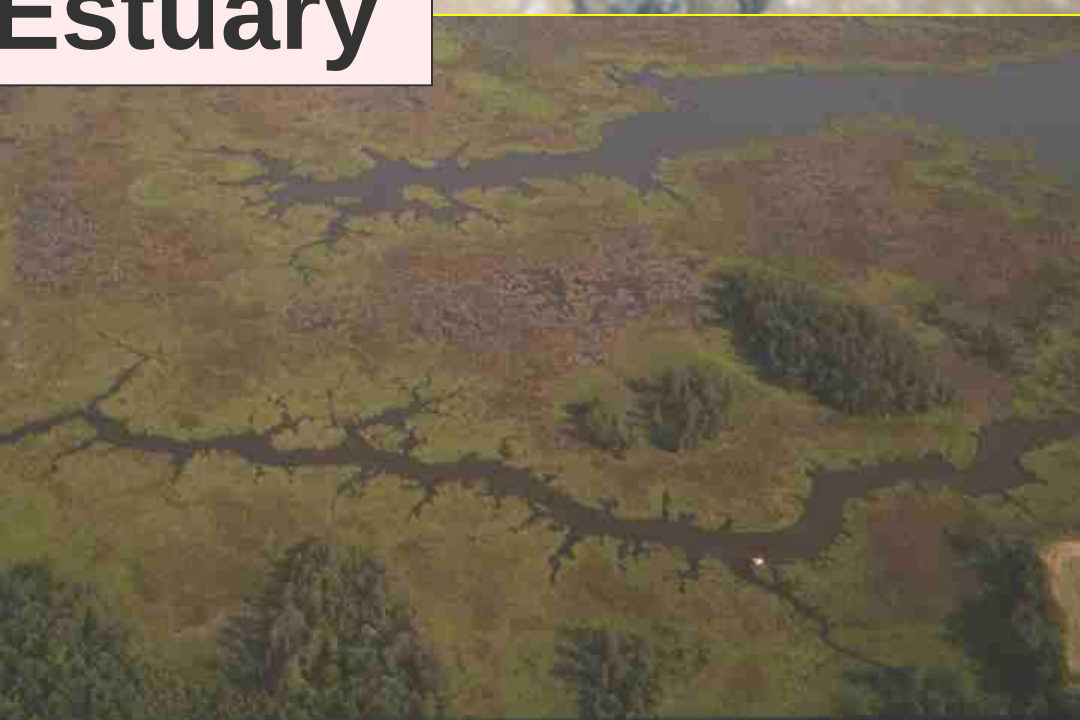
Slides adapted from Jonathan Sharp

Also a “Living River”





Delaware Estuary



Making our efforts count

why are NCV & ESV tools needed?

- Large and complex system
- Limited resources *Complex System* →
- Broad CCMP
- Urgency



To have **Highest Impact**, must avoid redundancy, invest strategically

ESV is broadly applicable as an organizing framework for prioritization



Avoiding Redundancy

Bridge Science Sectors

State &
Regional
Agencies

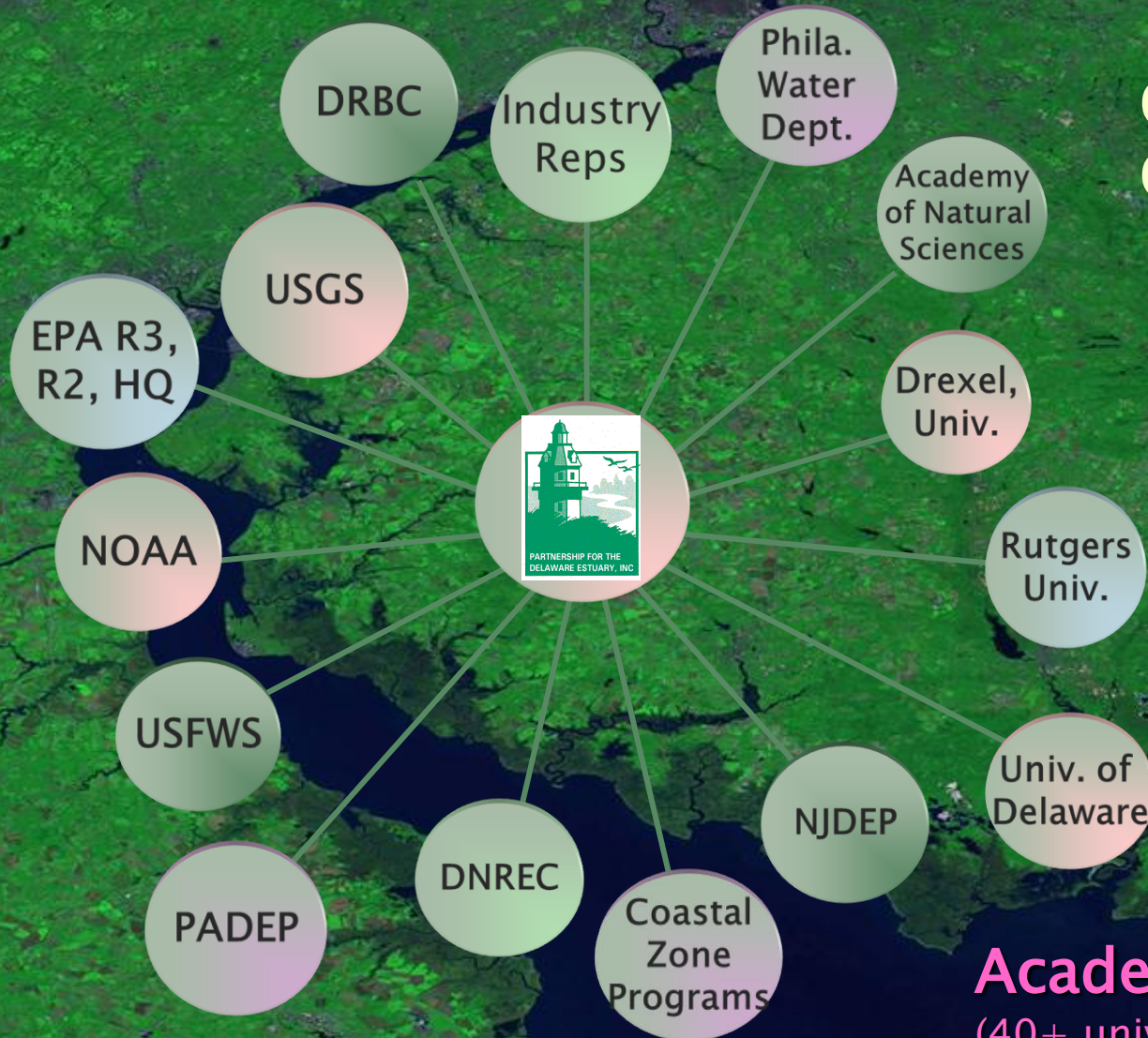
City
Government

Federal
Agencies

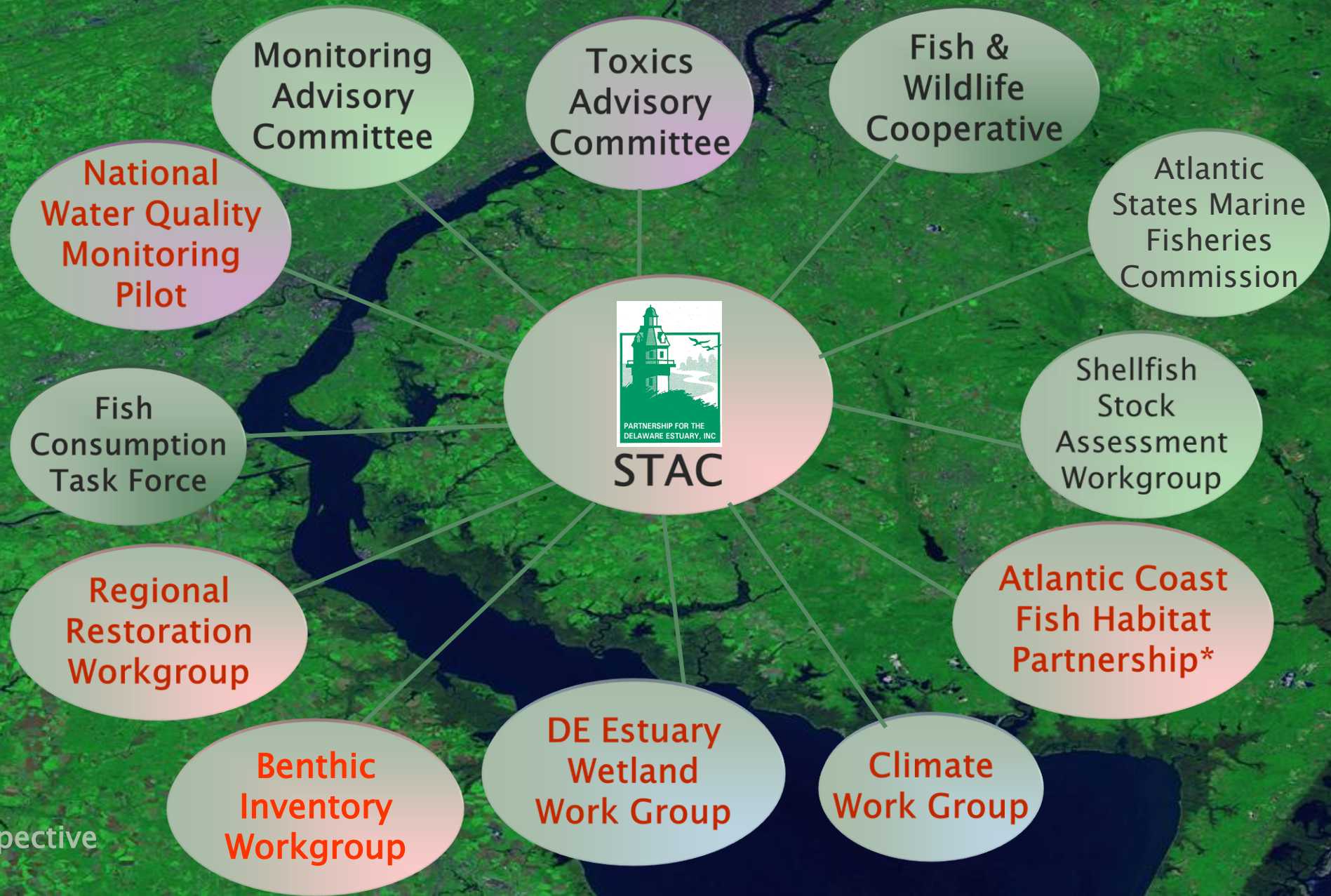
Non-Profits
& NGO's

Industry
Scientists

Academia
(40+ universities)



Fill Vital Niches: Technical Committees



*Prospective



Working Together

1. Conferences & Workshops

- Delaware Estuary Science Conference (every 2 years)





Prioritization

1. Conferences & Workshops
2. Science and Technical Committees
3. Watershed-Level Initiatives
 - Science Priority Setting (White Paper)



White Paper on the of Science in the D

A Publication
Partnership for the D
A National Estua
www.DelawareE

Top Ten Technical Needs for the Delaware Estuary

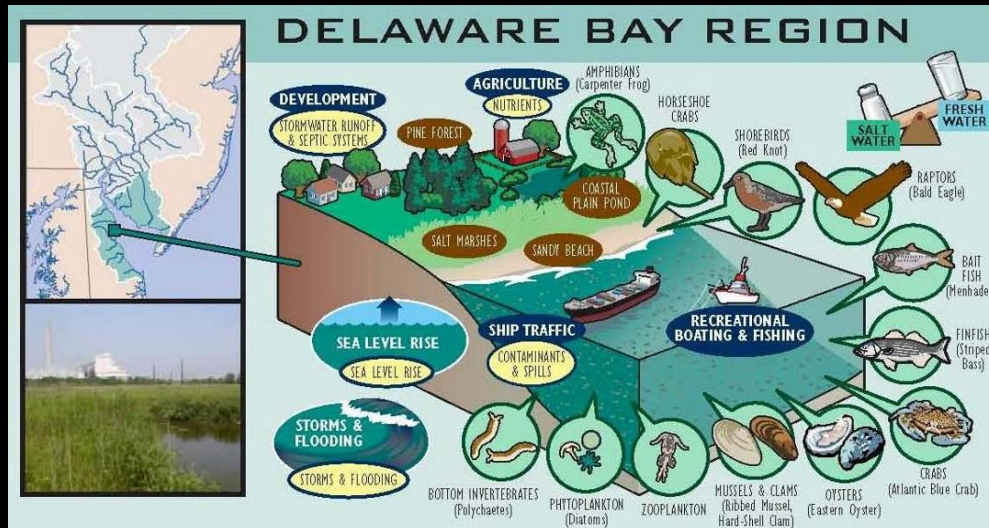
1. **Contaminants** (forms, sources, fates & effects for different classes)
2. **Tidal Wetlands** (status, trends and relative importance of different types)
3. **Ecologically Significant Species & Critical Habitats** (benthos, reefs, horseshoe crabs)
4. **Ecological Flows** (effects of base and episodic flows on salt balance & biota)
5. **Physical-Chemical-Biological Linkages** (e.g., sediment budget effects on toxics & biota)
6. **Food Web Dynamics** (key trophic connections among functional dominant biota)
7. **Nutrients** (forms, concentrations and relative balance of macro- and micronutrients)
8. **Ecosystem Functions** (assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services)
9. **Habitat Restoration and Enhancement** (science & policy)





Prioritization

1. Conferences & Workshops
2. Science and Technical Committees
3. Watershed-Level Initiatives
 - Science Priority Setting (White Paper)
 - **Conceptual Framework for System Traits**





The Delaware Estuary

A WATERSHED OF DISTINCTION

What makes the Delaware Estuary uniquely valuable?
 What distinguishes it from other large American estuaries?
 What are its hallmark animals, plants, and resources?
 What are the principle environmental challenges it faces?

This brochure summarizes answers to these questions by highlighting the "signature" environmental traits and issues within four regions of the Delaware Estuary: Schuylkill Valley, Upper Estuary, Lower Estuary, and Delaware Bay.

The message is clear — the Delaware Estuary is a unique resource that is internationally important for historical, socioeconomic, and environmental reasons. Once home to the first major city in the New World and the initial seat of the United States, the Delaware Estuary was the principle corridor for commerce that sustained the Industrial Revolution in America, and a major strategic port for national defense. This storied legacy of the Delaware as a working river of national strategic importance continues into the 21st century. But unknown to many, coexisting with this commercial backdrop are some of the nation's best environmental treasures not to be found anywhere else in the world.

Inside, the distinguishing land uses, habitat types, animals and plants, and environmental concerns are identified for each of these regions by using a simple graphical depiction based on the most current scientific information. Also highlighted are examples of interesting socioeconomic and environmental facts about the Delaware Estuary's ecosystem. Together, these diagrams and facts provide an ecologically-based conceptual framework that integrates natural features and societal impacts to describe the environmental landscape of the Delaware Estuary.

For more information, visit the Delaware Estuary Information Gateway on the web, our new clearinghouse for environmental information, and links at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's website:
www.DelawareEstuary.org

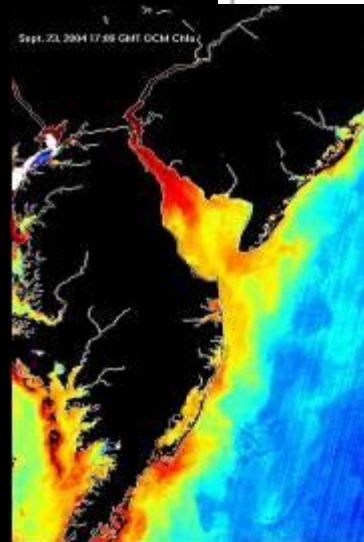
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: A National Estuary Program
 One Riverwalk Plaza, 100 South Poplar Street, Suite 202, Wilmington, DE 19801
 1-800-445-6935 • Tel: 302-655-4990 • Fax: 302-655-4991



Prioritization

1. Conferences & Workshops
2. Science and Technical Committees
3. Watershed–Level Initiatives
 - Science Priority Setting (White Paper)
 - Conceptual Framework
 - **Monitoring (e.g. NWQMN Pilot)**

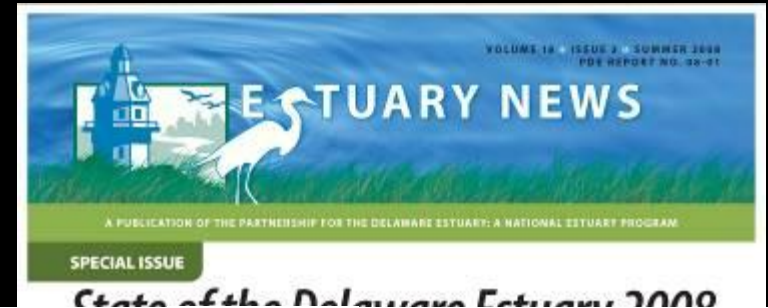
**The Delaware Estuary
Watershed to Ocean
Observing System
(DEWOOS)**





Prioritization

1. Conferences & Workshops
2. Science and Technical Committees
3. Watershed–Level Initiatives
 - Science Priority Setting
 - Conceptual Framework
 - Monitoring
 - State of the Estuary
 - Restoration



A Blueprint for a Regional Restoration Initiative in the Delaware Estuary

*A Publication of the
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
A National Estuary Program
www.DelawareEstuary.org*

February 2008

Restoration

Restore, conserve or otherwise enhance ecosystem structure and function



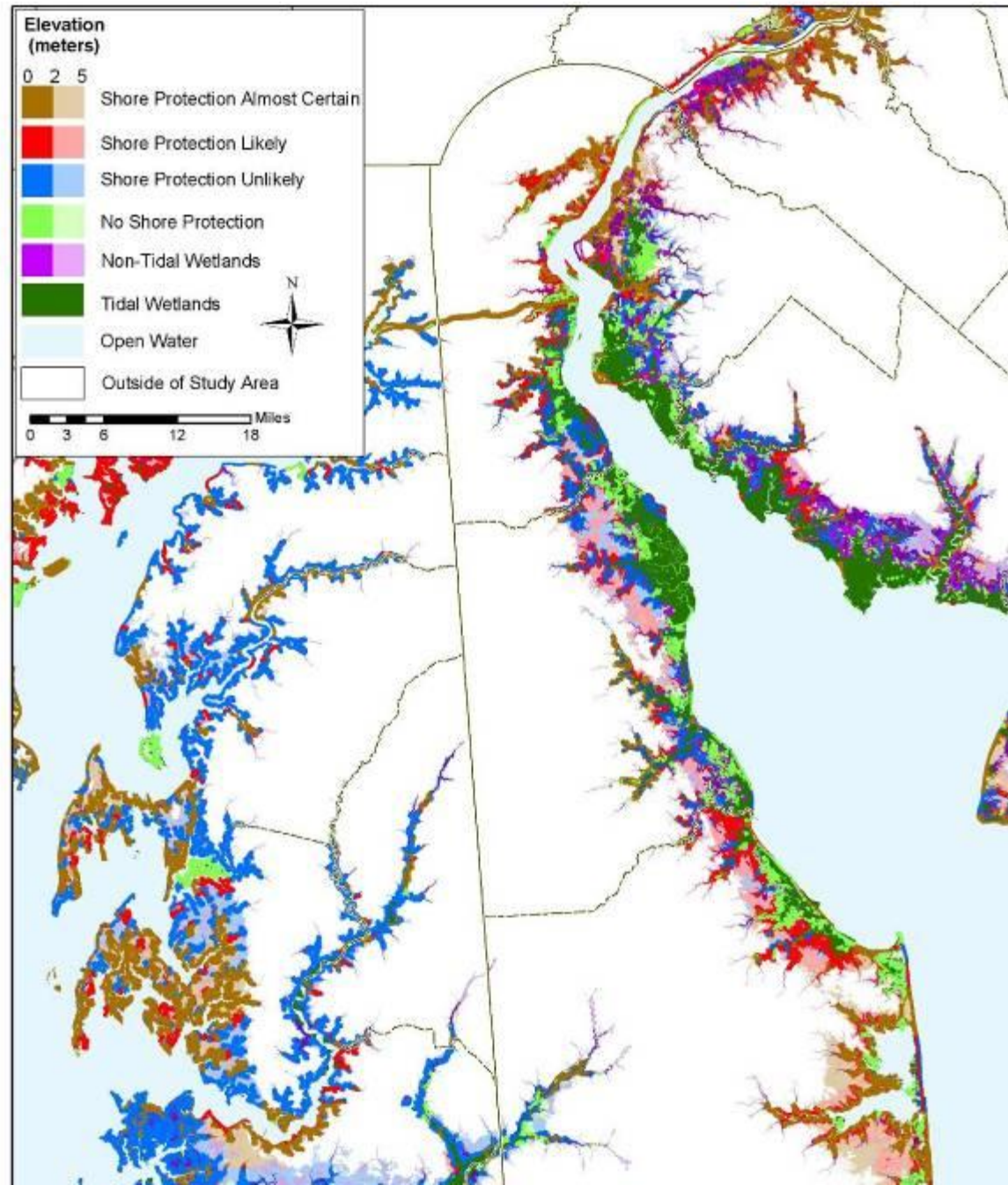
...But Smartly

Regional Restoration Initiative

Includes:

- Protection
- Conservation
- Enhancement
- Restoration

DELAWARE SEA LEVEL RISE PLANNING MAP



Regional Restoration Initiative

Goals:

- Characterize the most ecologically significant natural resources in different watershed regions
- Assess **ecological goods and services** flowing from these resources
- Use a **natural capital valuation** approach to identify highest value activities that maximize goods and services from these resources
- Identify, inventory and rank specific projects that conserve, enhance or restore these resources
- Identify high value activities for which we still need projects and work to fill gaps

Principles:

- science-based
- proactive
- timely, responsive
- comprehensive
- multi-jurisdictional



Project Registry

Conceptual Matrix for the Delaware Estuary Ecosystem

Number of Cells = 141

Nontidal Watershed					
Freshwater					Freshwater
Delaware River (above River Mile 133)		Other Rivers and Streams (below River Mile 133)			Approximate
Main Channel	Tributaries to Delaware River (e.g., Lehigh)	Schuylkill River & Its Tributaries	Christina River & Its Tributaries	Other Tributaries	Main Channel

The Delaware Estuary
A WATERSHED OF DISTINCTION

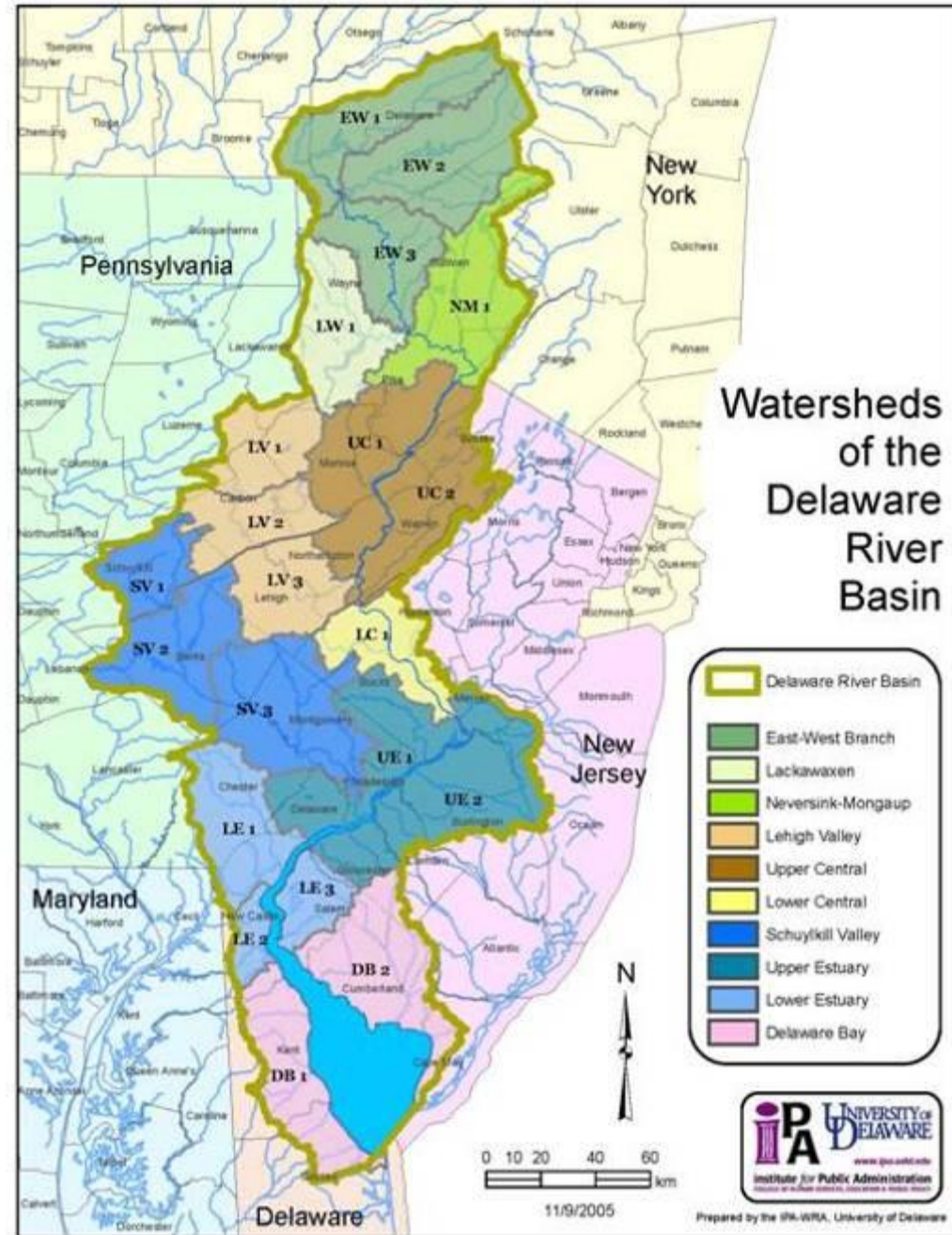
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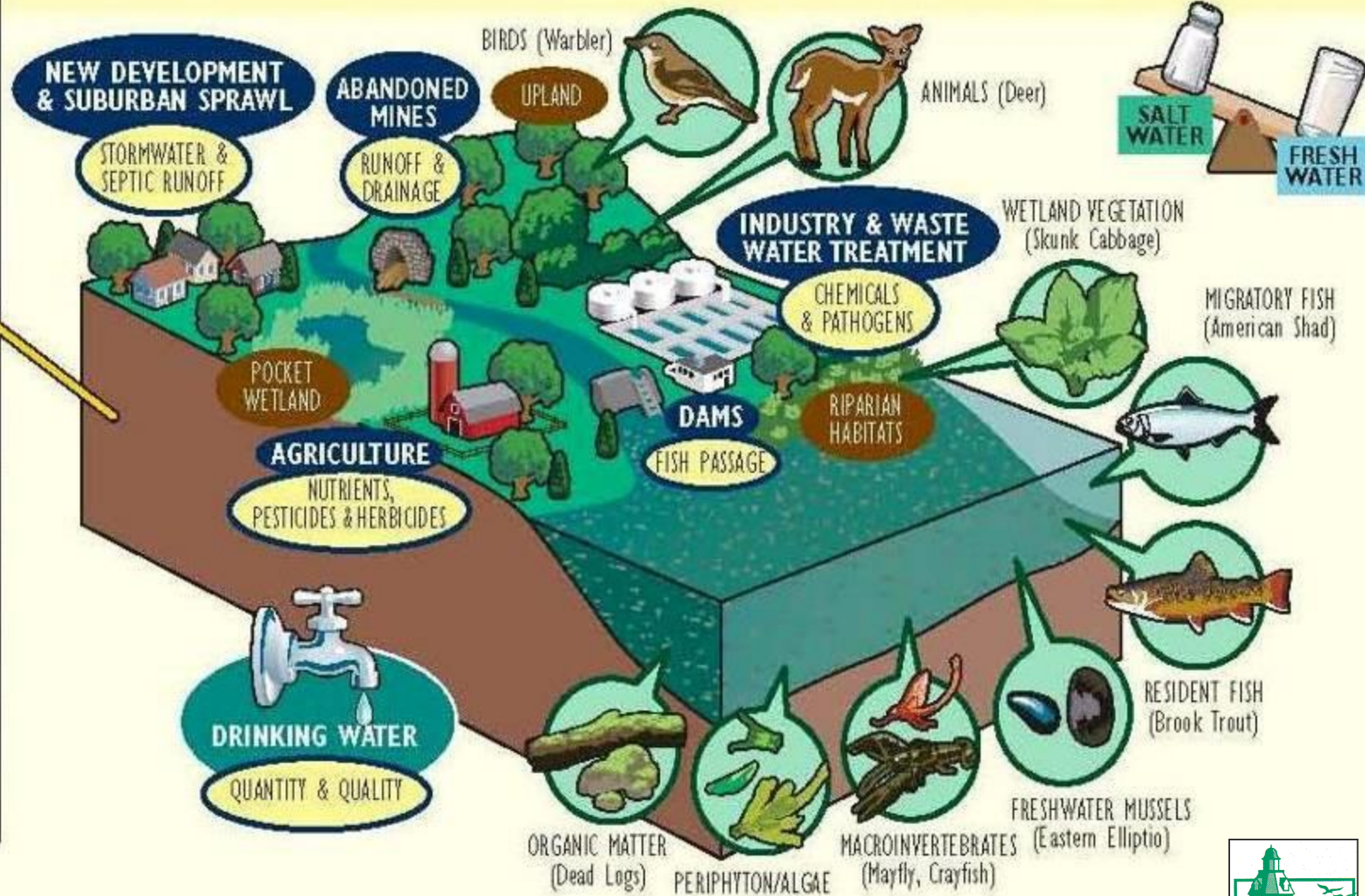
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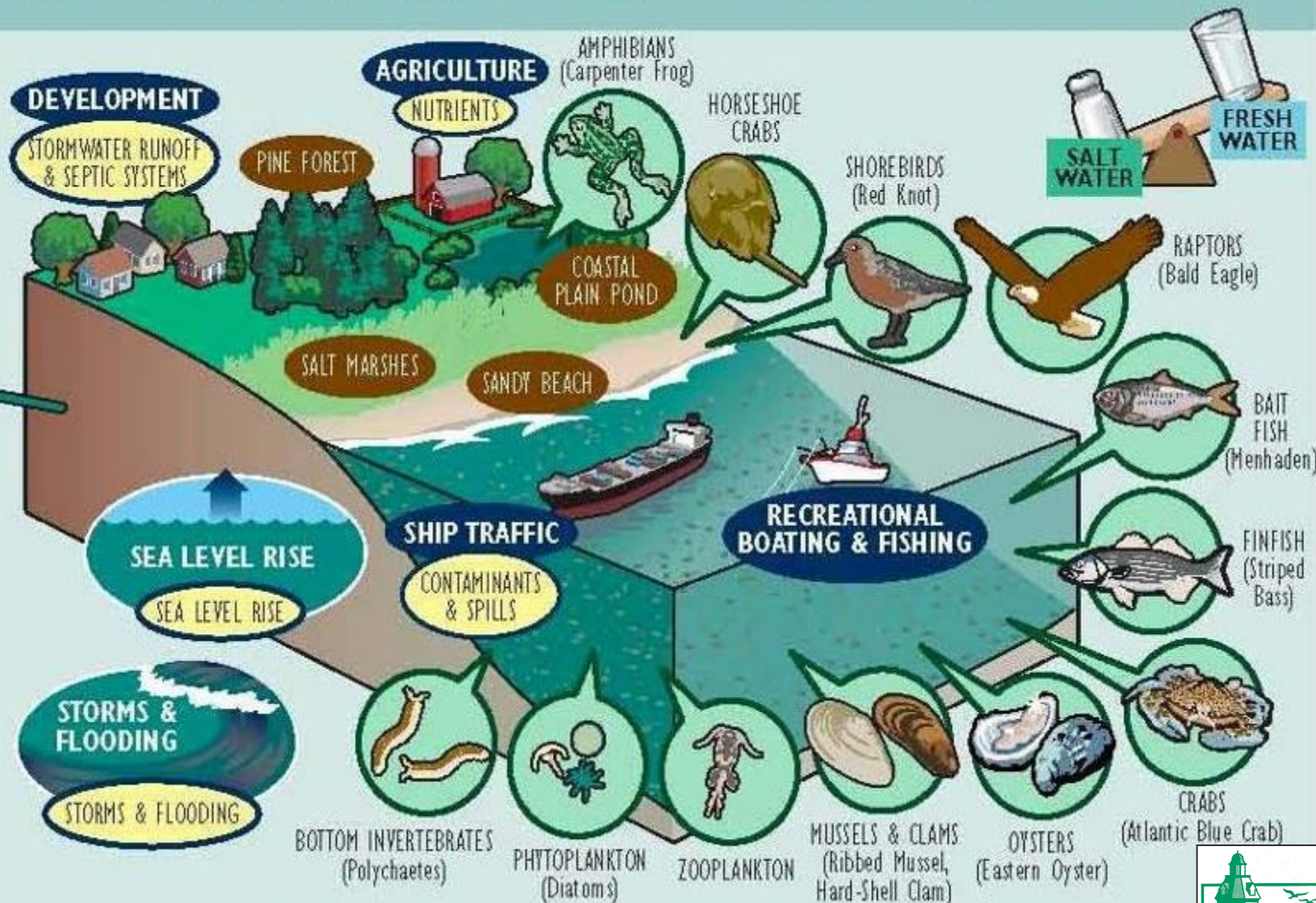
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SCHUYLKILL VALLEY REGION



DELAWARE BAY REGION



Basic Restoration Matrix

LE-1: Restoration Opportunities Layer

☐ No Opportunity ☒ Project with Opportunity
☐ Opportunity but No Project

Natural Resources Restoration Opportunities		Habitats (examples)										Living Resources (examples only)											
		Terrestrial		Wetland			Aquatic			Birds		Fish		Shellfish			Other						
		Forest	Meadow	Riparian	Non-tidal Forested	Tidal / FW Marsh	Tidal Salt/Brackish Marsh	Streambed	Mud Flat	Hard Bottom	Open Water	Shorebirds	Songbirds	Raptors	Diadromous	Resident	Oysters	FW Mussels	HSC	Blue Crabs	Mammals	Herps	Macroinvt
Protection	Water Quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Water Quantity / Flow	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Land Acquisition Legal / ESA	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Habitat Restoration & Enhancement	Habitat Creation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Augmentation/ improvement/planning	☐	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Function Enhanced	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Restored Hydrology	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐
Fauna Enhancement	Fish Passage	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
	Stocking	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
	Mgt/ Quotas	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

Each circle will receive a unique cell code for use in the project directory & database. The information shown contains examples only, to be refined in later stages of the RRI.



Value-Added Restoration Matrix (VARM)

Watershed Sub-Region: Lower Estuary 1 (LE1)

Natural Resource

Habitats (examples)

Conservation/ Enhancement/ Restoration Activity

Terrestrial

Wetland

Aquatic

hab 1

hab 2

hab 3

hab 4

hab5

hab6

hab 7

hab 8

hab 9

hab 10

hab 11

hab 12

hab 13

Scale

Key

Forest

Meadow

Other

Non-tidal
Forested
Wetland

Non-tidal
Herbaceous
Wetland

Tidal
Freshwater
Wetland

Tidal
Brackish and
Salt Marsh

Other
Wetlands

Streambed

Shoreline

Oyster Reef

Open Water

Protection

Water Quality

Water Quantity/Flow

Land Acquisition

Legal

Notes:

Cells are shaded grey if not appropriate for subregion or other factors

Everything in this spreadsheet is a prototype example to provide framework for considering structural

Habitat
Restoration

Cell Code

-

2a

2a

3a

4a

5a

Projects Exist?

-

GAP

high need

Ecoservice Value

0-10

lo

med

hi

2

8

9

Extractive Value (Trust)

0-10

lo

med

hi

2

4

1

Functional Dominance

0-5

lo

med

hi

1

4

5

Critical Imperiled

0-5

lo

med

hi

0

4

4

Signature Type

0-3

lo

med

hi

0

1

5

Lack of Opportunity

0-3

lo

med

hi

1

0

0

Other Considerations**

0-3

lo

med

hi

1

0

1

Importance Score

na

7

21

25

See Figure 7b

Habitat
Enhancement
(incl/ condition
improvement of
same acreage)

NOTES:

Extra Credit for RUF, Buffer value, single large over several small

Have way to flag high need areas with no projects

Habitat
Creation

** Connecting

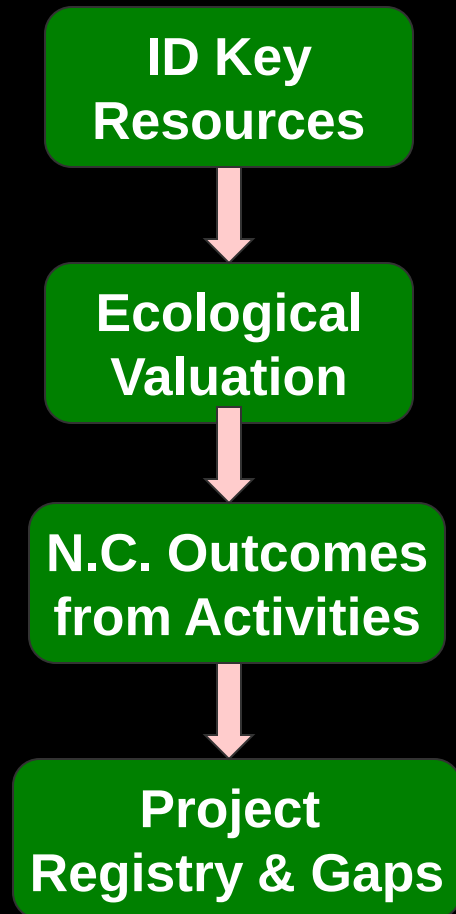
** contiguousness, special circumstances



Value-Added Restoration Matrix

Restoration Activity					Terrestrial			Wetland	
					<i>hab 1</i>	<i>hab 2</i>	<i>hab 3</i>	<i>hab 4</i>	<i>hab 5</i>
			Scale	Key	Forest	Meadow	Other	Non-tidal Forested Wetland	Tidal Freshwater Wetland
Habitat Restoration		Cell Code	-	2a		2a	3a	4a	5a
		Projects Exist?					GAP		high need
	Natural Capital Values	Ecoservice Value	0-10	lo med hi			2	8	9
		Extractive Value (Trust)	0-10				2	4	1
		Functional Dominance	0-5	lo med hi			1	4	5
		Critical Imperiled	0-5	lo med hi			0	4	4
	Other Values	Signature Type	0-3	lo med hi			0	1	5
		Lack of Opportunity	0-3	lo med hi			1	0	0
		Other Considerations**	0-3	lo med hi			1	0	1
		Importance Score				na	7	21	25

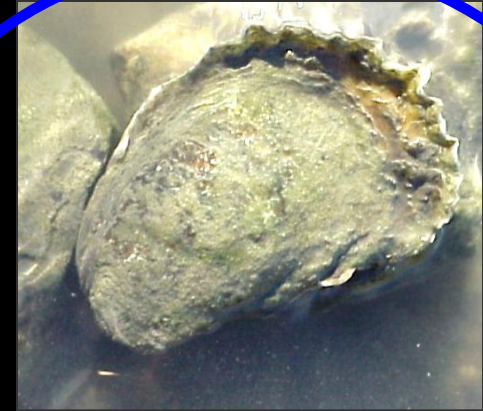
Regional Restoration Initiative



Case Studies



Tidal Marshes



Bivalve Shellfish

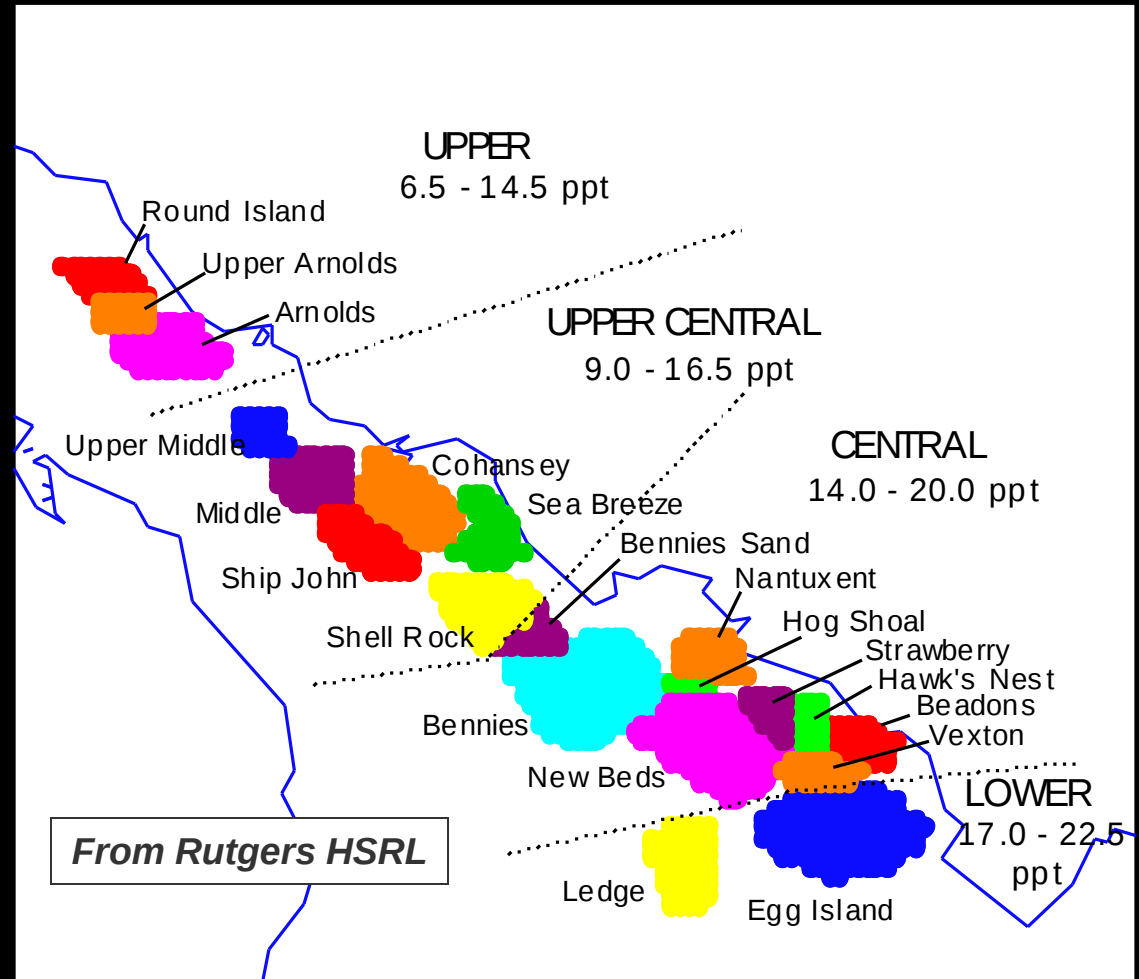


Headwater Streams



Urban Waterfront

Oysters and Other Bivalve Shellfish





Others?



Elliptio complanata



Geukensia demissa



Crassostrea virginica



11 Other Species of
Freshwater Unionid
Mussels

Corbicula fluminea



Rangia cuneata



Mya arenaria



Mytilus edulis



Ensis directus



*Mercena
mercena*





Freshwater Mussels



Marsh Mussels

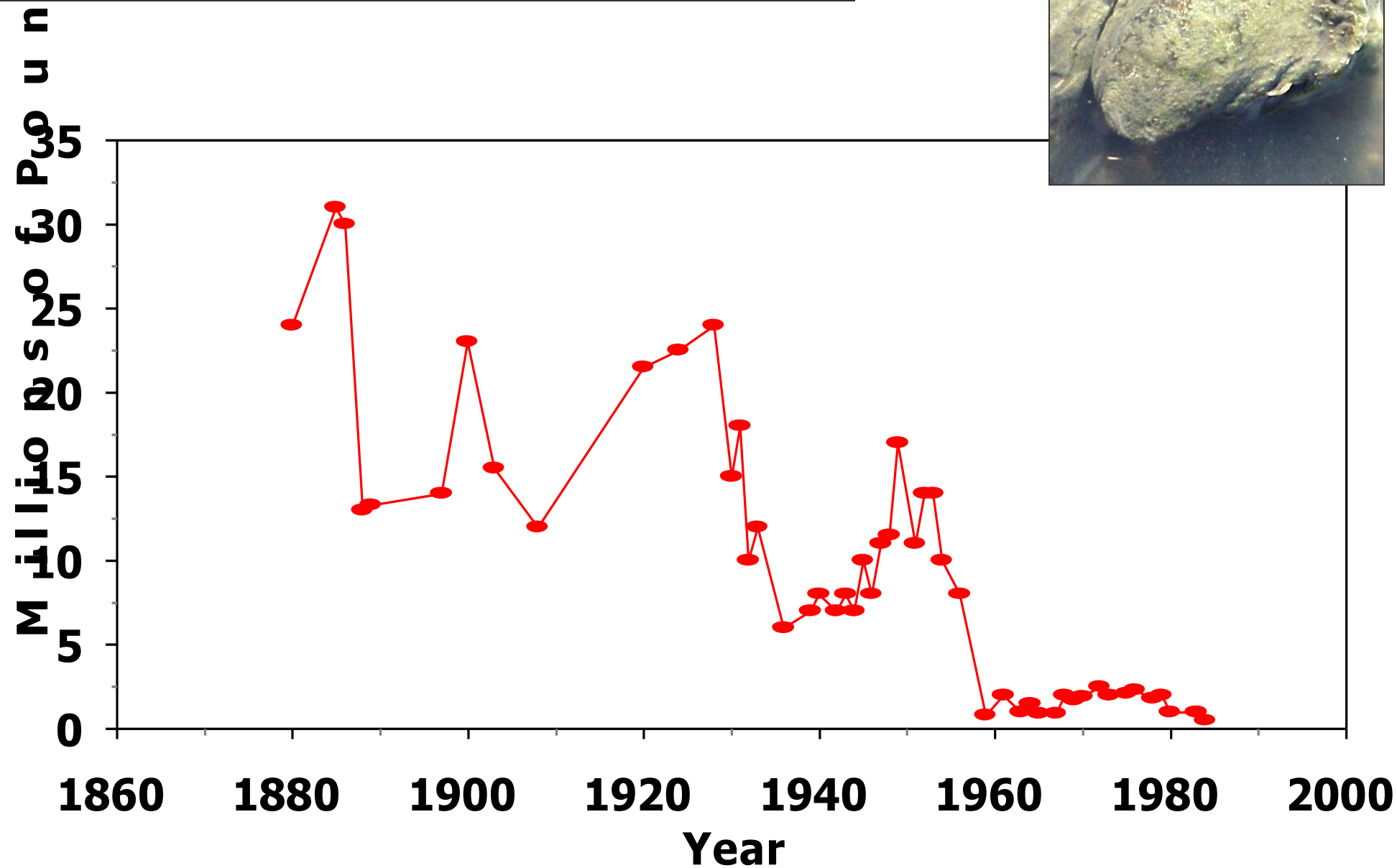


CTUIR Freshwater Mussel Project



DE Living Shorelines 2008

Oyster Landing Data



PDE Study Area

Patchy, Impaired



Rare

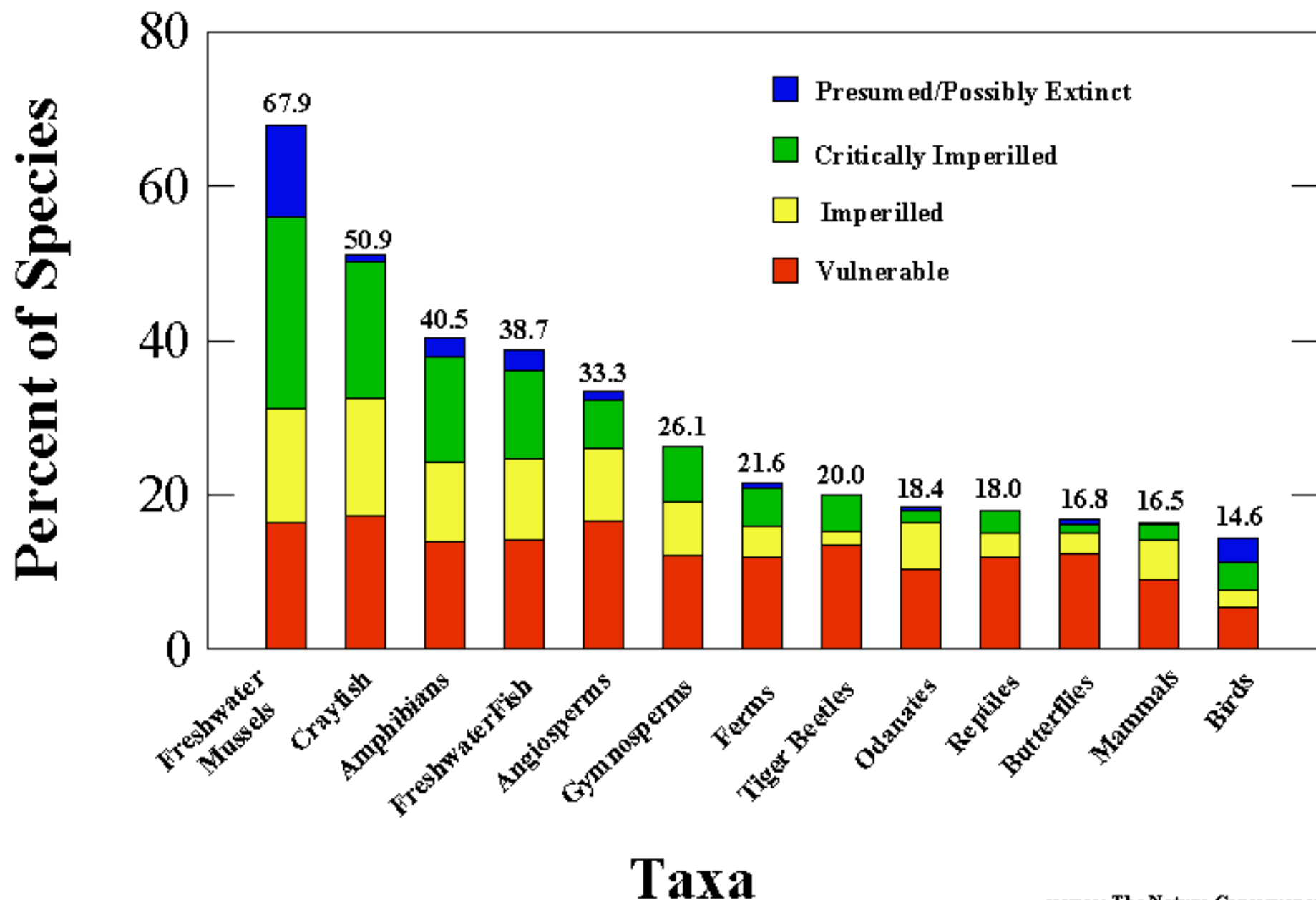


Extirpated



		State Conservation Status		
Scientific Name	Scientific Name	DE	NJ	PA
<i>ALASMIDONTA HETERODON</i>	DWARF WEDGEMUSSEL	Endangered	Endangered	Critically Imperiled
<i>ALASMIDONTA UNDULATA</i>	TRIANGLE FLOATER	Extirpated ?	Threatened	Vulnerable
<i>ALASMIDONTA VARICOSA</i>	BROOK FLOATER	Endangered	Endangered	Imperiled
<i>ANODONTA IMPLICATA</i>	ALEWIFE FLOATER	Extremely Rare	no data	Extirpated ?
<i>ELLIPTIO COMPLANATA</i>	EASTERN ELLIPTIO	common	common	Secure
<i>LAMPSILIS CARIOSA</i>	YELLOW LAMPMUSSEL	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
<i>LAMPSILIS RADIATA</i>	EASTERN LAMPMUSSEL	Endangered	Threatened	Imperiled
<i>LASMIGONA SUBVIRIDIS</i>	GREEN FLOATER	no data	Endangered	Imperiled
<i>LEPTODEA OCHRACEA</i>	TIDEWATER MUCKET	Endangered	Threatened	Extirpated ?
<i>LIGUMIA NASUTA</i>	EASTERN PONDMUSSEL	Endangered	Threatened	Critically Imperiled
<i>MARGARITIFERA MARGARITIFERA</i>	EASTERN PEARLSHELL	no data	no data	Imperiled
<i>PYGANODON CATARACTA</i>	EASTERN FLOATER	no data	no data	Vulnerable
<i>STROPHITUS UNDULATUS</i>	SQUAWFOOT	Extremely Rare	Species of Concern	Apparently Secure

Conservation Status of United States Taxa



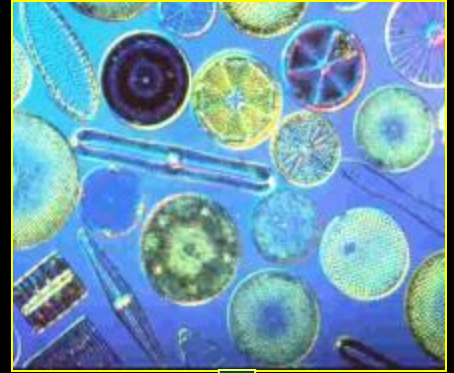
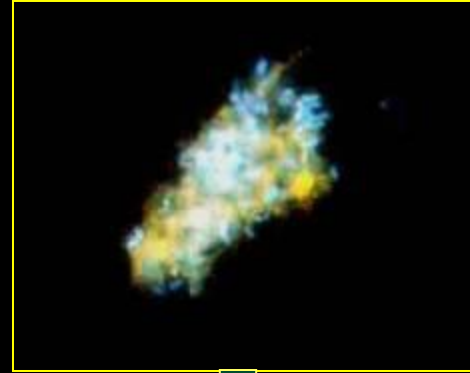
Ecosystem Services

1. Structure

- ↑ Habitat Complexity
- ↑ Binding of Bottom
- ↑ Bottom Turbulence

2. Function

- ↓ Suspended Particulates
- ↓ Particulate N, P
- ↑ Light
- ↑ Sediment Enrichment
- Recycle Dissolved Nutrients



Clean Water



Mussels Are Habitat

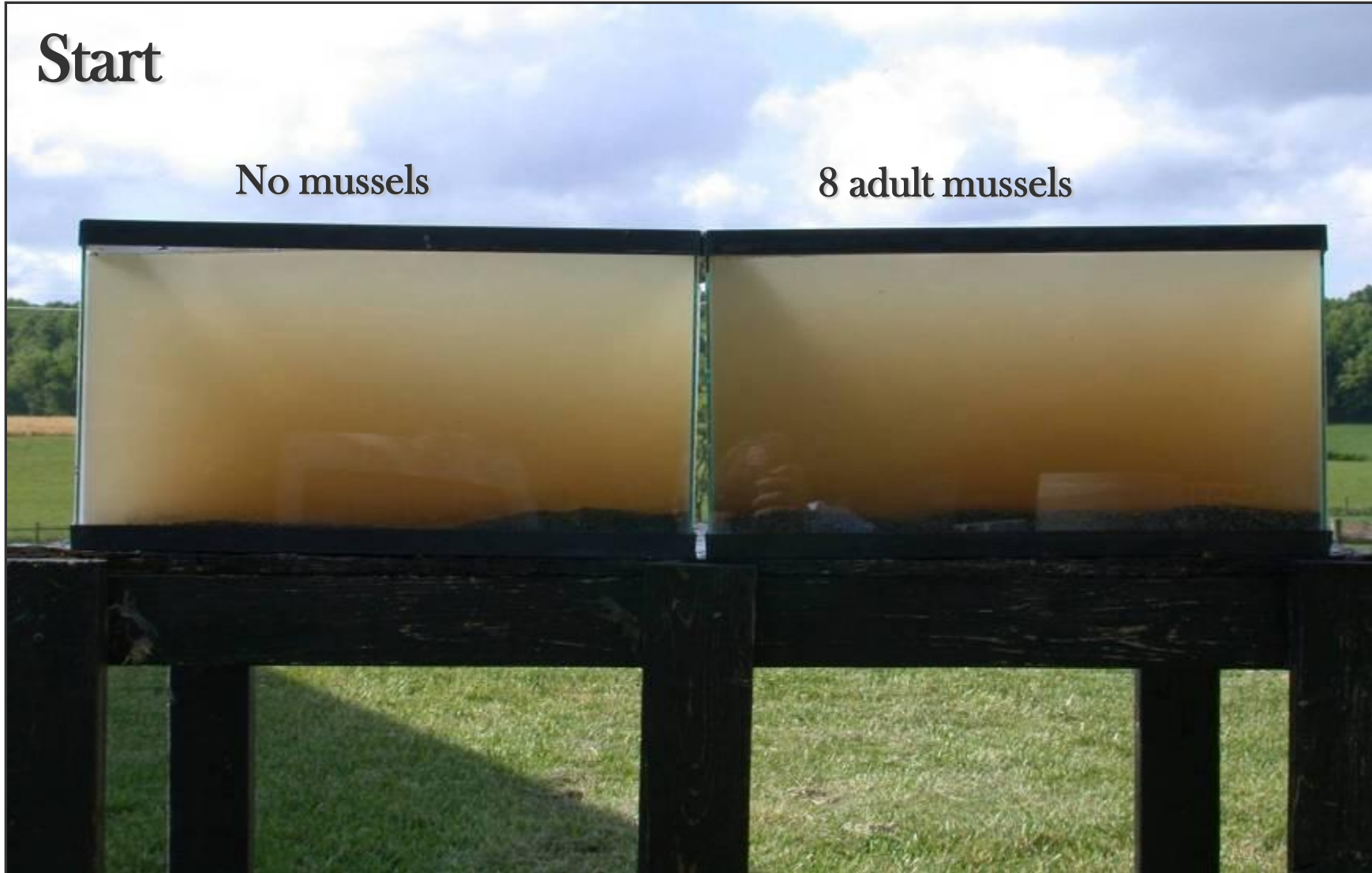
INITIATIVE

Restoring Our Nation's Water Quality

Start

No mussels

8 adult mussels



Slide from Catherine Gatenby, USFWS

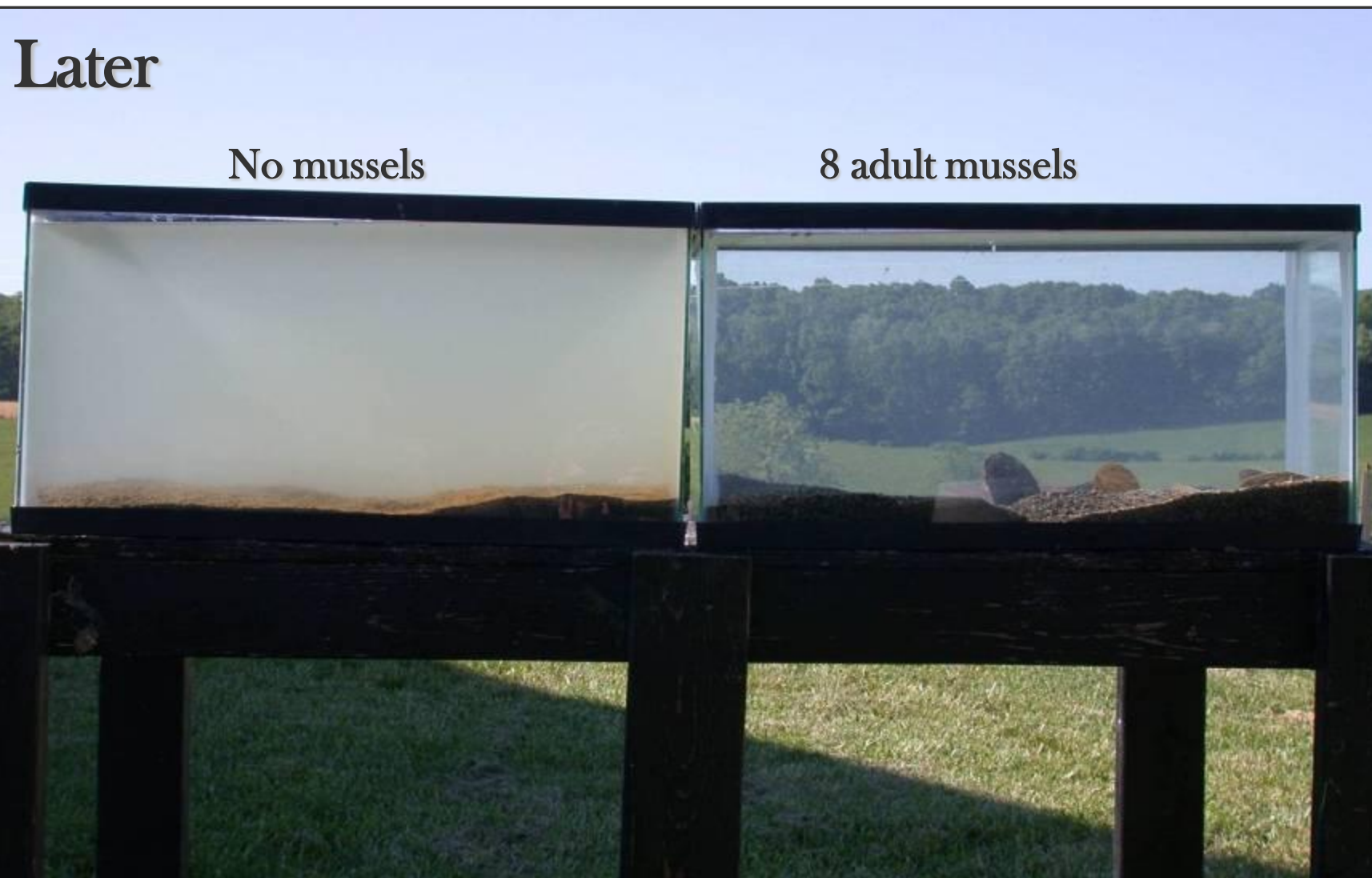
Biofiltration Potential



Mussels Are Habitat

INITIATIVE

Restoring Our Nation's Water Quality



Slide from Catherine Gatenby, USFWS

Brandywine River, PA



Elliptio complanata

Delaware Estuary Marshes



Geukensia demissa

Delaware Bay Oysters



Crassostrea virginica

Susquehanna

Delaware River Basin



Estimate of Water Processing Potential



Elliptio complanata



4.3 Billion *Elliptio*
= 2.9 Million Kilos Dry Tissue Weight
= 9.8 Billion Liters per Hour



Salt Marshes



Geukensia demissa



208,000 per hectare on average

10.5 Billion *Geukensia*

Clearance Rate = $5.1 \text{ L h}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ (DK data)

11.7 Million Kilos Dry Tissue Weight

= 59.0 Billion Liters per Hour



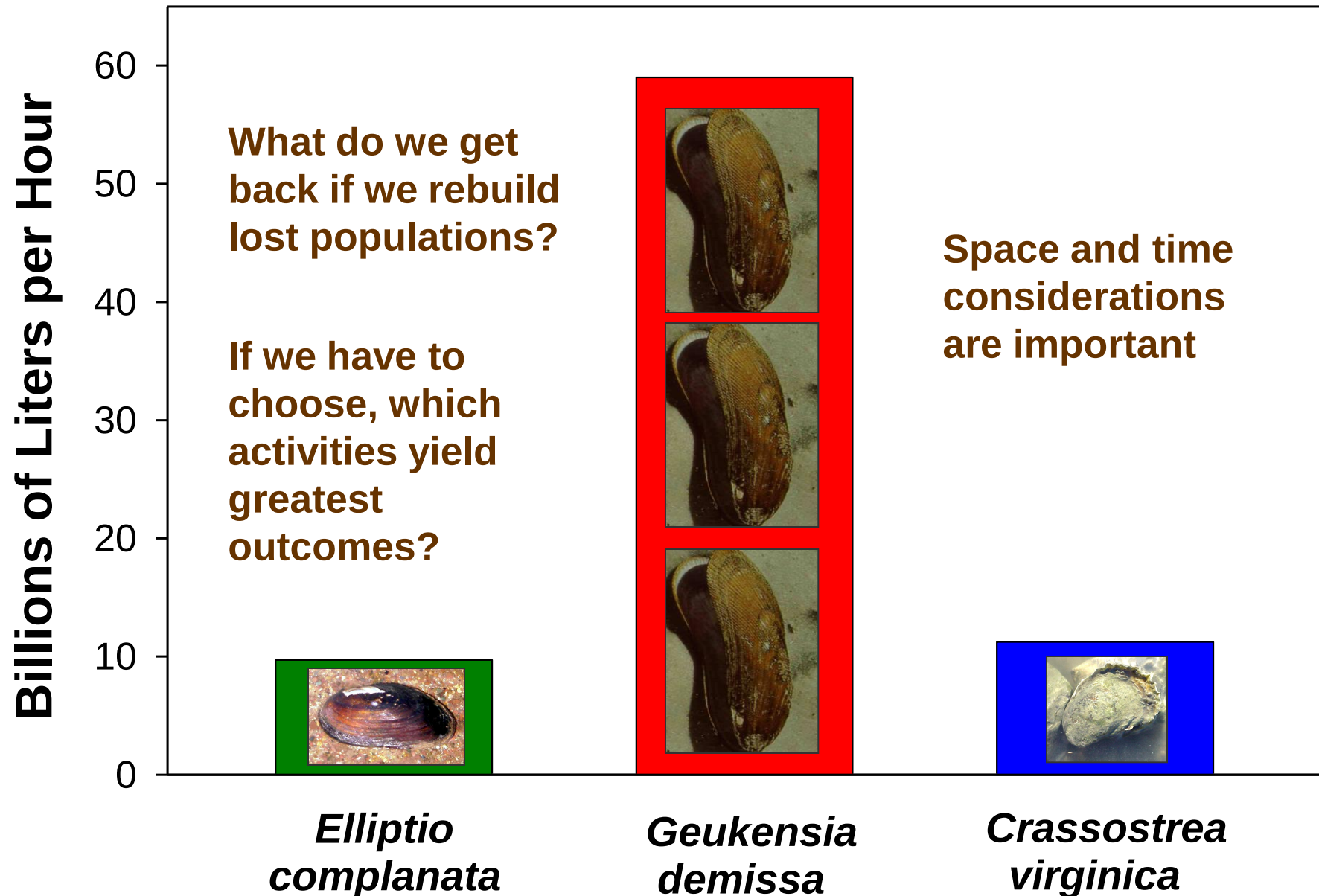
Oysters on Seed Bed Reefs



2.0 Billion *Crassostrea* (Powell, 2003 data)
Mean size = 0.87 g dry tissue weight (DK data)
Clearance Rate = 6.5 L h⁻¹ g⁻¹ (Newell et al 2005)
= 11.2 Billion Liters per Hour

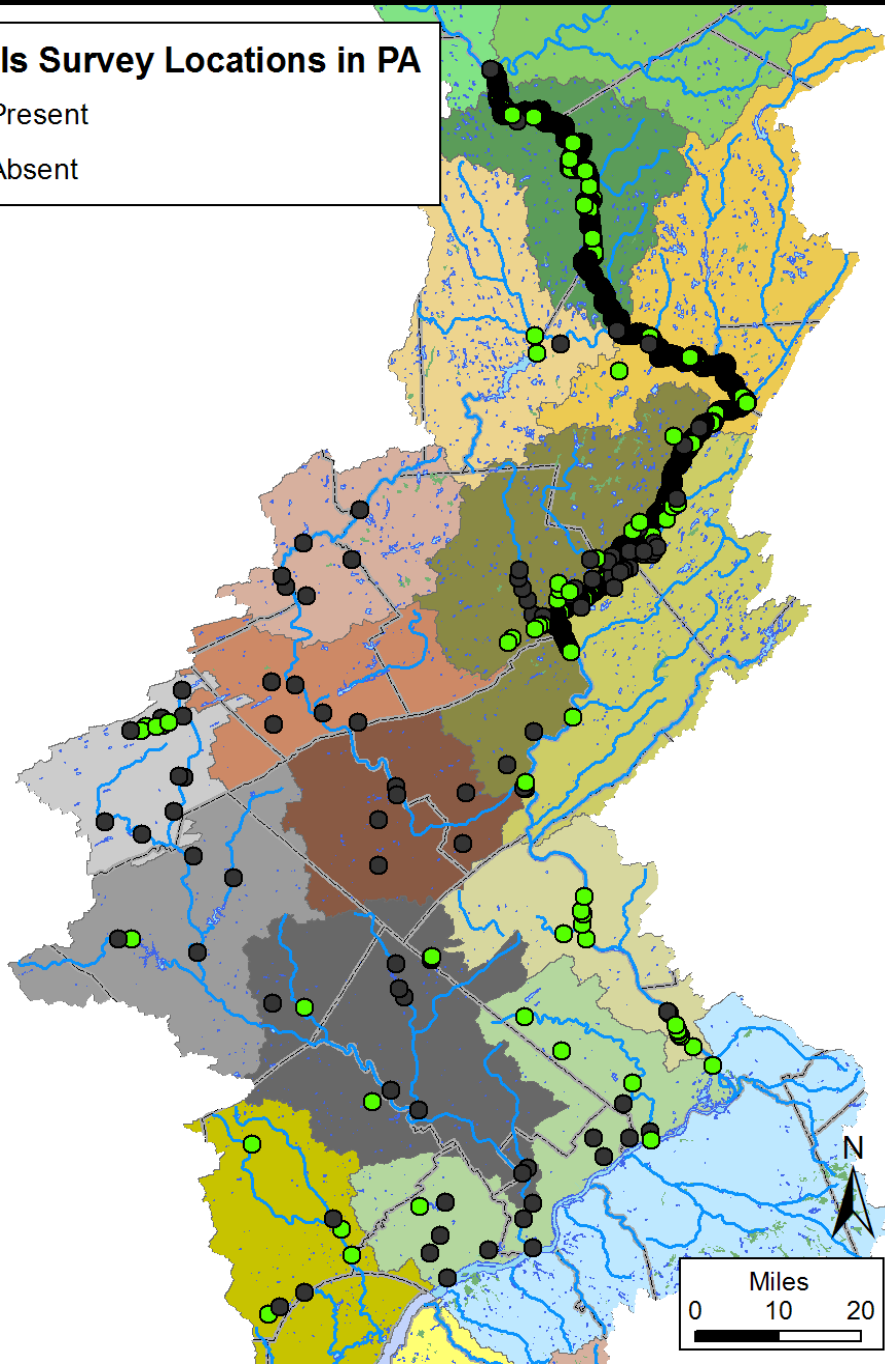


Population-Level Water Processing



Mussels Survey Locations in PA

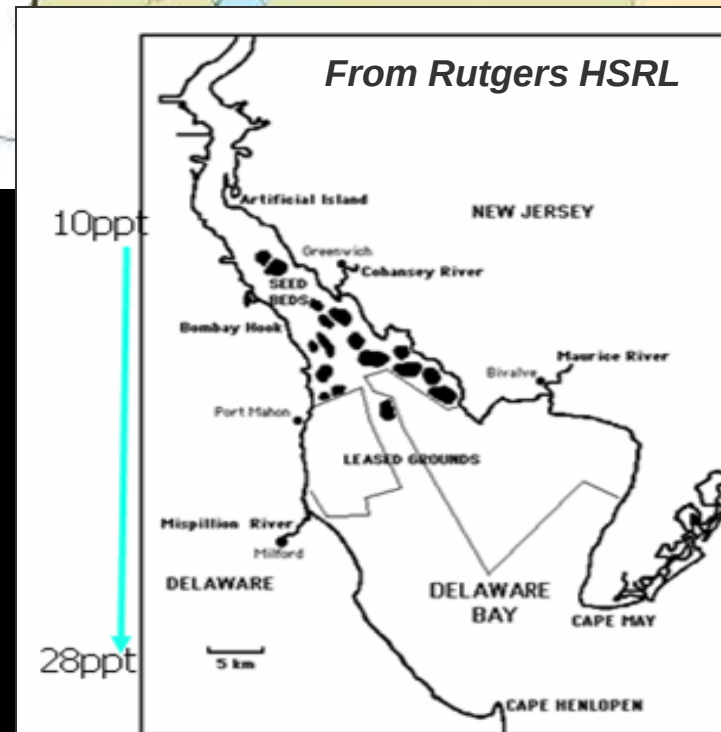
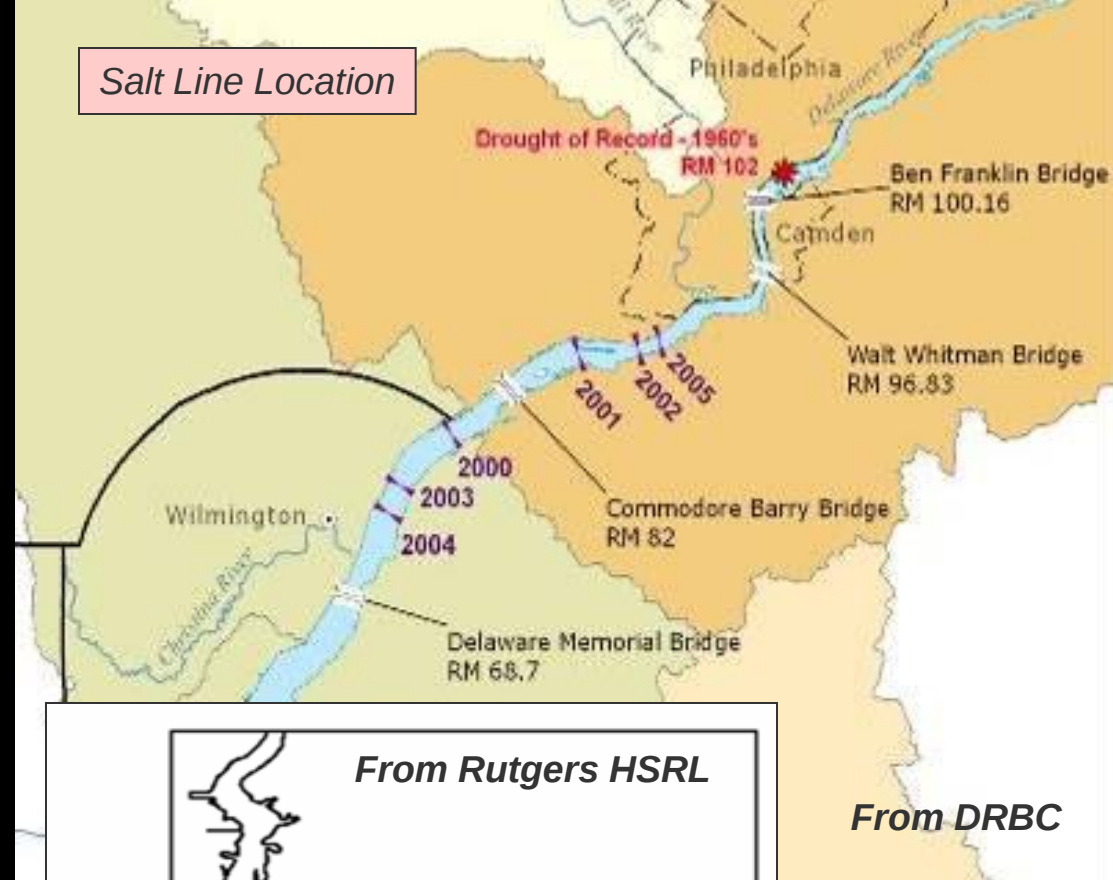
- Present
- Absent



Oyster Disease and Salinity

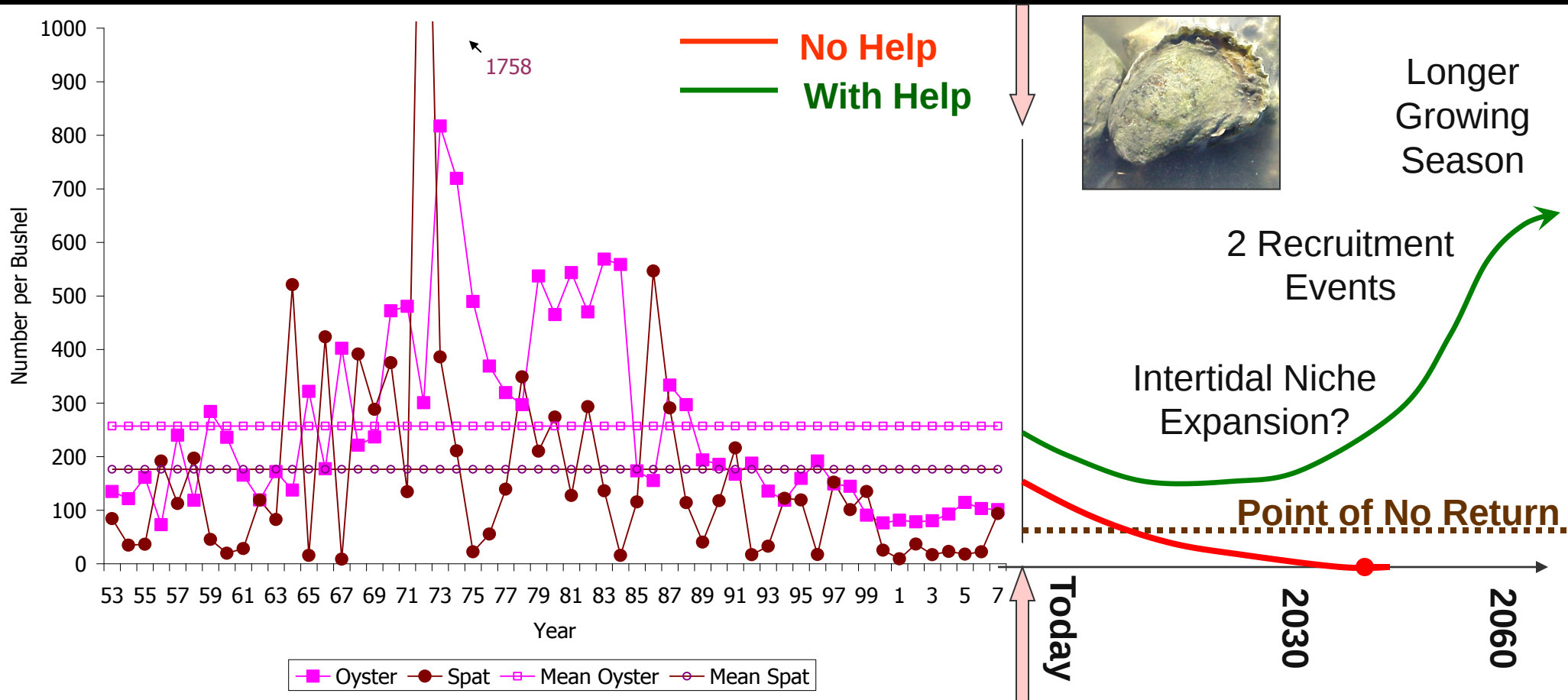


<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/shelldis/images/pmdoy5.jpg>



Oyster Management

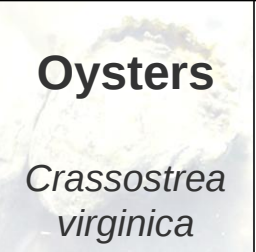
Can they maintain (or be maintained) until they *might* see more optimal conditions?



Oyster Reef Revitalization

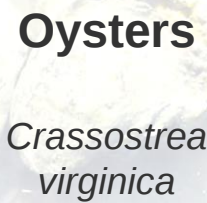


Importance of Bivalves to the Delaware Estuary Watershed

 Oysters <i>Crassostrea virginica</i>		
✓✓✓		

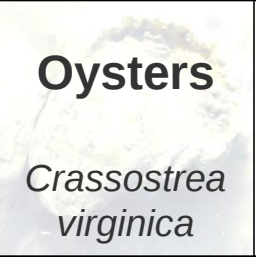
Natural Capital Value	Commercial	Dockside Product + Secondary Value

Importance of Shellfish to the Delaware Estuary Watershed



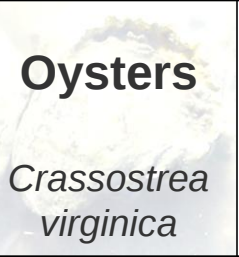
Natural Capital Value	Commercial	Dockside Product + Secondary Value	✓✓✓		
	Ecosystem Services	Structural Habitat biological hot spots	✓✓		
		Prey	✓		
		Biofiltration top-down grazing, TSS removal, light)	✓✓		
		Biogeochemistry enrichment/turnover, benthic production	✓		
		Shoreline Protection - nearshore reefs	✓		
		Shoreline Stabilization - living edges	✓		

Importance of Shellfish to the Delaware Estuary Watershed

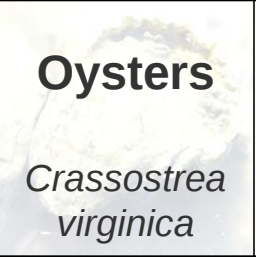
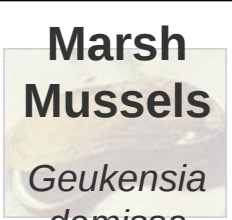
 Oysters Crassostrea virginica		
✓✓✓		
✓✓		
✓		
✓✓		
✓		
✓		
✓✓		
✓		

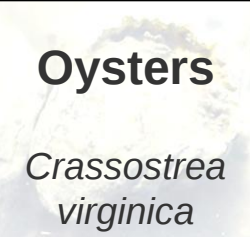
Natural Capital Value	Commercial	Dockside Product + Secondary Value
	Ecosystem Services	Structural Habitat biological hot spots, bottom-binding
		Prey
		Biofiltration top-down grazing, TSS removal, light)
		Biogeochemistry enrichment/turnover, benthic production
		Shoreline Protection - nearshore reefs
		Shoreline Stabilization - living edges
	Cultural-Historical	Waterman Lifestyle, Ecotourism
		Native American - dietary staple

Importance of Shellfish to the Delaware Estuary Watershed

 <i>Crassostrea virginica</i>		
✓✓✓		
✓✓		
✓		
✓✓		
✓		
✓		
✓✓		
✓		
✓✓		
✓		

Natural Capital Value	Commercial	<i>Dockside Product + Secondary Value</i>
	Ecosystem Services	<i>Structural Habitat</i> biological hot spots, bottom-binding
		<i>Prey</i>
		<i>Biofiltration</i> top-down grazing, TSS removal, light)
		<i>Biogeochemistry</i> enrichment/turnover, benthic production
		<i>Shoreline Protection</i> - nearshore reefs
		<i>Shoreline Stabilization</i> - living edges
	Cultural-Historical	<i>Waterman Lifestyle, Ecotourism</i>
		<i>Native American</i> - jewelry, dietary staple
	Bioindicator	<i>Watershed Indicators</i> hallmark resource status/trends
		<i>Site-specific Bioassessment</i> NS&T, caged sentinels

Importance of Shellfish to the Delaware Estuary Watershed			 Oysters Crassostrea virginica	 Marsh Mussels Geukensia demissa	
Natural Capital Value	Commercial	Dockside Product + Secondary Value	✓✓✓		
	Ecosystem Services	Structural Habitat	✓✓	✓✓	
		biological hot spots, bottom-binding			
		Prey	✓	✓	
		Biofiltration	✓✓	✓✓✓	
		top-down grazing, TSS removal, light)			
		Biogeochemistry	✓	✓	
		enrichment/turnover, benthic production			
		Shoreline Protection	✓		
		- nearshore reefs			
		Shoreline Stabilization	✓	✓✓	
		- living edges			
	Cultural-Historical	Waterman Lifestyle, Ecotourism	✓✓		
		Native American	✓		
	Bioindicator	Watershed Indicators	✓✓	✓	
		hallmark resource status/trends			
		Site-specific Bioassessment	✓	✓	
		NS&T, caged sentinels			

Importance of Shellfish to the Delaware Estuary Watershed			 Oysters Crassostrea virginica	 Marsh Mussels Geukensia demissa	 FW Mussels Elliptio complanata
Natural Capital Value	Commercial	Dockside Product + Secondary Value	✓✓✓		✓
	Ecosystem Services	Structural Habitat biological hot spots, bottom-binding	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
		Prey	✓	✓	✓
		Biofiltration top-down grazing, TSS removal, light)	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
		Biogeochemistry enrichment/turnover, benthic production	✓	✓	✓
		Shoreline Protection - nearshore reefs	✓		
		Shoreline Stabilization - living edges	✓	✓✓	
	Cultural-Historical	Waterman Lifestyle, Ecotourism	✓✓		
		Native American - jewelry, dietary staple	✓		✓✓
	Bioindicator	Watershed Indicators hallmark resource status/trends	✓✓	✓	✓
		Site-specific Bioassessment NS&T, caged sentinels	✓	✓	✓✓
	Conservation	Biodiversity fw mussels most critically impaired biota			✓✓✓

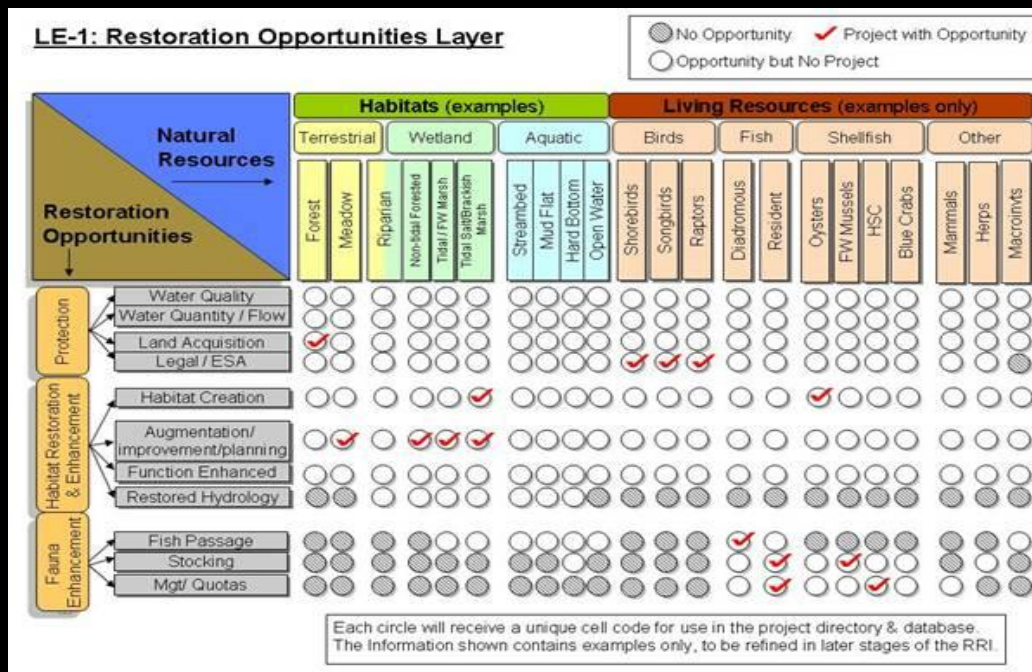
ESV Applications

Watershed-Level Activities

- Science Priority Setting
- Conceptual Framework
- Monitoring
- State of the Estuary
- **Regional Restoration Initiative**



Project Registry



Restoration Activity					Terrestrial			Wetland	
					hab1	hab2	hab3	hab4	hab5
					Forest	Meadow	Other	Non-tidal Forested Wetland	Tidal Freshwater Wetland
Habitat Restoration	Natural Capital Values	Cell Code	-	2a	2a	3a	4a	5a	
		Projects Exist?	-			GAP		high need	
		Ecoservice Value	0-10	lo med hi		2	8	9	
		Extractive Value (Trust)	0-10	lo med hi		2	4	1	
		Functional Dominance	0-5	lo med hi		1	4	5	
		Critical Imperiled	0-5	lo med hi		0	4	4	
		Signature Type	0-3	lo med hi		0	1	5	
		Lack of Opportunity	0-3	lo med hi		1	0	0	
		Other Considerations**	0-3	lo med hi		1	0	1	
		Importance Score				na	7	21	25

Applications

Watershed–Level Activities

- Science Priority Setting (White Paper)
- Conceptual Framework
- Monitoring
- State of the Estuary
- Regional Restoration Initiative

Ecological Inventories

- Natural Vegetation Classification System
- Delaware Estuary Benthic Inventory



Applications

Watershed–Level Activities

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Science & Restoration Projects

- **Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program**



Propagation and Reintroduction

Hatchery



Propagation and Reintroduction

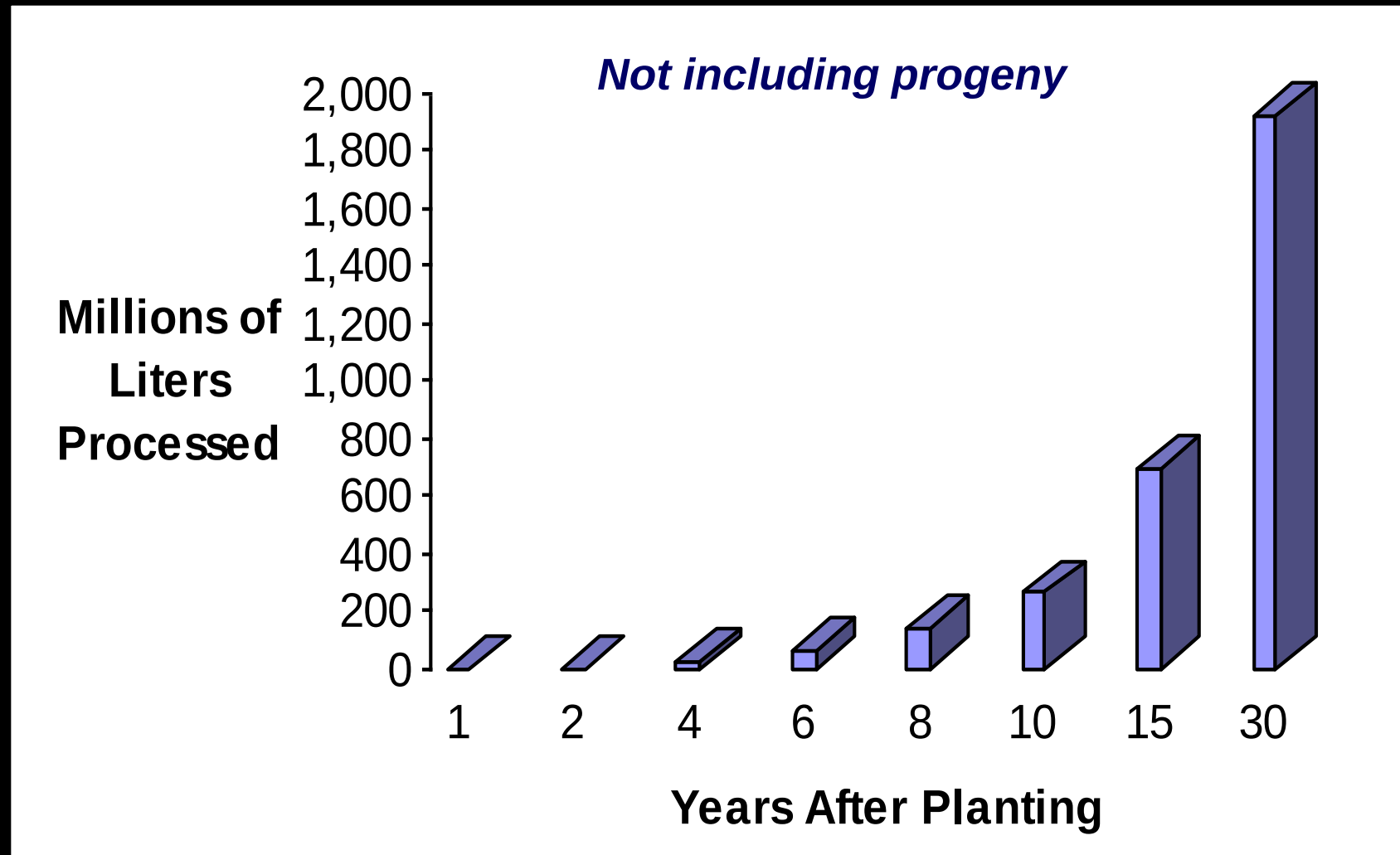
Propagated Juveniles



Photos, R. Neves, VA Tech

Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program

Goals are Being Set Based on Ecosystem Services



Applications

Watershed-Level Activities

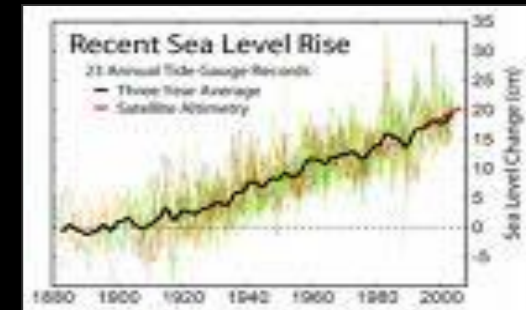
- Science Priority Setting (White Paper)
- Conceptual Framework
- Monitoring
- State of the Estuary
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Ecological Inventories

- Natural Vegetation Classification System
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Science & Restoration Projects

- Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program
- Delaware Estuary Living Shorelines



Sea Level Rise



Delaware Estuary Living Shoreline Initiative

Shellfish as Natural Breakwaters



- Reduce wave energy
- Trap silt
- Reduce bank erosion
- Protect salt marsh



Slide from Dave Bushek, Rutgers

Living Shorelines



Applications

Watershed–Level Activities

- Science Priority Setting (White Paper)
- Conceptual Framework
- Monitoring
- State of the Estuary
- Regional Restoration Initiative

Ecological Inventories

- Natural Vegetation Classification System
- Delaware Estuary Benthic Inventory

Science & Restoration Projects

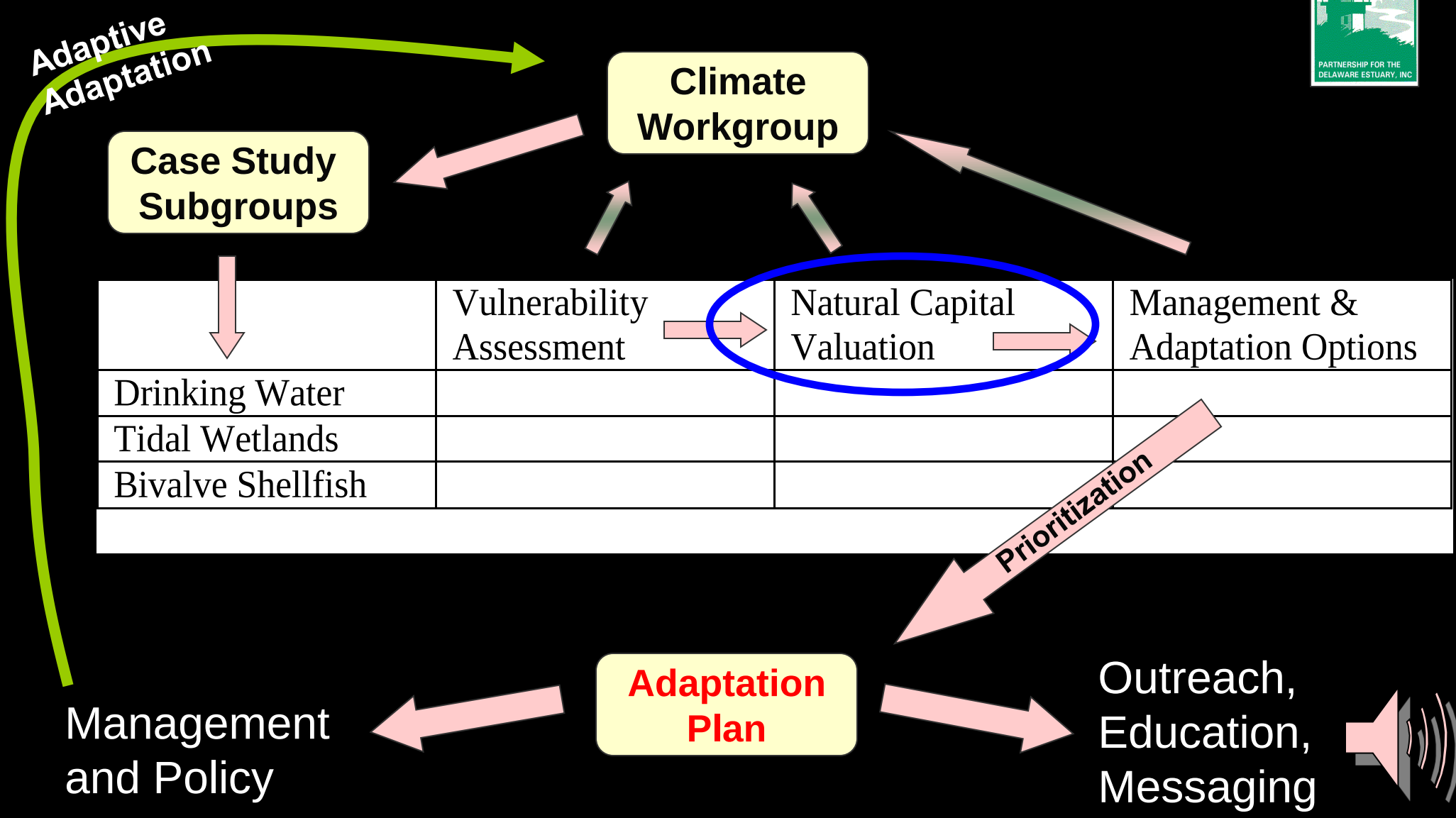
- Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program
- Living Shorelines

Climate Adaptation Planning

- Ready Estuaries Pilot

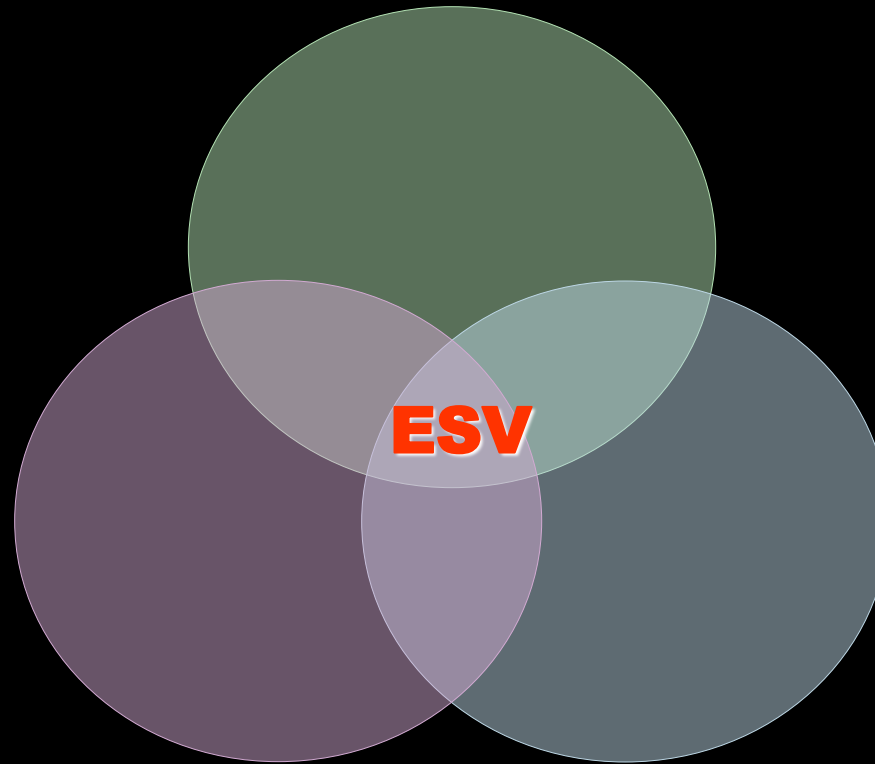


PDE Climate Ready Approach



Ecosystem Services in PDE Science

Regional
Restoration
Initiative



Climate
Adaptation

Targeted
On-the-Ground
Projects

Summary

Ecosystem Services Valuation represents a powerful tool to ensure that functional processes are studied, monitored and used to prioritize CCMP activities in the same way as structural aspects (e.g., acres)



ESV can provide uniform units/currency for quantifying and comparing natural resource benefits across time and space

ESV, together with other natural capital values, can help put natural resources on a more even footing with developed assets

Caveat

ESV may be an Ecological Manhattan Project

Care must be taken not to excuse the loss of low condition, lower value resources that might otherwise be protected or restored



– End –

