

# Virtual Living Shoreline Public Education Session

## LIVING SHORELINES

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**  
**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**



Funding provided to the City of Cambridge for the Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.



# AGENDA

- **6:00-6:05 WELCOME**
- **6:05-6:30 LIVING SHORELINES IN MARYLAND: PRACTICE, POLICY, AND PROGRESS**
  - SAMUEL ECKERT & LAURA EXAR , MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- **6:30-6:55 LIVING SHORELINES RESEARCH IN THE PALINKAS LAB**
  - CINDY PALINKAS, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- **6:55-7:05 ASSESSING HABITAT FUNCTION AS A CO-BENEFIT OF LIVING SHORELINES**
  - KENNY ROSE, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- **7:05-7:15 LIVING SHORELINES**
  - ANNA JOHNSON, BAYLAND CONSULTANTS & DESIGNERS, INC
- **7:15-7:30 PM Q&A SESSION**



**Sam Eckert**

Coastal Restoration Specialist



**Laura Exar**

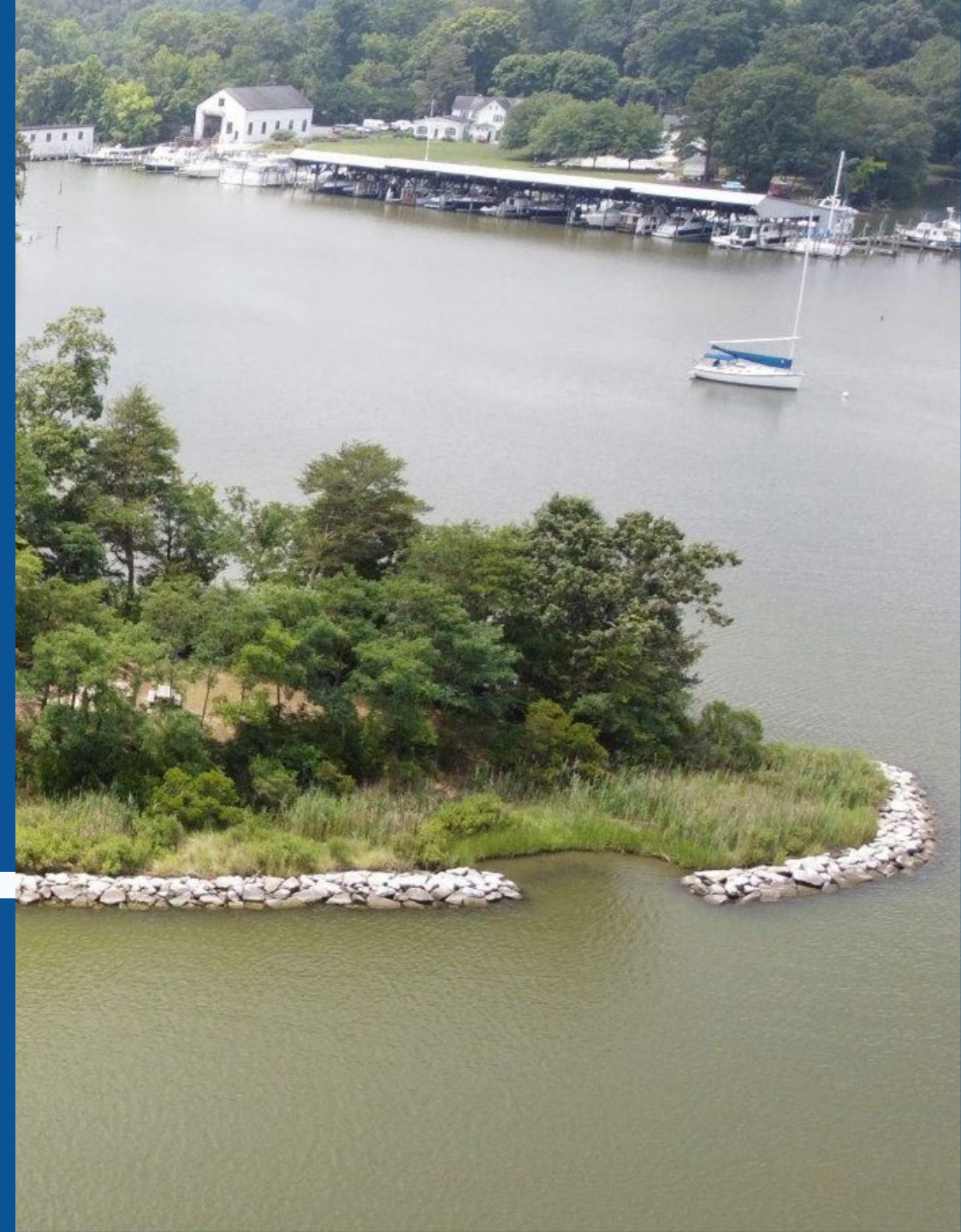
Coastal Restoration Specialist

Sam and Laura are Coastal Restoration Specialists at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, working as part of the Shoreline Conservation Service (SCS) to provide property owners with technical and financial assistance to implement living shorelines. The SCS team manages the Shoreline Erosion Loan Program which provides communities, non-profits, local governments, and private property owners access to an interest-free loan to install living shorelines.



# Living Shorelines in Maryland: Practice, Policy, and Progress

Sam Eckert and Laura Exar, Coastal Restoration Specialists  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Shoreline Conservation Service





# Outline

- I. Who We Are: Shoreline Conservation Service
- II. Introduction to Shorelines and Erosion in Maryland
- III. Traditional Approach to Shoreline Stabilization & When They Fail
- IV. What is a Living Shoreline? (Green Vs. Grey)
- V. Benefits of Living Shorelines
- VI. Living Shoreline Act of 2008
- VII. Living Shoreline Waiver Process
- VIII. Conclusion

# Shoreline Conservation Service

## *Program History*

**Shore Erosion Control Program established in 1968 through legislation**

**Program provides technical & financial assistance to waterfront property owners experiencing erosion**

### Technical Assistance

Provided through site evaluations, assessments, and recommended solutions

### Financial Assistance

Provided through zero-interest loan program

1968



Since 2008





# Shorelines in Maryland: Current Status

- 6,776 miles bordering the Bay
- 85-95% privately owned
- Erosion affects all 16 coastal counties and Baltimore City
- Exacerbated by
  - Sea level rise
  - Human activities (large boats and hardened adjacent shorelines)
- 18% of Bay shorelines hardened as of 2016
  - Up to 80% in some Bay tributaries





# Is Erosion Good or Bad?





# Traditional Approach



**Revetment**



**Wooden Bulkhead**



# Problems Associated with a Structural Approach

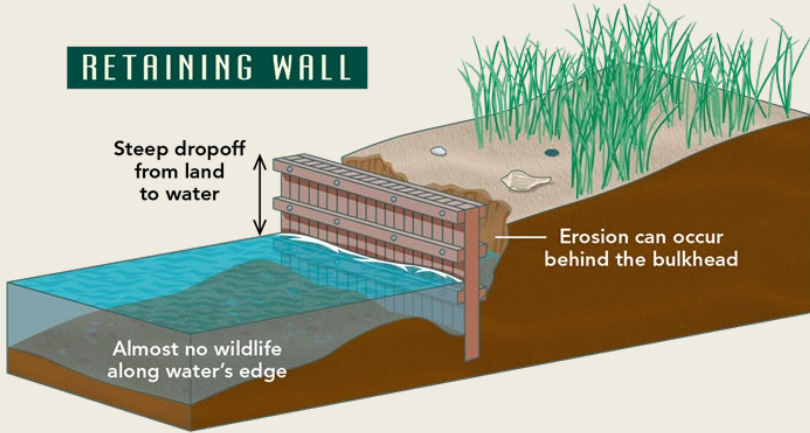


These approaches *fight* nature  
instead of working with it.





# Gray vs Green Infrastructure



'Hard' infrastructure like retaining walls abruptly severs the ecological connection between the coast and water.



Not only do Living Shorelines defend land against destructive waves, but they also provide crucial habitat for fish and wildlife.

## Structural Solutions

Strongest day is the first day after construction – becomes **weaker over time**

## Nature-based Solutions

If designed and built correctly, the weakest day is the first day after construction - becomes **stronger over time**

# Hurricane Irene and Florence

- Hurricane Irene (2011) damage in the Outer Banks:
  - 76% of bulkheads
  - None of the coastal habitats that were studied
- Hurricane Florence (2018) damage:
  - Areas that had “hard structures” had significant damage and erosion
- Areas that had “soft solutions” like oyster reefs and living shorelines/marshes did much better
- NOAA reported on Beaufort Living Shoreline: “intact after the storm, with minimal erosion”



5a. Erosion behind seawall on west side of Pivers Island



5b. Erosion of bank behind granite rock at upland edge of marsh-sill site on west side of Pivers Island



5c. Minor erosion of vertical bank behind marsh on east side of Pivers Island.

Diagram from NC DEQ



# WHAT IS A LIVING SHORELINE?

Living shorelines are a **suite of techniques** used to reduce erosion and enhance habitat by restoring and/or enhancing natural features while maintaining coastal processes.

Typical features may include:

- Marsh
- Beach Strand
- Headlands
- Groin
- Sill
- Offshore breakwater
- Tombolo
- Cobble/Shingle Beach
- Woody Vegetation/Debris



2008 Living Shorelines  
Protection Act



# Potential Restoration Techniques - Living Shorelines





# Living Shoreline Benefits

- Erosion control
- Storm protection
- Shoreline stabilization and adaptation
- Water quality improvements
- Habitat creation and connectivity
- Carbon sequestration
- Enhancing fisheries
- Recreational and aesthetic value

Photo: DNREC



# Living Shoreline Act of 2008

- First state-wide effort to promote living shorelines!
- Established living shorelines as the preferred method, unless:
  - A waiver is obtained from MDE
  - The project is mapped as appropriate for structural stabilization by MDE
- When issued a waiver, living shoreline approaches should be incorporated where possible

Ch. 304

## **CHAPTER 304**

**(House Bill 973)**

AN ACT concerning

**Water Management Administration – Living Shoreline Protection Act of 2008**



# Living Shoreline Waiver Process

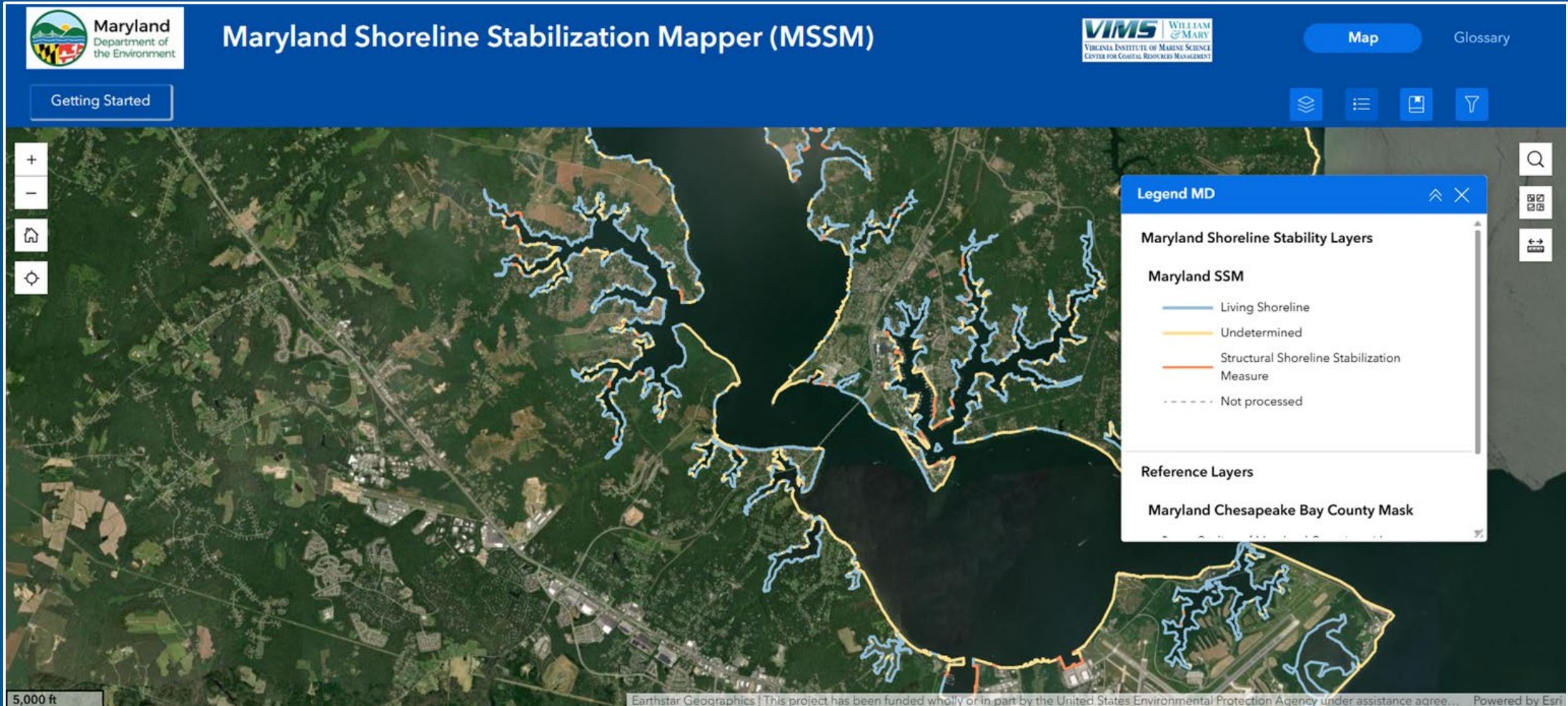
In making the feasibility determination, several factors are considered by MDE:

*B. When evaluating a person's request for a waiver, the Department shall determine whether the site is suitable to support a nonstructural shoreline stabilization measure by considering:*

- (1) The width of the waterway;*
- (2) The bottom elevation and slope at mean low water;*
- (3) The bottom substrate;*
- (4) The fetch;*
- (5) The bank elevation and orientation;*
- (6) The degree of erosion;*
- (7) The height and regularity of tides;*
- (8) Any other physical constraints that would impede or prevent successful establishment of a nonstructural shoreline stabilization measure; and*

LIVING SHORELINE WAIVER WORKSHEET			
Project Site Address: _____			
City, State, Zip: _____			
	Existing Structure	Is the proposed project a replacement of a previously authorized, functional structure i.e. replacement bulkhead? <i>If yes, then check the yes box and do not fill out the rest of the form.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Waiver) <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Mapped Shoreline	Is the applicant's proposed project's shoreline mapped by MDE as an area appropriate for structural shoreline stabilization measures? If unknown, leave this section blank. <i>If yes, then check the yes box and do not fill out the rest of the form.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Waiver) <input type="checkbox"/> No
1	Navigation	Distance in feet from the Mean High Water Line to the centerline of the closest mapped or unmapped navigable channel.	
2	Width of Waterway	Distance in feet from Mean High Water Line of proposed project's shoreline perpendicular across the waterway to the Mean High Water Line on the opposite shoreline.	
3	Depth at Toe of Bank	Depth of the water in feet from the Mean Low Water Line to the bottom or toe of the shoreline bank.	
4	Depth of Waterway	Depth of water in feet relative to the Mean Low Water Line at 20-foot and 40-foot channelward of the Mean High Water Line at the proposed project's shoreline.	At 20 Ft. <input type="text"/> At 40 Ft. <input type="text"/>
5	Shoreline Orientation	A. Provide a compass direction perpendicular to the line of the proposed project's shoreline. Direction can be given as NE, SW, etc. or as a compass heading (i.e., 45°, 225°). B. Is Bank grading or tree trimming required to provide at least six hours of daily sunlight.	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
6	Fetch	Provide four measurements (in feet) of maximum unobstructed distance over open water for each compass quadrant (i.e., NE, SE, SW, NW) centered on the proposed project's location on the applicant's shoreline.	NW <input type="text"/> NE <input type="text"/> SW <input type="text"/> SE <input type="text"/>
7	Bottom Material	Firmness of bottom material in the proposed project's area of impact. Type of bottom material in the proposed project's area of impact.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard <input type="checkbox"/> Soft <input type="checkbox"/> Muck <input type="checkbox"/> Silt <input type="checkbox"/> Sand <input type="checkbox"/> Clay
	Sensitive Species	Will project construction adversely impact fish, plant, underwater vegetation, marsh, shellfish, wildlife habitat, or the area within 100 feet landward of the proposed project's shoreline? If unknown, leave this section blank.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (provide explanation and attach to this form) <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Site Access	A. Can the proposed project be constructed from the water? B. Does the access to the site require any grading or trimming of vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I certify that the information on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
RIPARIAN PROPERTY OWNER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____			
RIPARIAN PROPERTY OWNER NAME (PRINT): _____			
VER. 2023.06			

# Living Shoreline Mapper





# Thank you!

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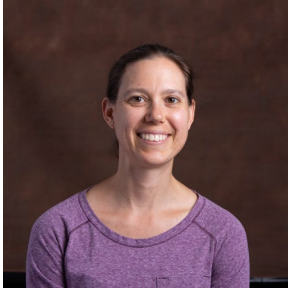
## Questions?

Sam Eckert: [samuel.eckert@maryland.gov](mailto:samuel.eckert@maryland.gov)

Laura Exar: [laura.exar@maryland.gov](mailto:laura.exar@maryland.gov)



# Living Shoreline Research in the Palinkas lab



Cindy Palinkas, Associate Professor  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
Horn Point Lab

In collaboration with Lorie Staver  
and many other Horn Point faculty, staff, and students!

BA, Earth and Planetary Science, Johns Hopkins University  
MS and PhD, Geological Oceanography, University of Washington  
2005-2013: Assistant Professor, UMCES  
2013-present: Associate Professor, UMCES



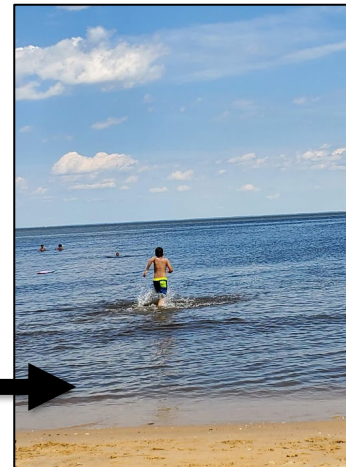


**What my students and I do:** study **MUD** in and around Chesapeake Bay; aka playing in marshes and shallow water

**Our big questions:**

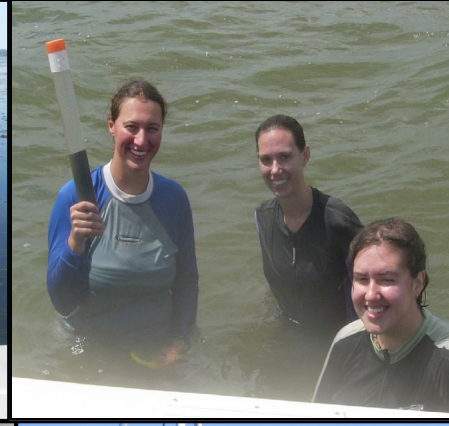
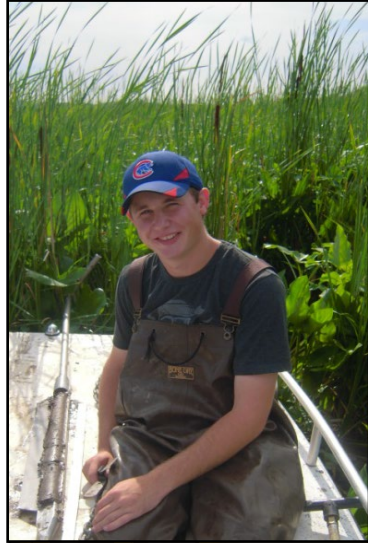
1. How does mud and sand (sediment) from land get into adjacent waters, and where does it end up?
  2. How do people influence its supply via land and shoreline uses and/or management?
  3. How does it interact with plants like SAV\* and marshes?
- \*SAV = submersed aquatic vegetation

**Our motivation:** coastal resiliency, healthy Bay ecosystems





# What it looks like in the field and lab





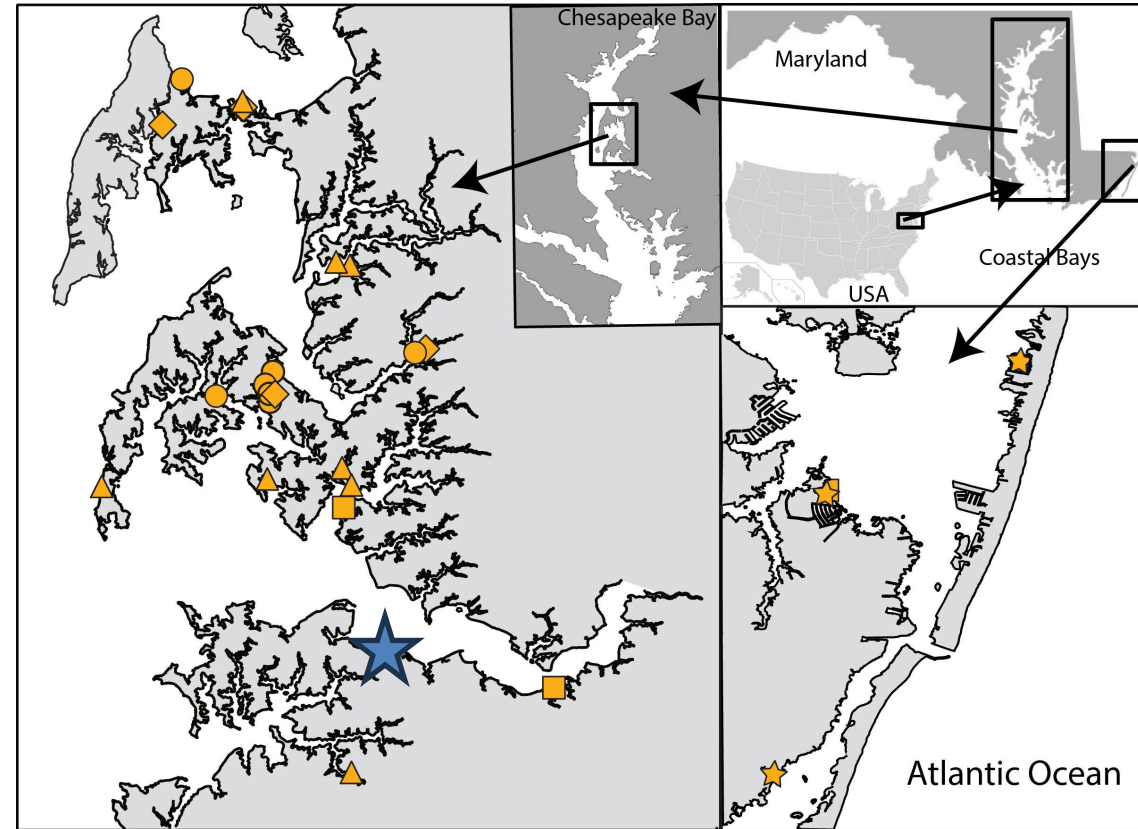
# Our living shoreline research questions

1. Do living shorelines “work” – reduce erosion?
2. What happens to adjacent SAV beds after installation?
3. How do sediment and plant characteristics change as living shorelines age?
4. Does design matter?

Funding, management, and outreach partners

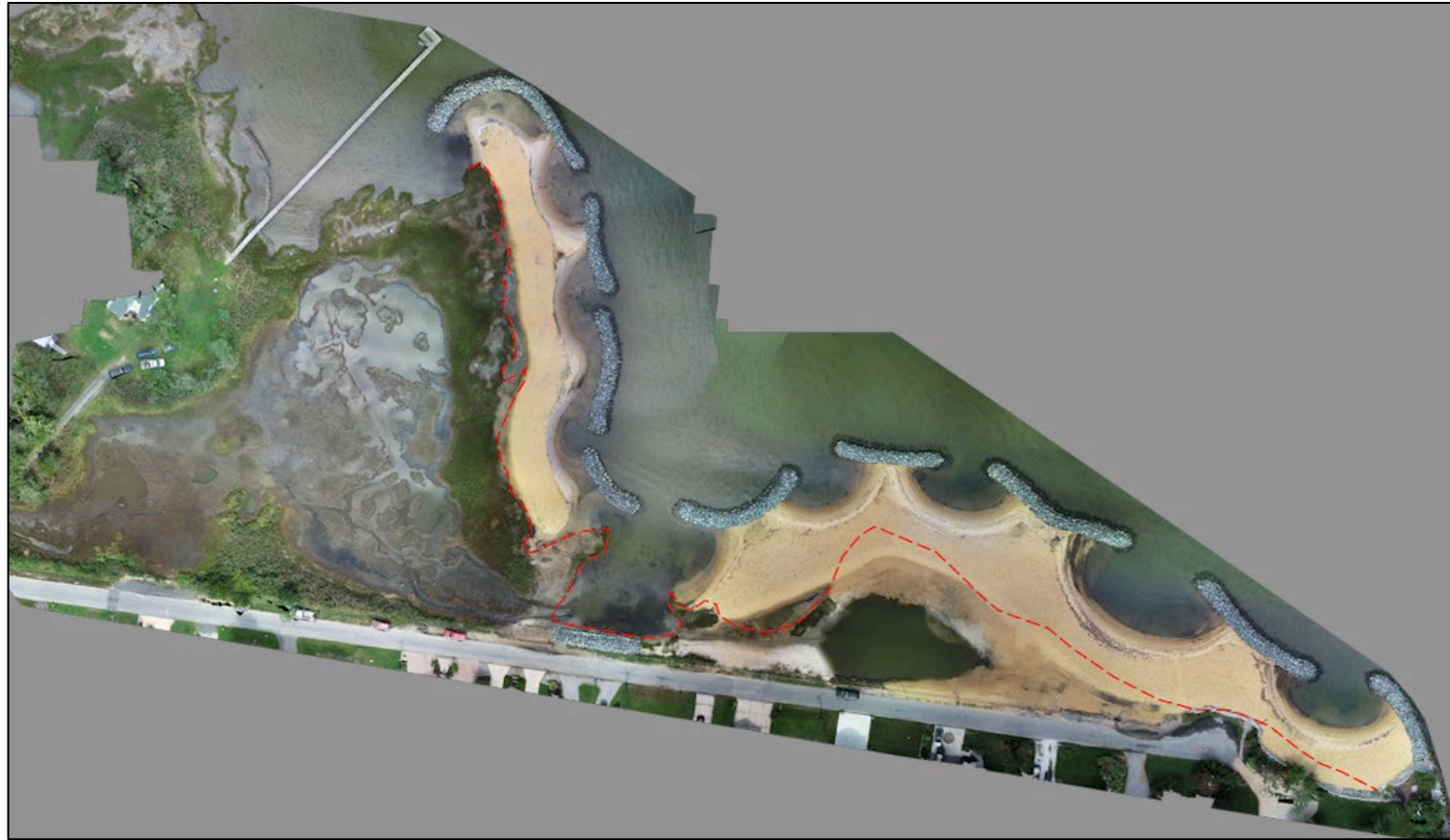


# Study sites across multiple projects





Living shoreline installation builds shorelines seaward into adjacent shallow-water habitat.



Selsey Rd, West Ocean City

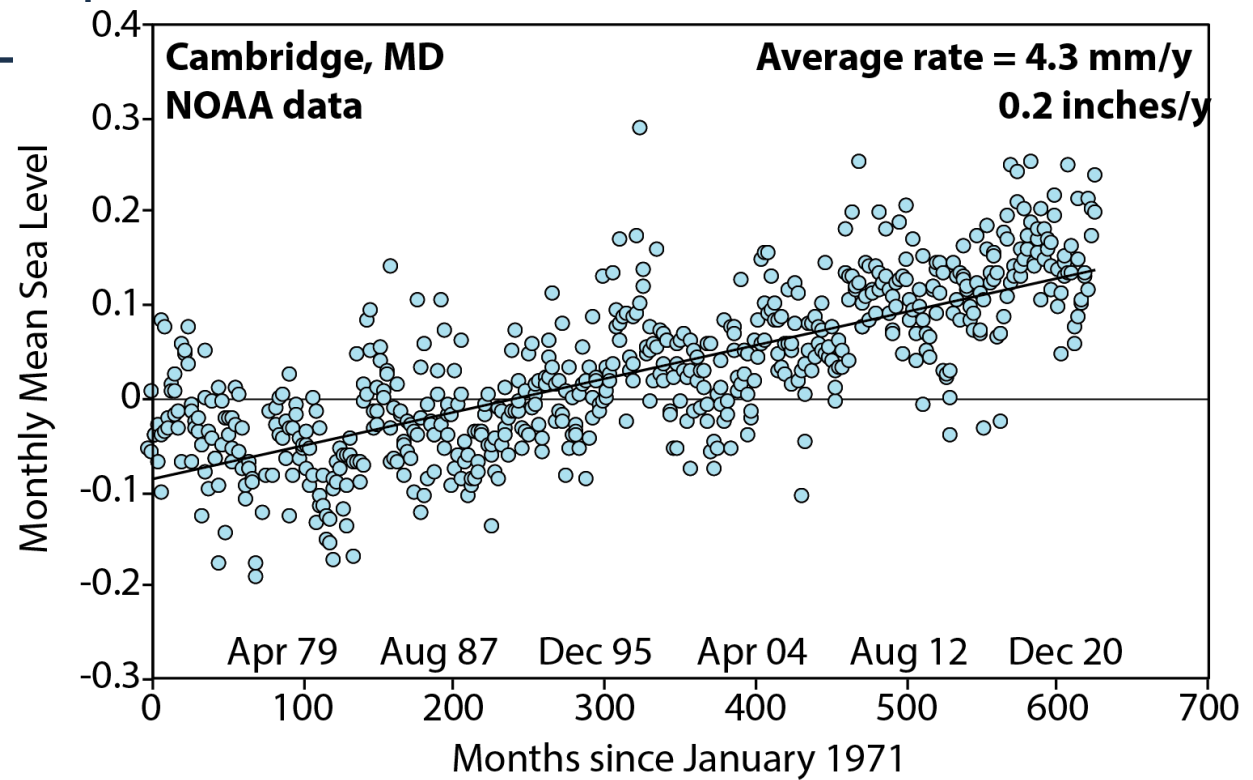
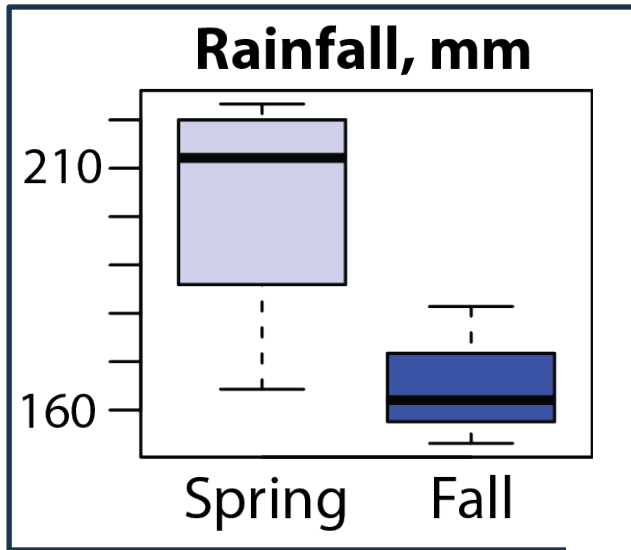
# BACI\*-inspired monitoring design

\*BACI – before, after, control, impact





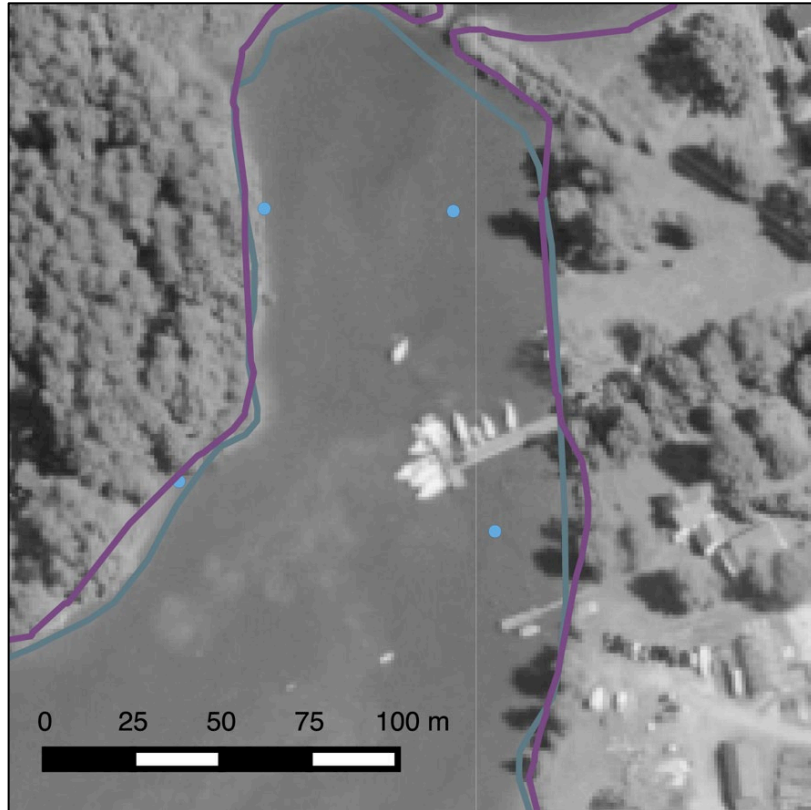
# Why? Weather and other drivers vary over time



# 1) Do living shorelines “work” (reduce erosion)?

**Compare erosion rates:**

*Historical:* change from 1942 to 1994



Purple = 1994 shoreline

Blue = 1942 shoreline

**Maryland Coastal Atlas**

*Current:* change from 2003 (before any installation) and 2017 (field survey)



Feb 2007 Google Earth

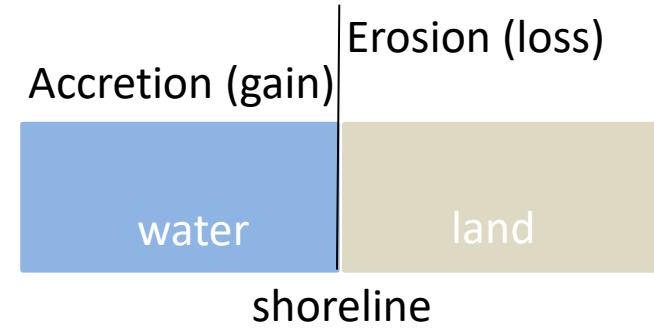
● LS

● natural

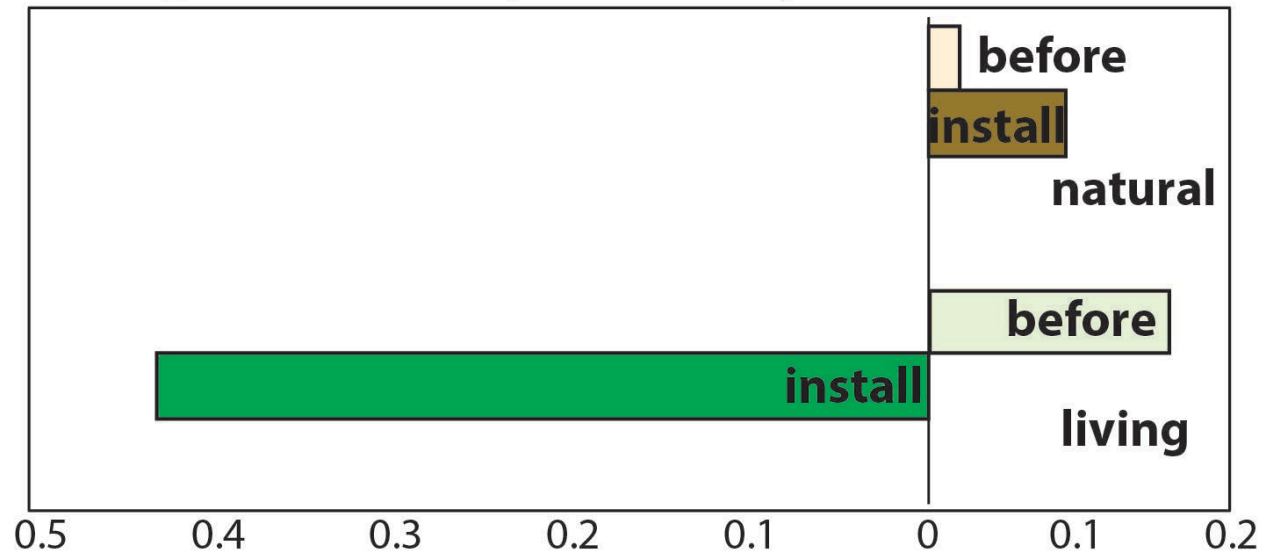




## Erosion continues at natural shorelines; shorelines move seaward with living shoreline installation

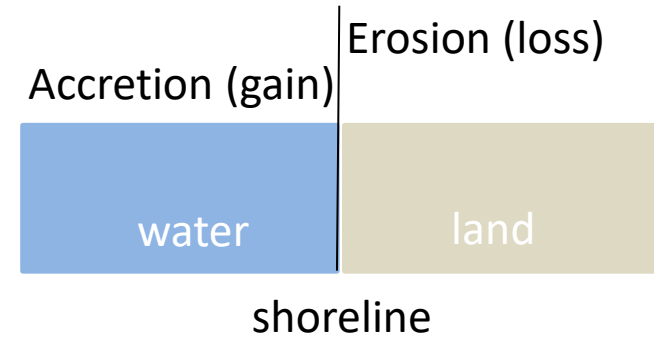


### Change in shoreline position, m/y

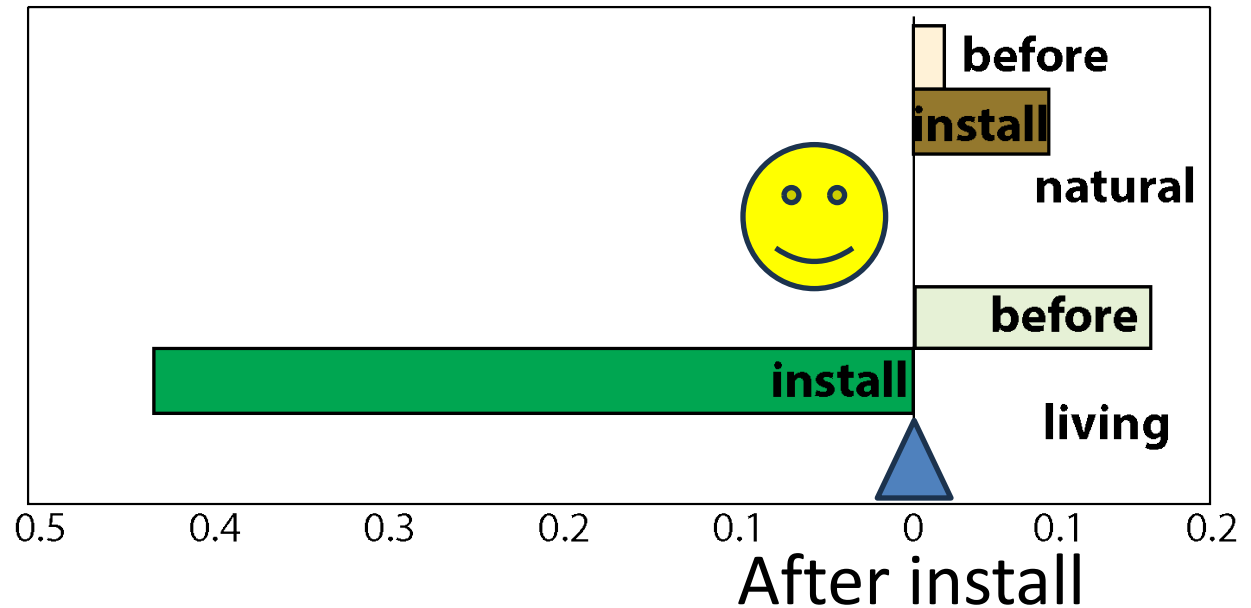




**Erosion continues at natural shorelines;  
shorelines move seaward with living  
shoreline installation then stabilize**

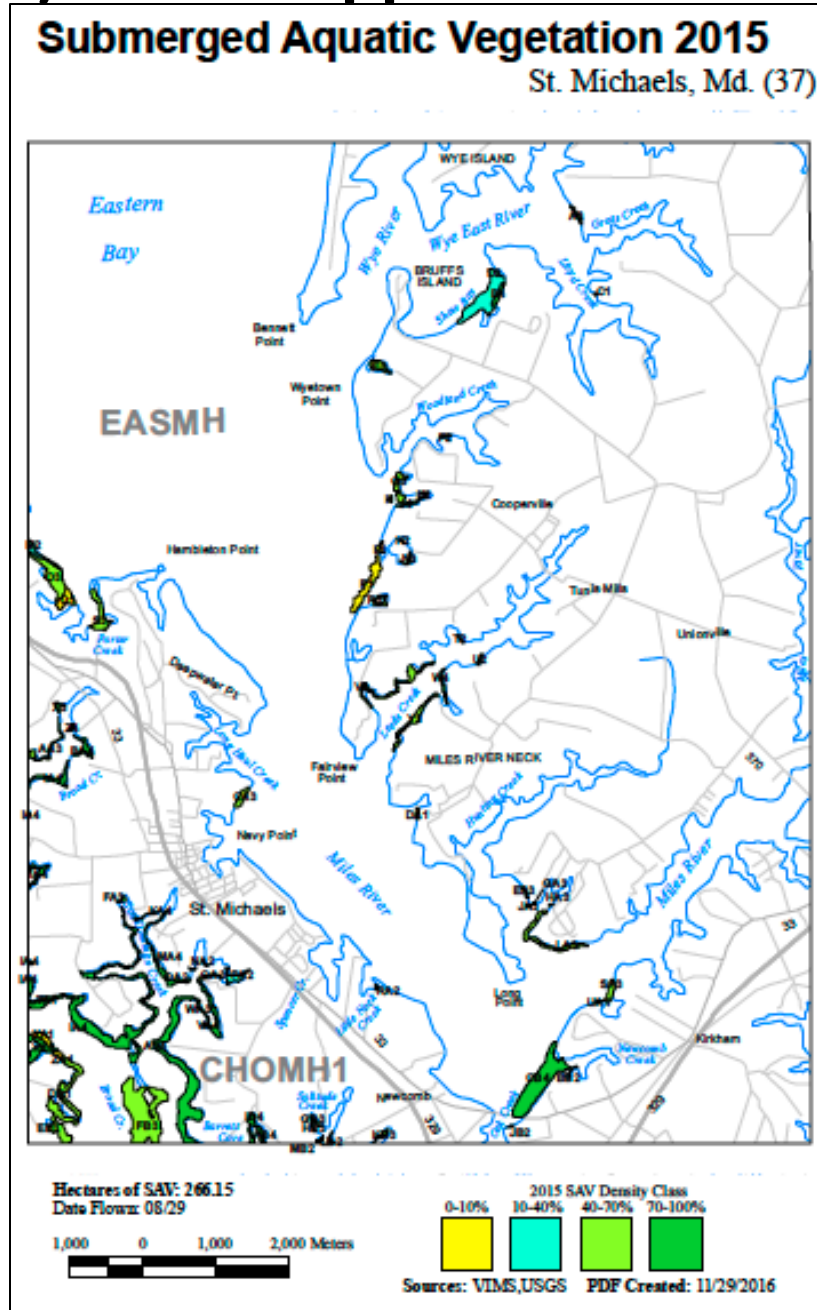


**Change in shoreline position, m/y**





## 2) What happens to SAV after installation?

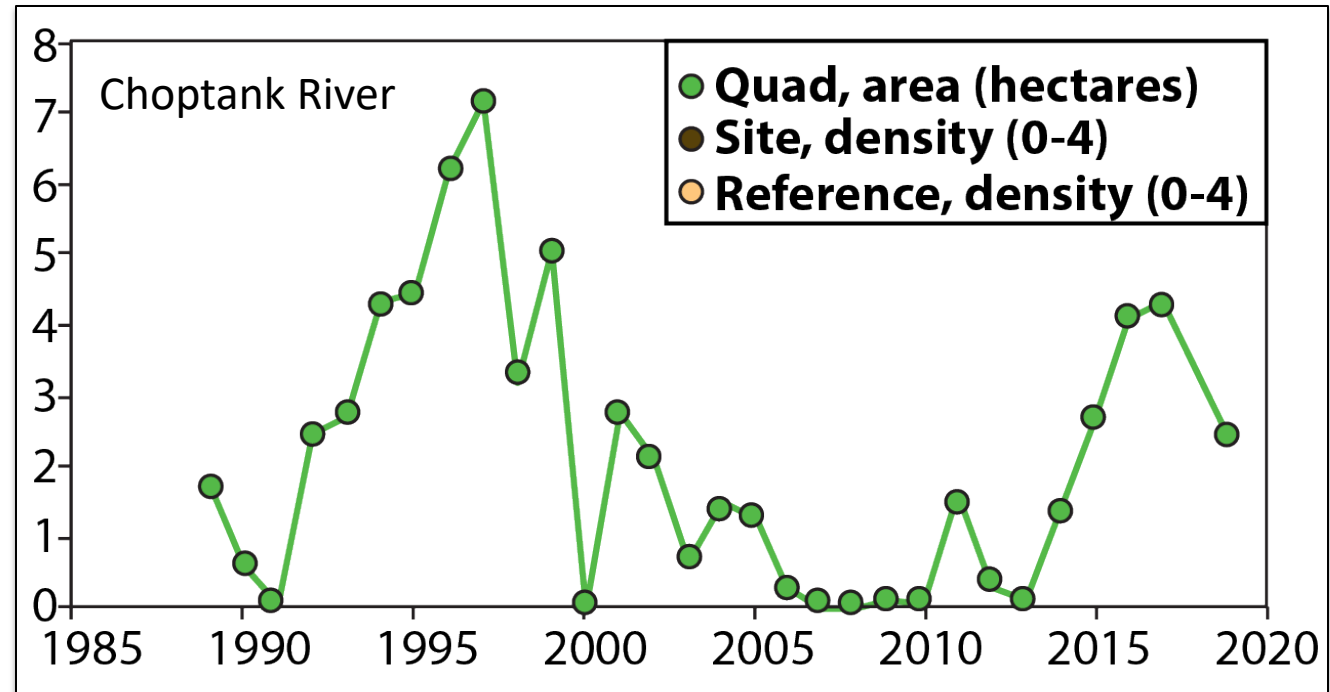


Aerial photos from VIMS\* 1978, 1984-present w/ground surveys

Photographs, data on VIMS SAV website (<http://web.vims.edu/bio/sav>)

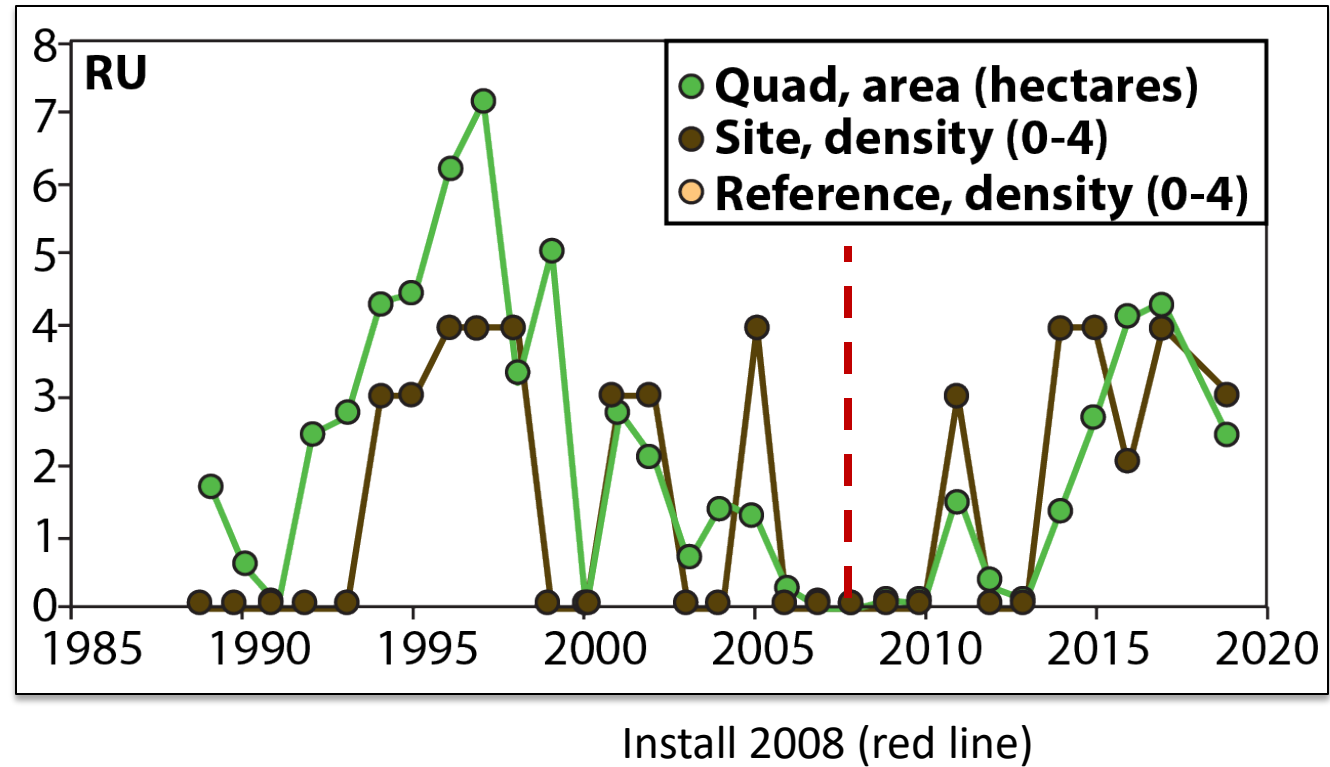
\*VIMS – Virginia Institute of Marine Science

## SAV in the region varies a lot!

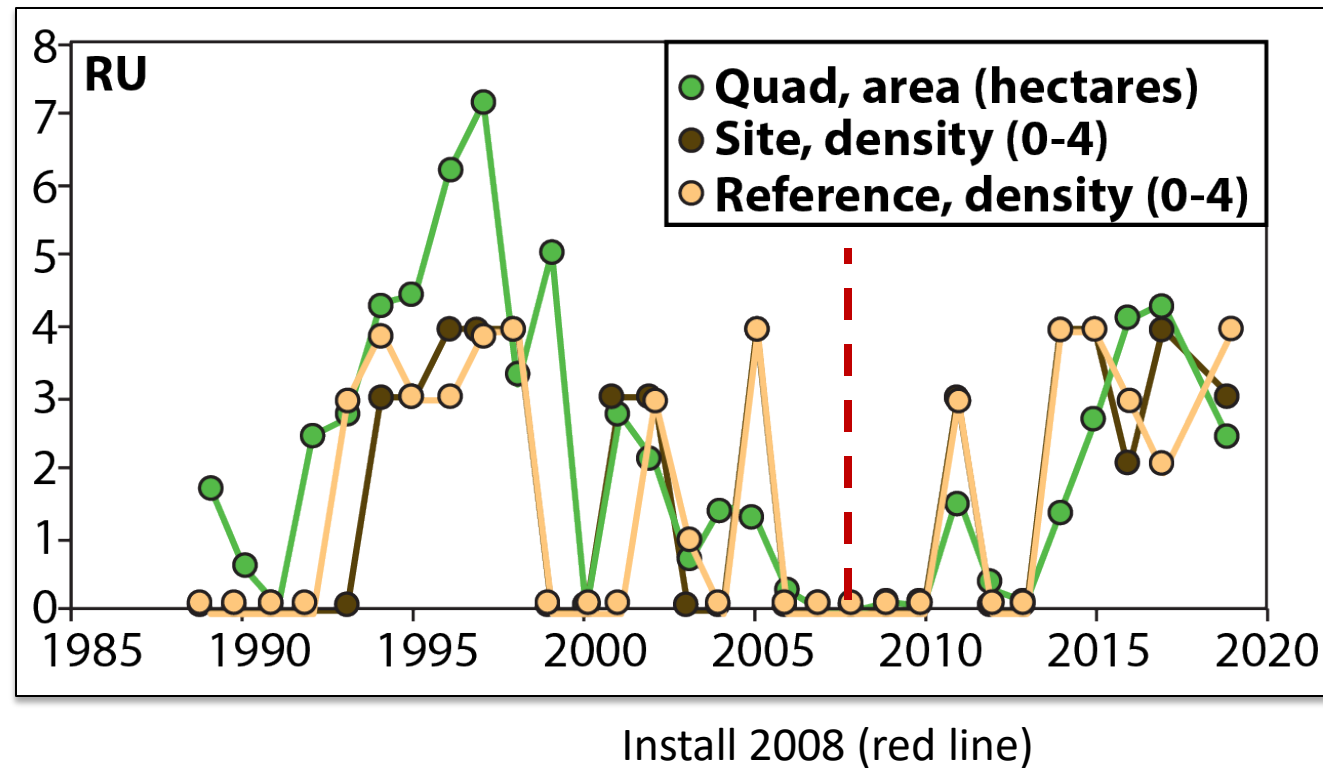




## SAV offshore the living shoreline follows the region



## SAV at the reference shoreline also follows the general trend



SAV offshore of all shorelines seems to follow the trend in the larger area, with no obvious impact of living shoreline installation.



### 3) How do sediment and plant characteristics change as living shorelines age?

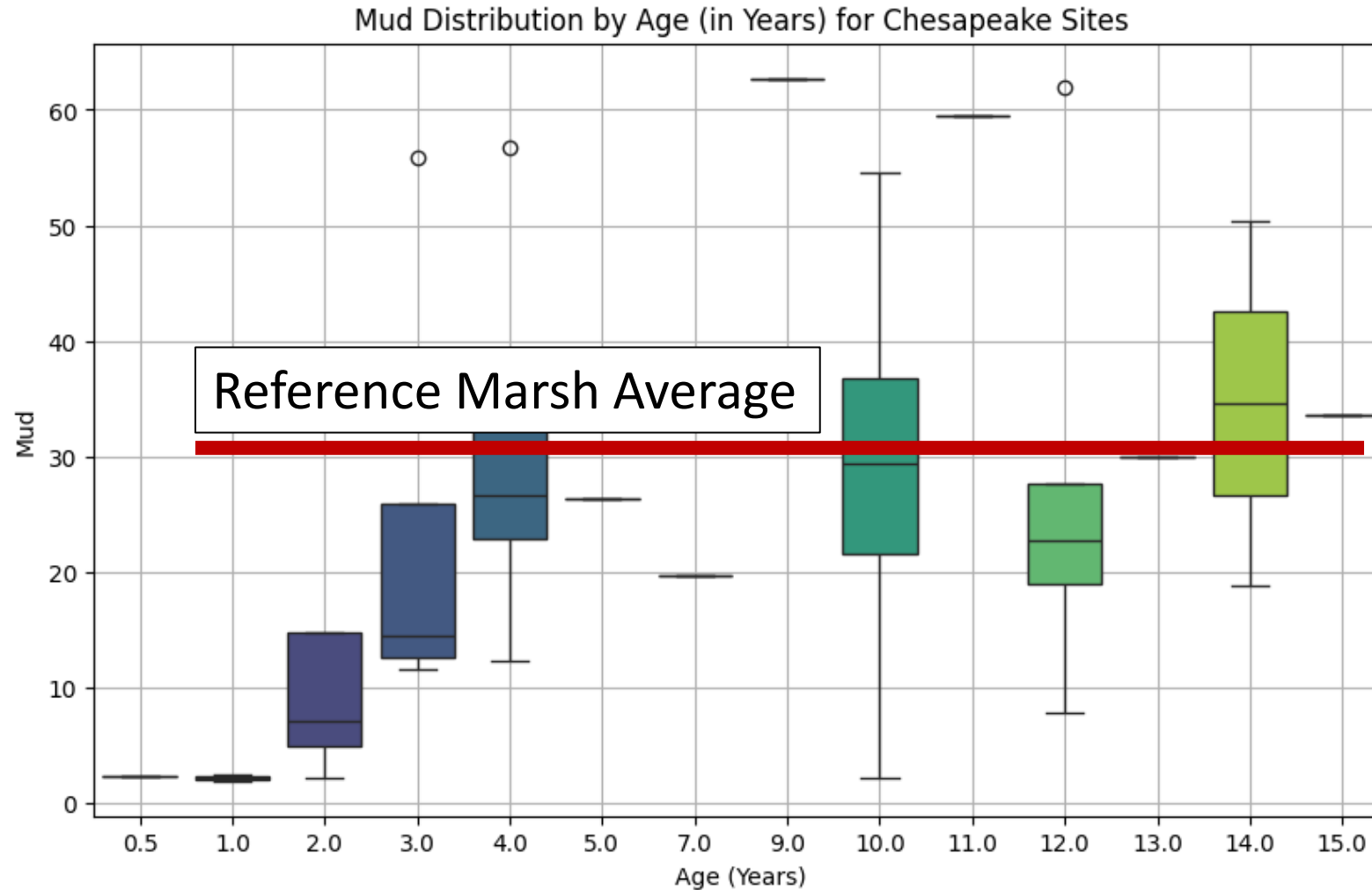


Hurst Creek – October 2022  
After initial planting



Hurst Creek – natural marsh

# How do sediment and plant characteristics change as living shorelines age?





## 4) Does design matter?



OP – continuous sill



Oxford Park – segmented sill



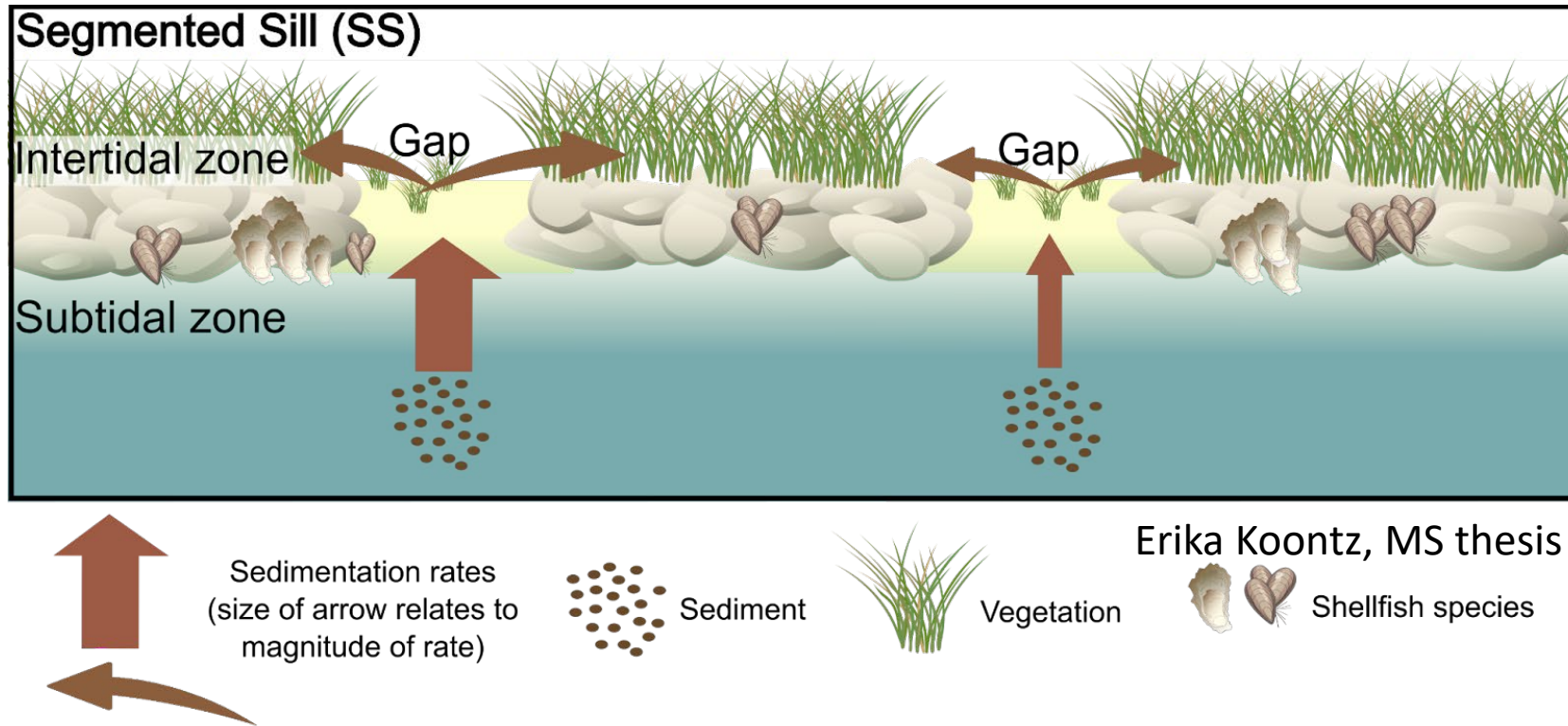
# Gaps connect land and water, similar to natural shorelines



Artwork by Talia Mastalski; MD Sea Grant



# Erosion and fewer plants in the gaps, healthy marshes behind the rocks



**But overall performance is (about) the same!**

# Our answers so far...

## **1. Do living shorelines “work” – reduce erosion?**

Yes! Erosion continues at reference shorelines, installation builds living shorelines out into the water, after which shorelines stabilize

## **2. What happens to SAV\* after installation? (\*offshore of project footprint)**

Nothing; SAV mainly follows regional trends before and after installation

## **3. How do sediment and plant characteristics change as living shorelines age?**

Sediment gets muddier and plants get denser, becoming more like a natural marsh; stabilize ~8-10 years after installation

## **4. Does design matter?**

Segmented sill designs have erosion hotspots in the gaps, but overall performance (stable shoreline position and created marsh area) is similar to continuous sills



# Assessing Habitat Function as a Co-Benefit of Living Shorelines



Kenneth Rose

France-Merrick Professor in Sustainable  
Ecosystem Restoration  
Horn Point Laboratory  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental  
Science

BS, Mathematics and Biology, SUNY at Albany

MS and PhD, Fisheries, University of Washington

Research Scientist, Environmental Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Professor/Associate Dean, College of the Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University

France-Merrick Professor in Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration, Horn Point Lab, UMCES



University of Maryland  
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

# Introduction

- Co-benefits
  - Win-win
- Focus on habitat
  - Flood protection
  - Reducing shoreline erosion
  - Hybrid structures
- Quick view of methods





ANNUAL REVIEW OF MARINE SCIENCE

# Performance Evaluation of Natural and Nature-Based Features for Coastal Protection and Co-Benefits

Matthew A. Reidenbach,<sup>1</sup> Ming Li,<sup>2</sup> Kenneth A. Rose,<sup>2</sup>  
Tori Tomiczek,<sup>3</sup> James Morris,<sup>4</sup> Cindy M. Palinkas,<sup>2</sup>  
Lorie W. Staver,<sup>2</sup> William Nardin,<sup>2</sup> Matthew W. Gray,<sup>2</sup>  
Serena B. Lee,<sup>5</sup> Ariana E. Sutton-Grier,<sup>6</sup>  
and Amy M. Hruska<sup>7</sup>

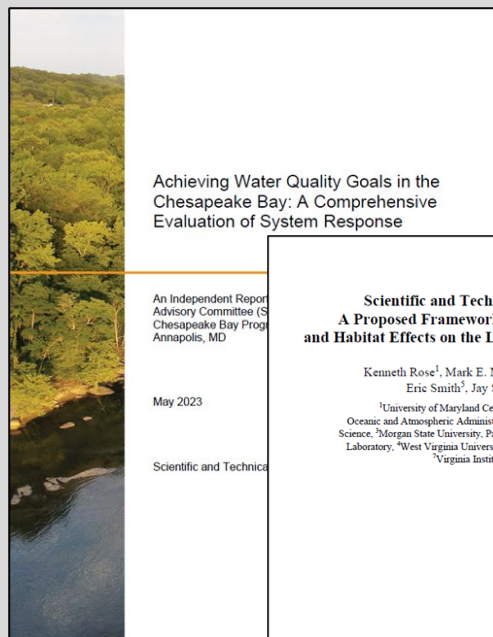
**Table 2 Categories of ecosystem services or co-benefits and example metrics influenced by NNBF**

Service/co-benefit	Source <sup>a</sup>	Example metric(s) <sup>b</sup>
Biodiversity	(a) Maintenance of wildlife (b) +, ecological functionality (c) Ecosystem resilience (d) + (e) + (f) +, habitat connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Species richness, evenness, and diversity at different trophic levels</li> <li>■ Presence of bird species within project</li> <li>■ Annual coverage area by vegetation</li> <li>■ Modeling and telemetry for connectivity</li> <li>■ Use of project by special-status species</li> </ul>
Raw materials	(b) +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Annual biomass harvested by vegetation type for external uses</li> </ul>
Food production	(a) Fisheries (c) + (d) Harvested fish and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Quantify enhancement of habitats for economically important fish/shellfish</li> <li>■ Presence of forage within project area</li> <li>■ Ease of access to fishing locations</li> </ul>
Habitat	(b) Natural resources preservation (d) +, TES species (e) +, invasive species, reduced conflicts over resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Percentage of marsh that is native species</li> <li>■ Shoot density of marsh vegetation</li> <li>■ Quality and quantity of habitat added by project using suitability models</li> <li>■ Percentage of day habitats are inundated</li> <li>■ Oyster reef area and height</li> </ul>
Nutrient and sediment cycling	(a) Nutrient cycling (b) Hydrologic regulation (c) Erosion control (d) Erosion control, nutrient sequestration or conversion (e) Erosion control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment concentrations entering/exiting project</li> <li>■ Retention rates of forms of nutrients and sediments by the project</li> <li>■ Changes in shoreline-change rates and Relative Exposure Index</li> </ul>
Water quality	(a) Water purification (c) + (d) Maintenance of suspended sediments, reduction of toxic materials, clean water provisioning (e) +, algal blooms, sewage and storm water management (f) +, soil/sediment health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dollars saved by stormwater management reducing treatment</li> <li>■ Reduction in annual loadings of nutrients to local receiving waters due to project</li> <li>■ Bulk density of bottom soils within project</li> </ul>



**Table 2 (Continued)**

Service/co-benefit	Source <sup>a</sup>	Example metric(s) <sup>b</sup>
Tourism	(a) + (c) + (d) + (f) +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dollars from visitation of businesses</li> <li>■ Annual number of out-of-area visitors</li> <li>■ Use of Recreational Opportunity Spectrum to, e.g., assess project naturalness</li> </ul>
Recreation	(a) + (c) +, recreation, health and well-being, noise reduction (d) + (e) +, public access, healthy living and well-being, leisure and nature views (f) +, health and well-being, noise reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of visitors to project</li> <li>■ Number of recreational activity events</li> <li>■ Number and activity levels of visitors</li> <li>■ Catch rates of fish by visitors</li> <li>■ Annual number of kayaks rented</li> <li>■ Noise attenuation potential based on leaf biomass and canopy area</li> </ul>
Education	(a) +, research (c) + (d) + scientific opportunities (e) +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Annual number of students who use project through their school activities</li> <li>■ Scientific products from research at project</li> </ul>
Aesthetics	(c) +, amenity (d) + cultural heritage and identity (e) Heritage and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ratio of green spaces to built structures</li> <li>■ Conservation of historical or culturally important buildings or features</li> </ul>



## Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response

An Independent Report  
Advisory Committee (S)  
Chesapeake Bay Program  
Annapolis, MD

May 2023

Scientific and Technical

### Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee: A Proposed Framework for Analyzing Water Quality and Habitat Effects on the Living Resources of Chesapeake Bay

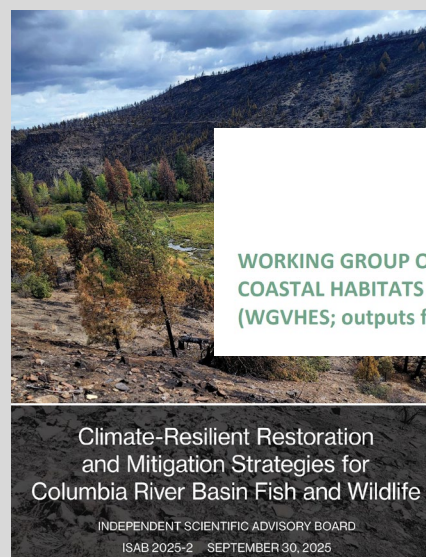
Kenneth Rose<sup>1</sup>, Mark E. Monaco<sup>2</sup>, Tom Ihde<sup>3</sup>, Jason Hubbard<sup>4</sup>,  
Eric Smith<sup>5</sup>, Jay Stauffer<sup>6</sup>, Kirk Havens<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, <sup>2</sup>National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Centers for Coastal Ocean  
Science, <sup>3</sup>Morgan State University, Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research  
Laboratory, <sup>4</sup>West Virginia University, <sup>5</sup>Virginia Tech, <sup>6</sup>Penn State University,  
<sup>7</sup>Virginia Institute of Marine Science

May 2023



STAC Publication 23-005

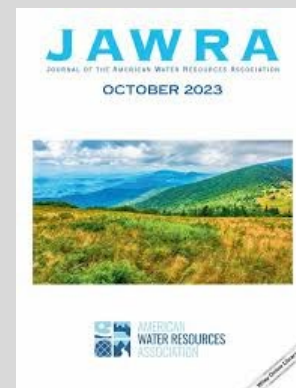


### WORKING GROUP ON THE VALUE OF COASTAL HABITATS FOR EXPLOITED SPECIES (WGVHES; outputs from 2024 meeting)



### Climate-Resilient Restoration and Mitigation Strategies for Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife

INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD  
ISAB 2025-2 SEPTEMBER 30, 2025



### Research Article

#### A Framework for Prioritization and Assessment of Restoration Actions Based on Living Resources: An Illustration Using the Chesapeake Bay

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Cambridge, MD 21613 [krise@umces.edu](mailto:krise@umces.edu), <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9310-8410>

**Mark E Monaco**, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD 20910,  
[mark.monaco@noaa.gov](mailto:mark.monaco@noaa.gov)

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**Jay R. Stauffer Jr.**, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, Penn State University,  
University Park, PA 16802 and Honorary Research Associate South African Institute for Aquatic  
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**Kirk J. Havens**, Center for Coastal Resources Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Science,  
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**Lewis C. Linker**, U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Environmental Protection Agency  
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**Kaylyn S. Gootman**, U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Environmental Protection  
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Ecological Modelling 300 (2015) 12–29

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

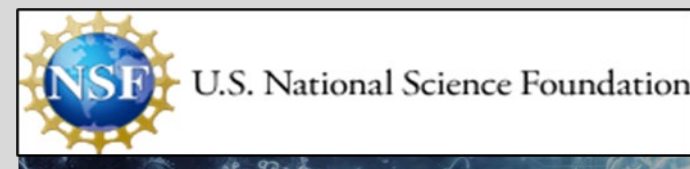
Ecological Modelling

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolmodel](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolmodel)

### Proposed best modeling practices for assessing the effects of ecosystem restoration on fish



Kenneth A. Rose<sup>a,\*</sup>, Shaye Sable<sup>b</sup>, Donald L. DeAngelis<sup>c</sup>, Simeon Yurek<sup>d</sup>, Joel C. Trexler<sup>e</sup>,  
William Graf<sup>f</sup>, Denise J. Reed<sup>g</sup>



## Advancing Interdisciplinary Research to Build Resilient Communities and Infrastructure in the Nation's Estuaries and Bays



Comprehensive Everglades  
Restoration Plan (CERP)



Historic Flow    Current Flow    The Plan (CERP) Flow



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

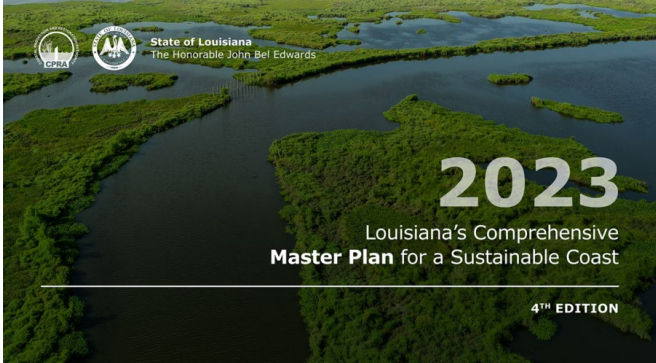
**PUGET SOUND  
NEARSHORE  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT**



**COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN  
RESTORATION PROGRAM**



**TBEP**  
**TAMPA BAY  
ESTUARY PROGRAM**  
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY BAY

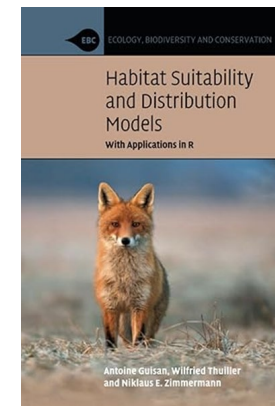
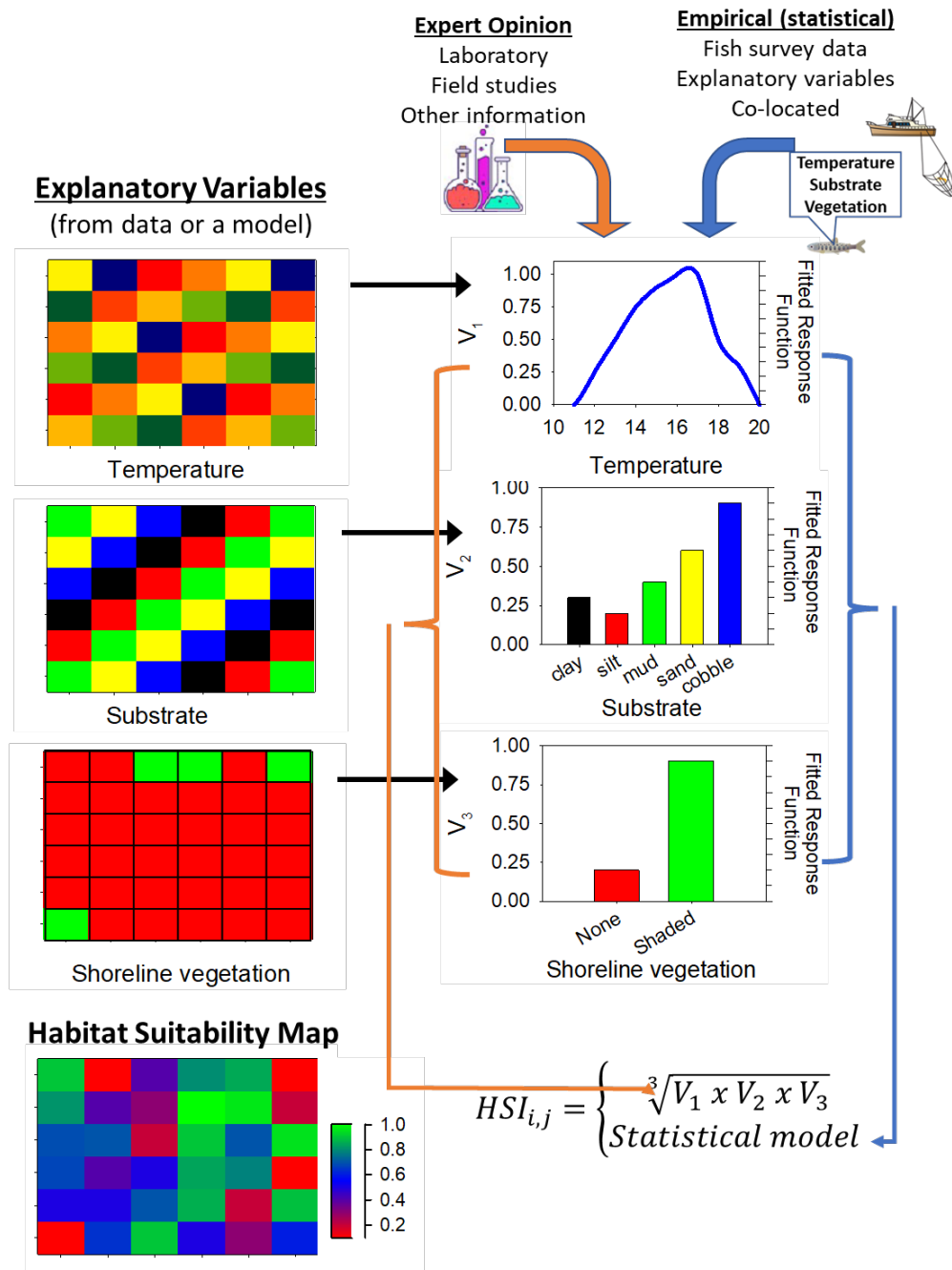


State of Louisiana  
The Honorable John Bel Edwards

**2023**  
Louisiana's Comprehensive  
**Master Plan** for a Sustainable Coast

4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

**Habitat  
Suitability**

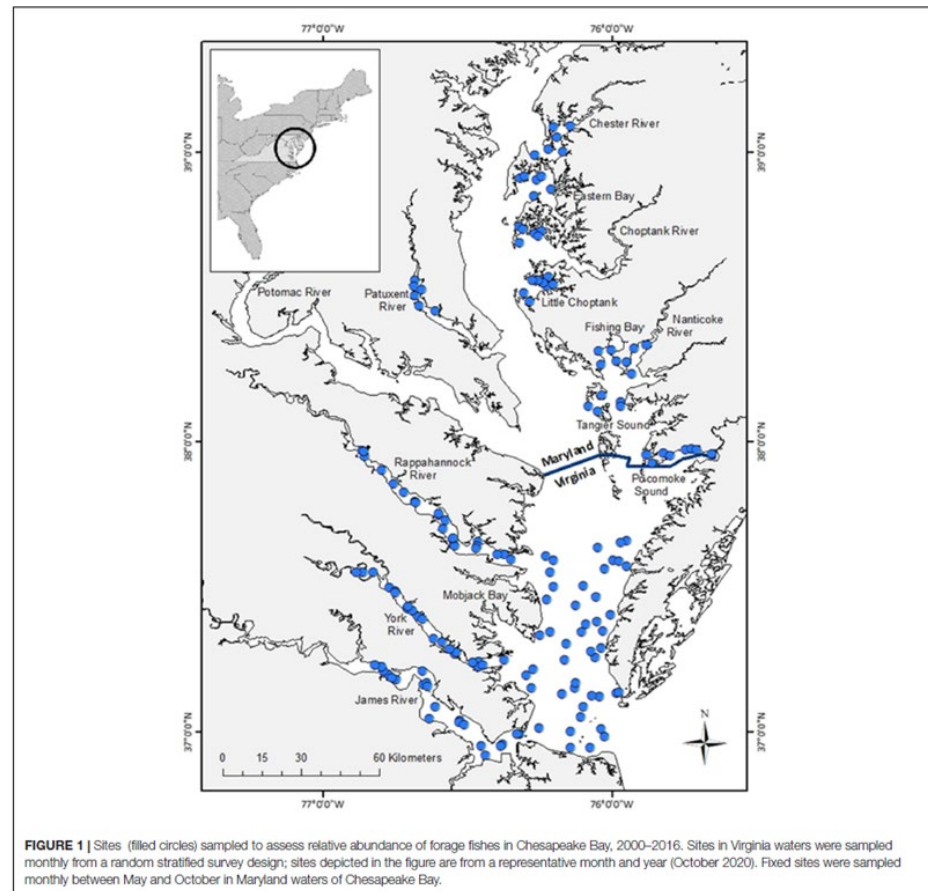




# The Extent of Seasonally Suitable Habitats May Limit Forage Fish Production in a Temperate Estuary

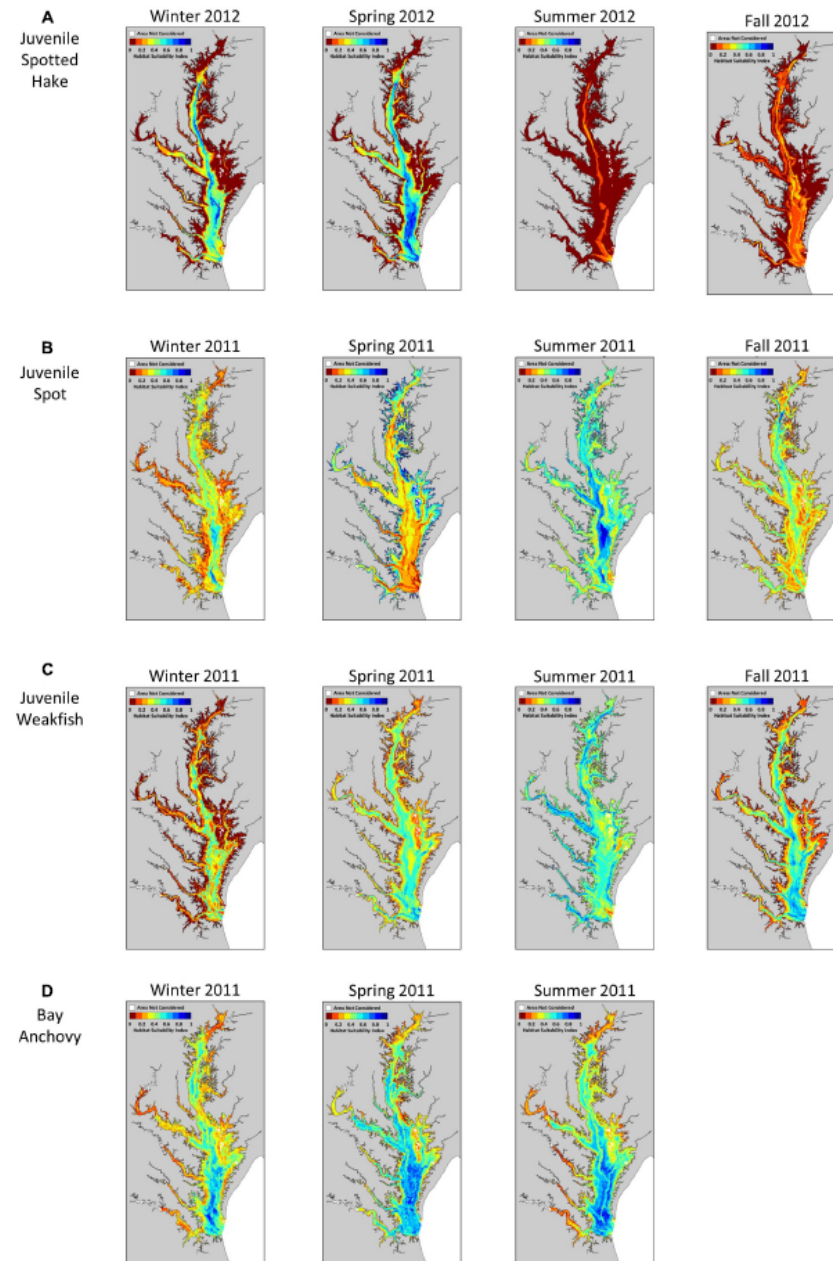
Mary C. Fabrizio<sup>1\*</sup>, Troy D. Tuckey<sup>1</sup>, Aaron J. Bever<sup>2</sup> and Michael L. MacWilliams<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Fisheries Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary, Gloucester Point, VA, United States,  
<sup>2</sup> Anchor QEA, LLC, San Francisco, CA, United States



**FIGURE 1 |** Sites (filled circles) sampled to assess relative abundance of forage fishes in Chesapeake Bay, 2000–2016. Sites in Virginia waters were sampled monthly from a random stratified survey design; sites depicted in the figure are from a representative month and year (October 2020). Fixed sites were sampled monthly between May and October in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay.





**FIGURE 5** | Representative examples of seasonal variation in habitat suitability for (A) juvenile spotted hake, (B) juvenile spot, (C) juvenile weakfish, and (D) bay anchovy in Chesapeake Bay. The habitat suitability index ranges from 0 (red) indicating poor habitat to 1 (blue) indicating most suitable habitat.

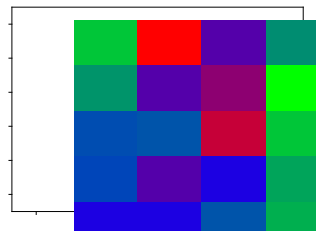
# Habitat Suitability

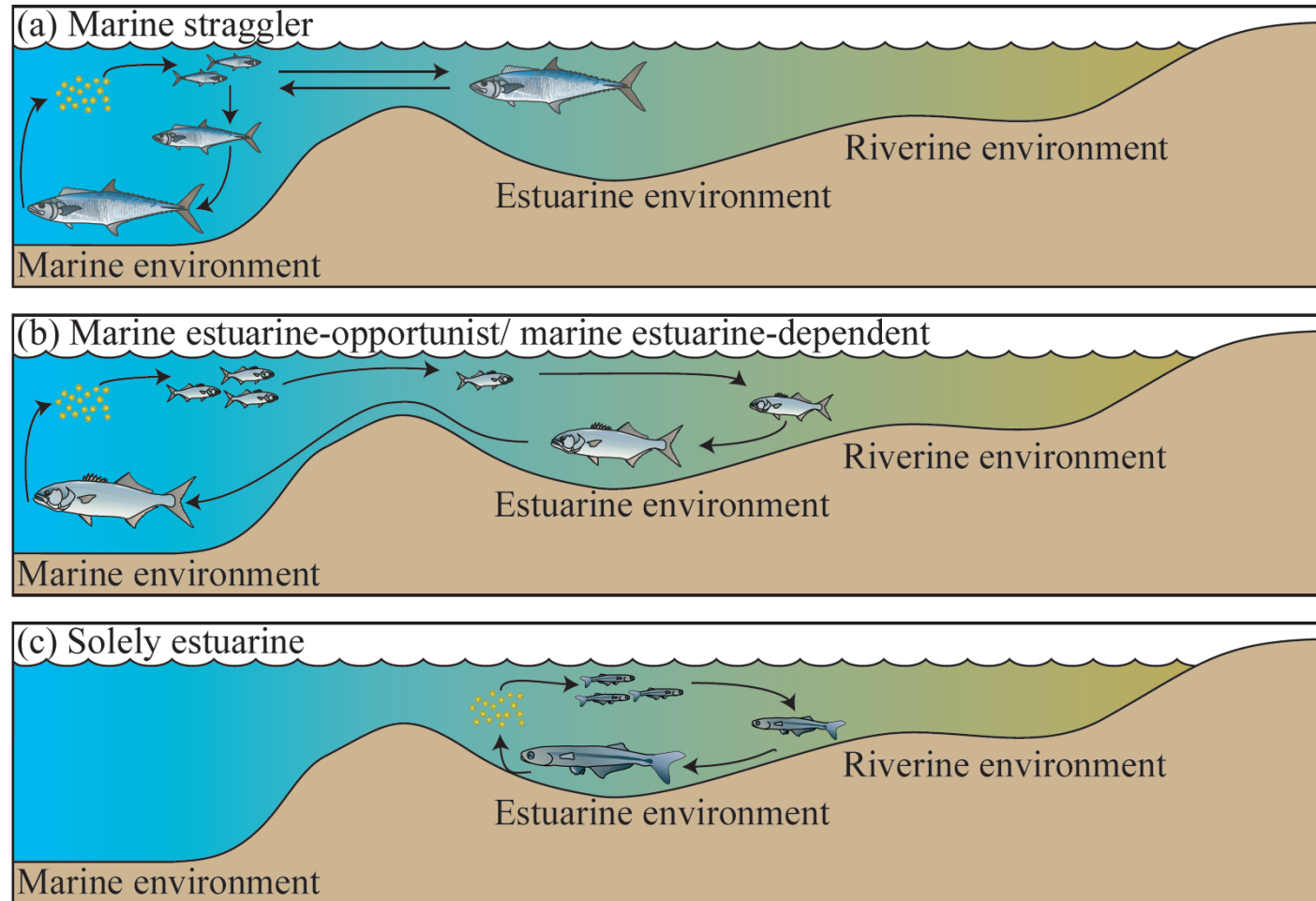
## Advantages

- Information is available for Chesapeake Bay
- Habitat is recognized as important
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Relatively high confidence
- “Quick” and conceptually simple

## Limitations

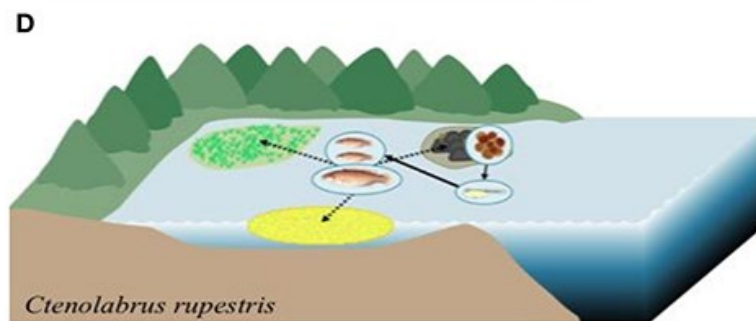
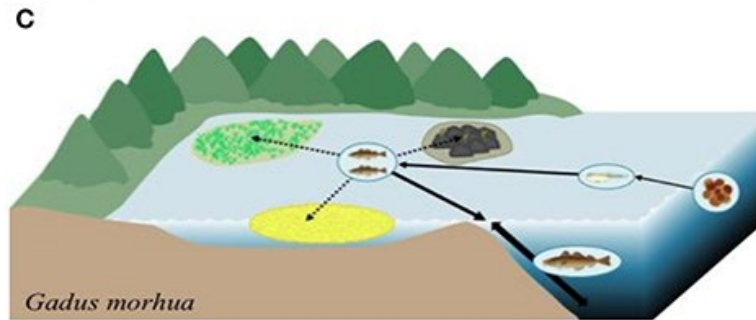
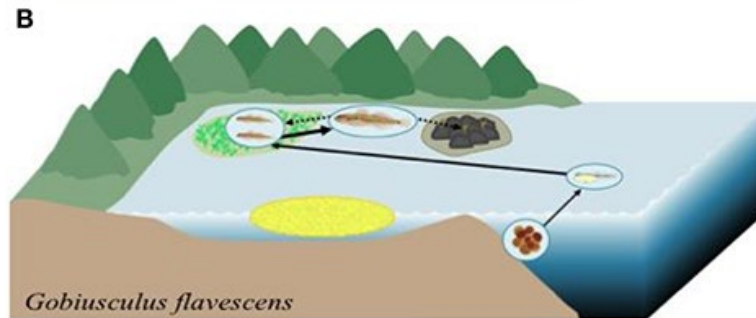
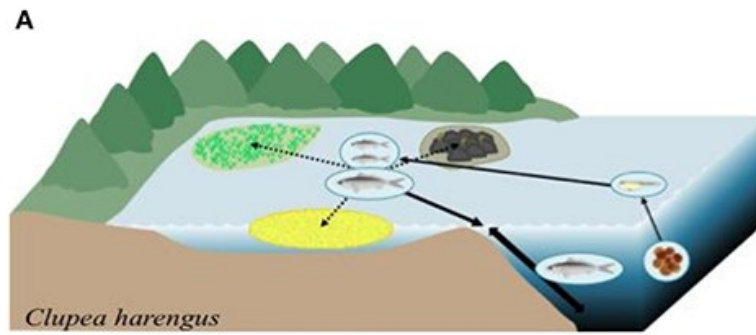
- Some mismatch in scales
- Need ecological and management variables
- Challenged by novel situations
- Moderate relevance, acceptable for certain questions
- Capacity not biomass



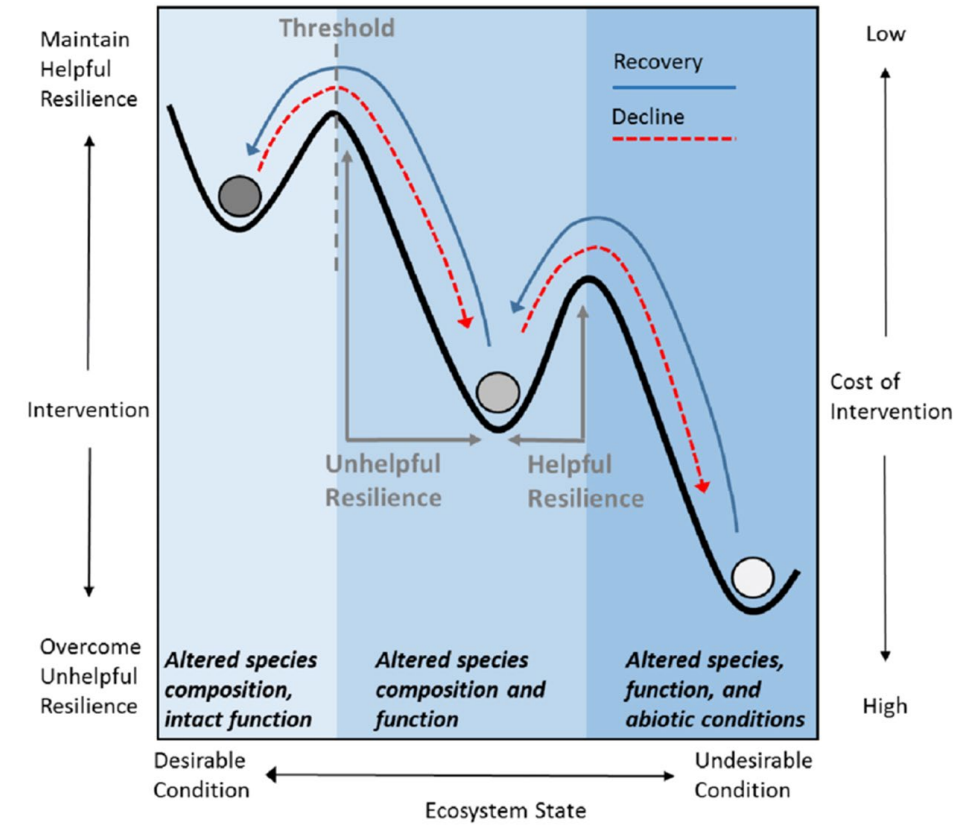
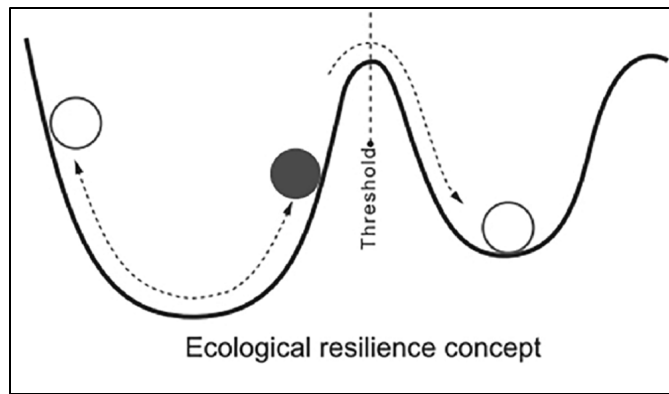


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(2018) Habitat connectivity of fish in  
temperate shallow-water seascapes.  
*Frontiers in Marine Science* 4, article 440.



Holling, C.S. (1973) Resilience and stability of ecological systems.  
*Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* 4: 1-23.

#### Network resilience

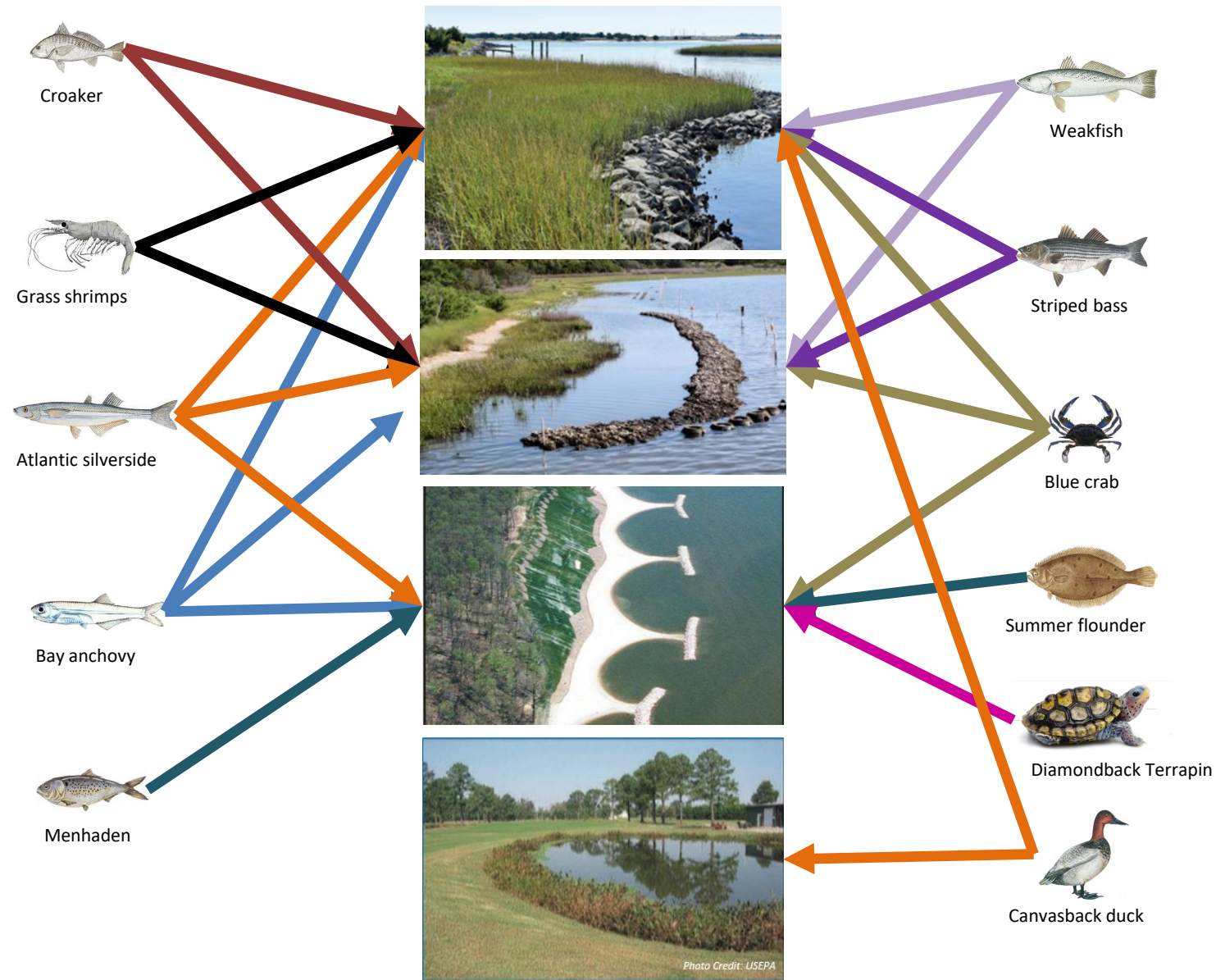
Xueming Liu<sup>a</sup>, Daqing Li<sup>b,c</sup>, Manqing Ma<sup>d,e</sup>, Boleslaw K. Szymanski<sup>d,e</sup>,  
 H Eugene Stanley<sup>f</sup>, Jianxi Gao<sup>d,e,\*</sup>





<https://depositphotos.com/photo/moving-forward-street-sign-illustration-56325423.html>





[www.olentangywatershed.org](http://www.olentangywatershed.org)

Bilovic & Mitchell. 2013. Mid-Atlantic  
Living Shorelines Summit.

[coastalscience.noaa.gov/news/nccos-study-provides-evidence-better-fish-habitat-living-shoreline](http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/news/nccos-study-provides-evidence-better-fish-habitat-living-shoreline)

Species	Stage	Now (Losses)				With Living Shoreline (Gains)					
		Open water	Bulk-head	Shore riprap	Beach	Protected open water	Marsh	Beach	Riprap wall	Tidal pond	Oyster reef
		<i>Square meters of suitability-weighted habitat</i>									

Species	Stage	Design A					
		Protected open water	Marsh	Beach	Riprap wall	Tidal pond	Oyster reef

**Plus,**

Screen for adequate connectivity

Assess resilience of the habitats





# Anna Johnson

## Senior Project Engineer

Anna Johnson is a Senior Project Engineer with 15 years of experience in coastal engineering analysis and design. She has gained technical expertise through working on a variety of projects along the Gulf of Mexico, the North American West Coast in California, Oregon, British Columbia, and Mexico and the Chesapeake Bay. She earned her MSc in Coastal Engineering and Management from Delft University of Technology in Delft, the Netherlands. She is an expert in coastal modeling and design and has applied her expertise to shoreline projects across the Chesapeake Bay for the last 7 years. She specializes in climate resiliency and has earned her credentials as a Climate Change Professional (CC-P®) through training at the Maryland Climate Academy. She is an expert in climate change adaptation measures and has assisted multiple public and private sector clients and non-profit organizations in developing and implementing coastal resiliency plans and projects.





# Living Shorelines



*"Integrating Engineering and Environment"*

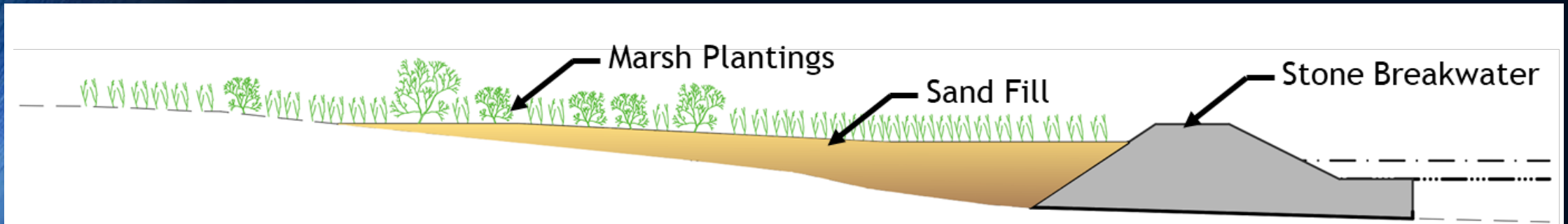
7455 New Ridge Road, Suite T  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Phone: (410) 694-9401  
Fax: (410) 694-9405



# Living Shoreline Materials

- Required:
  - Beach or Marsh Substrate – Sand
- Optional Components
  - Protection Structure – Stones, Reefs, Coir Logs, Dead Trees, Oyster Bags, Manufactured Modules
  - Vegetation – Marsh and Beach grasses





# Protection Structures



Stones Sills/ Breakwaters



Woody Debris



Oyster Bags



Vegetated Headlands



Concrete Modules



Coir Logs



# Shoreline Substrate



Dense Marsh Vegetation



Sandy Beach Area



Cobble/ Pebble Beach Area



Vegetated Cobble/ Pebble Beach Area



Mixed Habitat



# Transitional Area





# Living Shoreline Alignments



Continuous Sill along Shoreline



Segment Sill following Shoreline Alignment



Straight Segment Sills

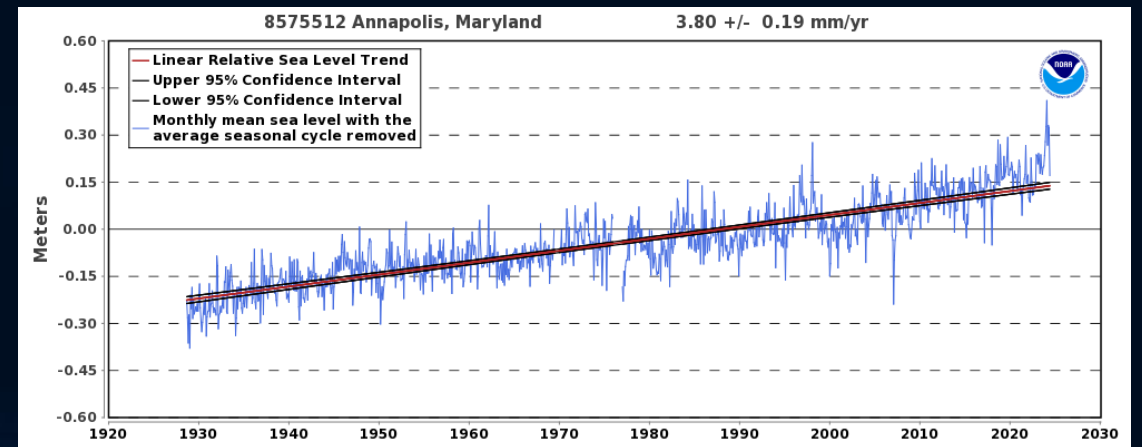
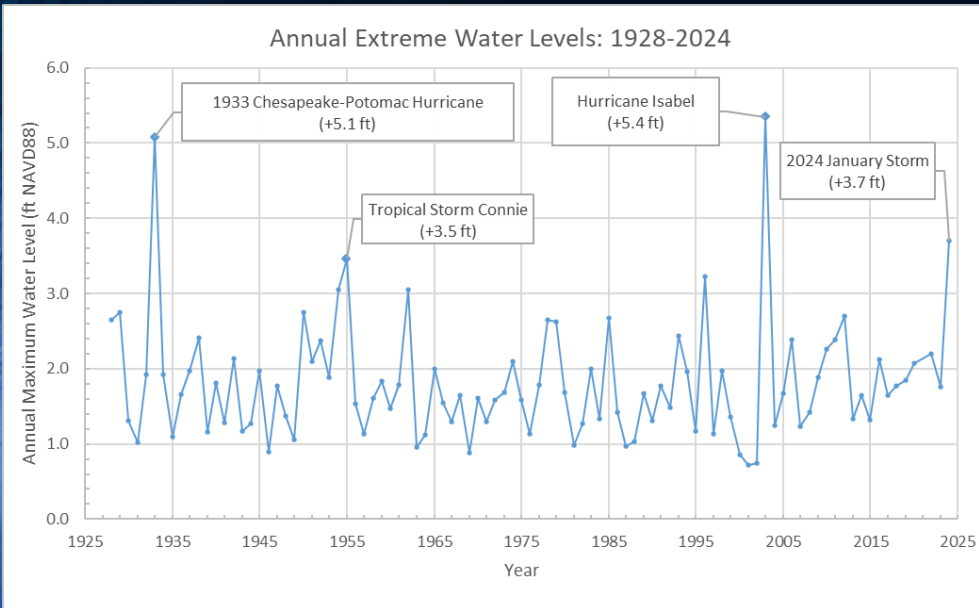
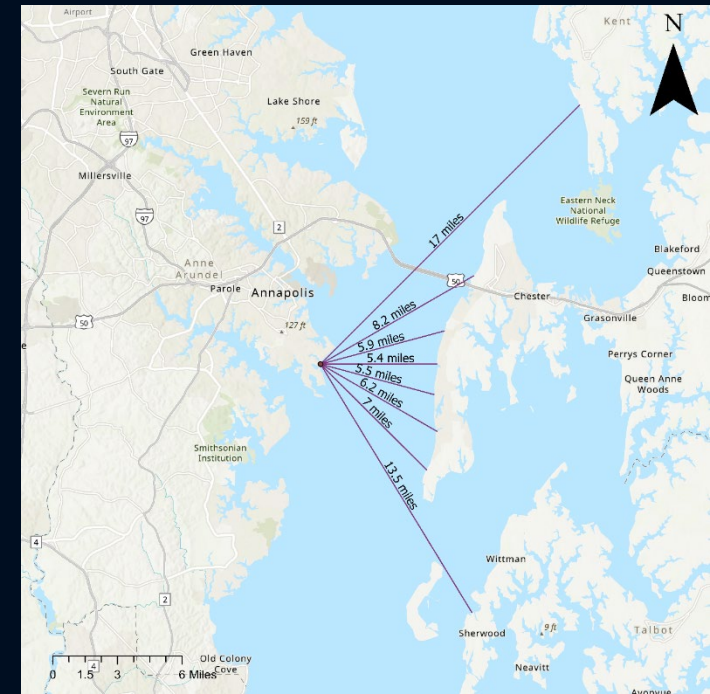
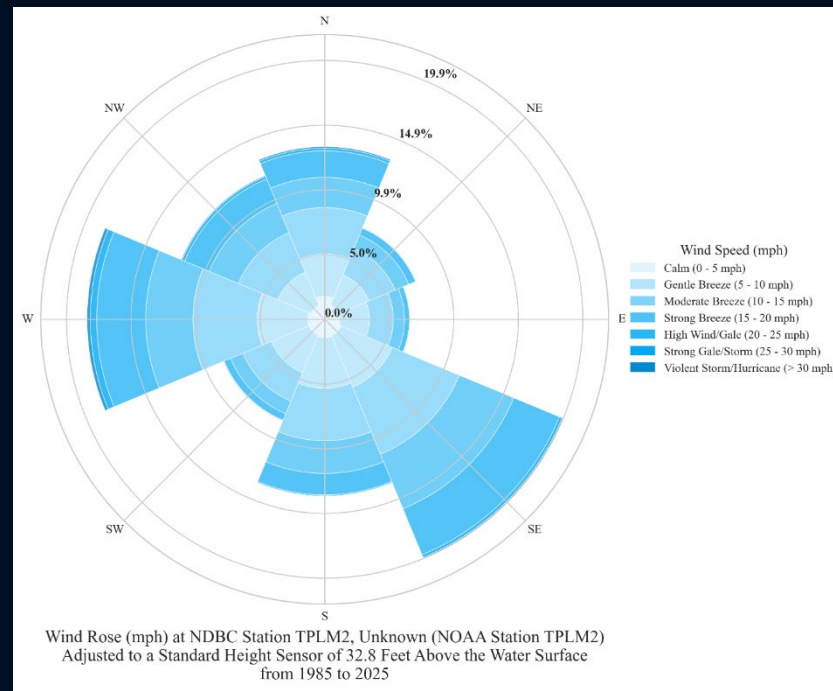


Offshore Breakwaters for More Shallow Water



# Coastal Analysis

- Wind-generated waves along Longest Fetch
- Storm Surges (25-year)
- Sea Level Rise (2050)



# Engineering Analysis

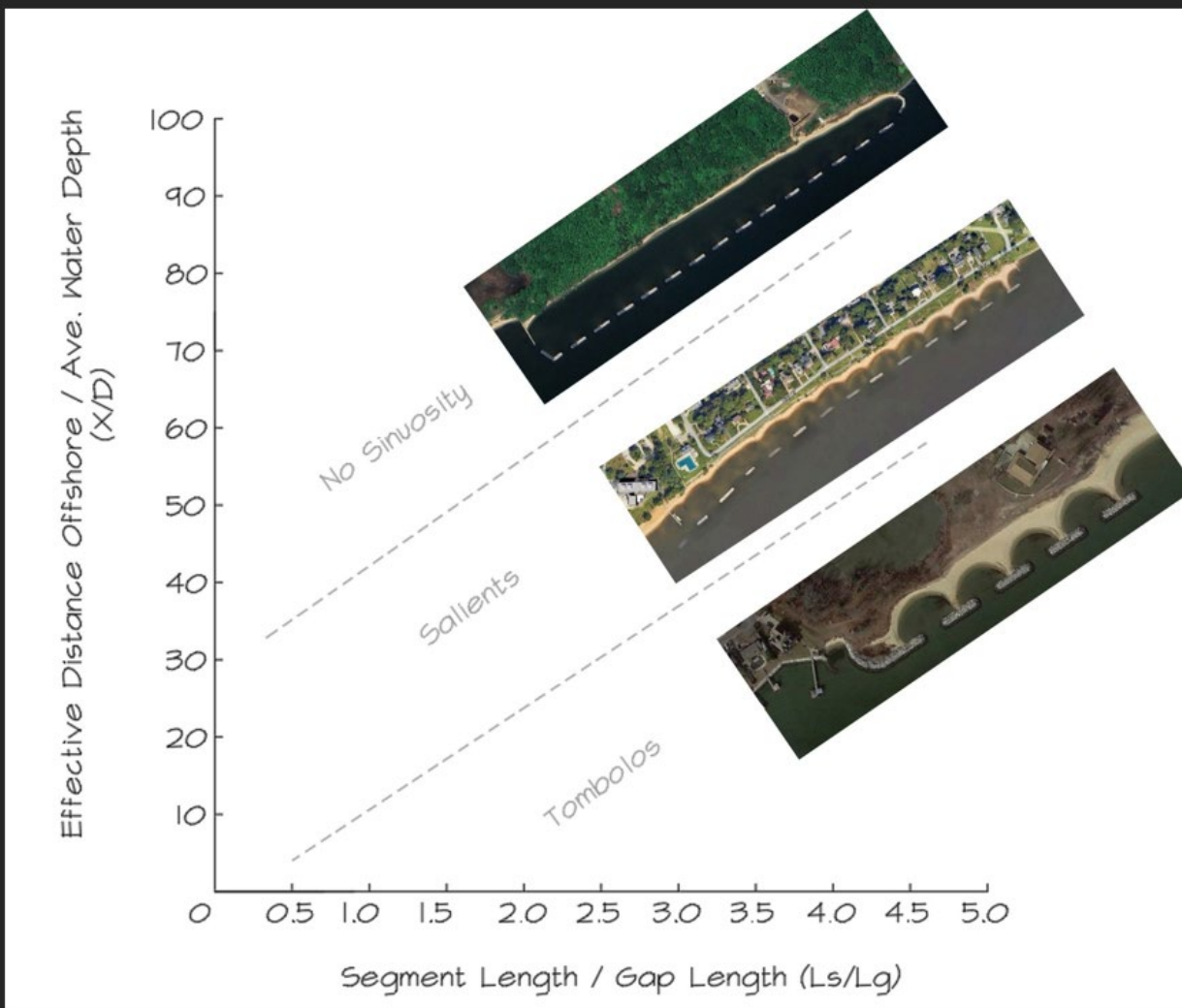


Figure 43 - Shoreline Response Relative to Breakwater Configuration after Pope and Dean (1986)

Ahrens and Cox (1990) proposed a beach response index ( $I_s$ ) based on the ratio of breakwater length to breakwater distance from the original shoreline. The beach response index proposed the following classifications:

$$I_s = e^{(1.72 - 0.41 \times \frac{L_s}{X})}$$

where:

$L_s$  = Length of Structure  
 $X$  = Distance to Shoreline

Response:

- $I_s = 1 \rightarrow$  Permanent tombolo formation
- $I_s = 2 \rightarrow$  Periodic tombolos
- $I_s = 3 \rightarrow$  Well-developed salients
- $I_s = 4 \rightarrow$  Subdued salient
- $I_s = 5 \rightarrow$  No sinuosity



# Construction

- Access
  - Material and equipment by land or water
- Equipment
  - Excavator
  - Bulldozer for sand grading
  - Tug Boat
  - Supply Barge
  - Deck Barges
- Cost to Implement
  - Average \$500 - \$1200/foot



## NEXT STEPS

- RECORDING AVAILABLE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE

[WWW.MAKECAMBRIDGERESILIENT.ORG](http://WWW.MAKECAMBRIDGERESILIENT.ORG)

- 2026 PUBLIC EDUCATION SESSION ARE BEING PLANNED



# CONTACTS

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## PUBLIC OUTREACH LEAD

VIRGINIA SMITH

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