## Bishopville Pond Restoration of Aquatic Life Movement

<sup>397</sup>Joe Berg, Biohabitats Keith Underwood, U&A Associates<sup>MD 2181</sup> Kevin Smith, Md DNR Roman Jessian, Md Coastal Bays Bishopville, MD 21813

(17)

610

46

~ 8-miles West of Ocean City, MD Largely Agricultural Watershed

528

(589) (575)

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Ocean City Expy

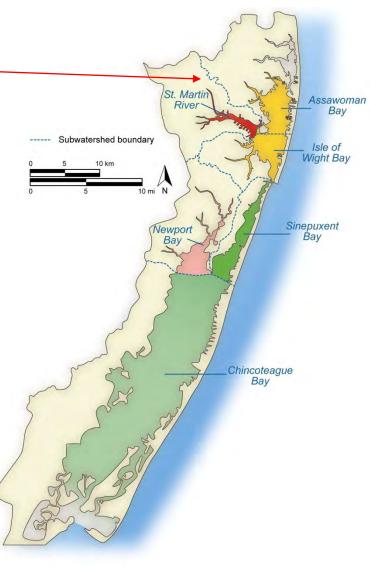
Racetrack

90



#### **Coastal Lagoon**





# Project Site Background

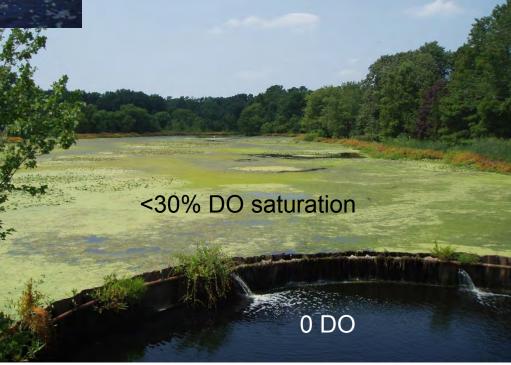
- Chicken processing plant discharged into Buntings Branch, including dumping of slaughter byproducts
- More recently (ongoing), excess chicken waste applied to fields as fertilizer (13 mi<sup>2</sup> drainage area)
- Shallow pond with organic-rich fine 'black mayo' substrate re-suspended and 'flushed' downstream periodically with large summer thunderstorms
- Anoxic discharge contributed to fish kills



### **Bishopville Pond**

Fish Passage

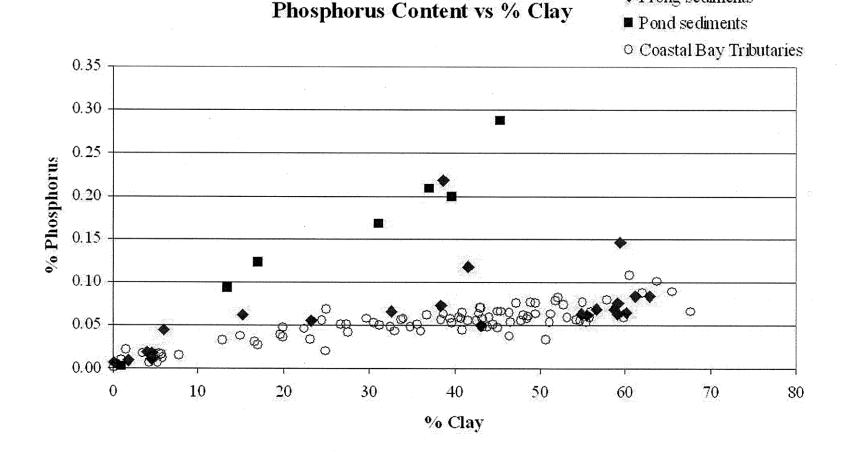
Water Quality issues, i.e., Dissolved Oxygen Problems in Summer





### MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Bishopville Prong Study

Prong sediments







Bathymetric and Sediment Assessment in the Bishopville Prong of St. Martin River

Darlene V. Wells, Richard A. Ortt, Jr., and Stephen Van Ryswick Funded by MCBP 2011-2012 Implementation Grant

- C, N and P contents in Pond were some of the highest observed in the coastal bays watershed.
- Based on mass ratio C to N, a significant portion of the total C and N in the Pond and upstream area of the Prong may be attributed to algae blooms, and the Pond is a significant source of C and N to the Prong.
- Bishopville sediment contain the highest sulfur levels observed in the coastal bays watershed.
- Historic spills from Processing Plant thought to be a significant source of the S.
- Less than 30% DO Saturation during summer months



### **Resource Balance**

- Important to restore aquatic life passage to 7miles of stream length above mill pond
- Critical to understand and appreciate the values and history of the pond to the local community – they live here!
- Will lead to a greater number of restoration and educational/stewardship opportunities
- Dam removal does not have to be an 'either or' decision

### No known fishery for anadromous fishes, but river herring have been documented in the lower river



### Eel Life History



Elvers attempting to climb dam wall





Juveniles in Bunting Br

Mature eel heading to sea to spawn

First visit to the site I counted more than 50 turtles squashed on the road

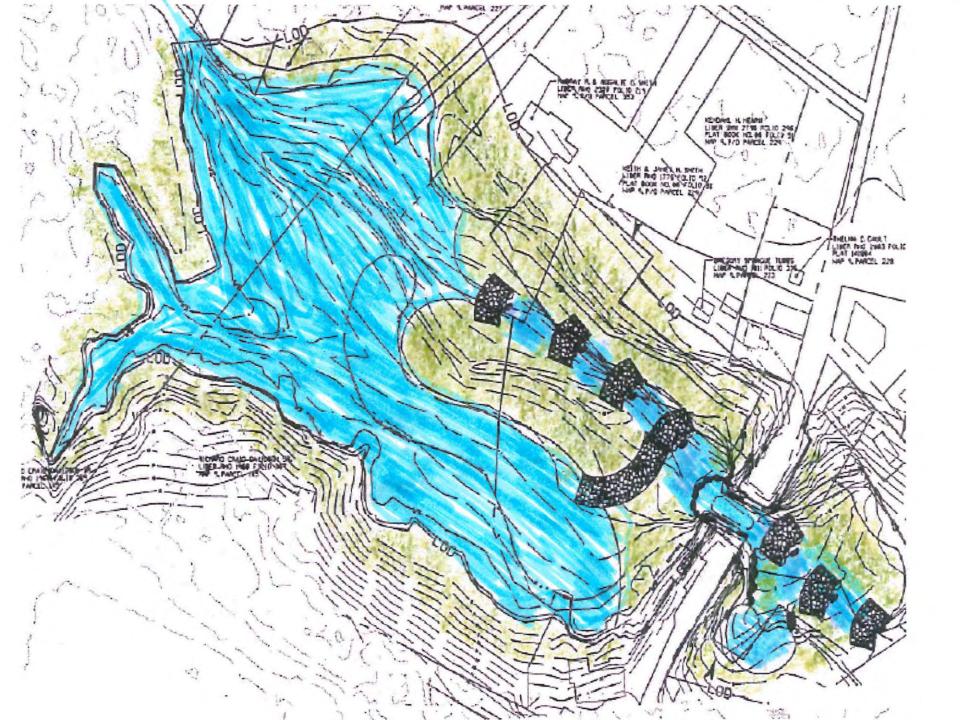
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# Local Community Involvement

- Need to understand community's outlook
- What do they want, what are their concerns?
- Effective communication about project
  - Why its being undertaken, its benefits, who is behind the project
  - What it will look like and how it affects them (e.g., property values, water table, flooding changes,...)
  - How will it be executed and when (e.g., start date, duration, etc.)



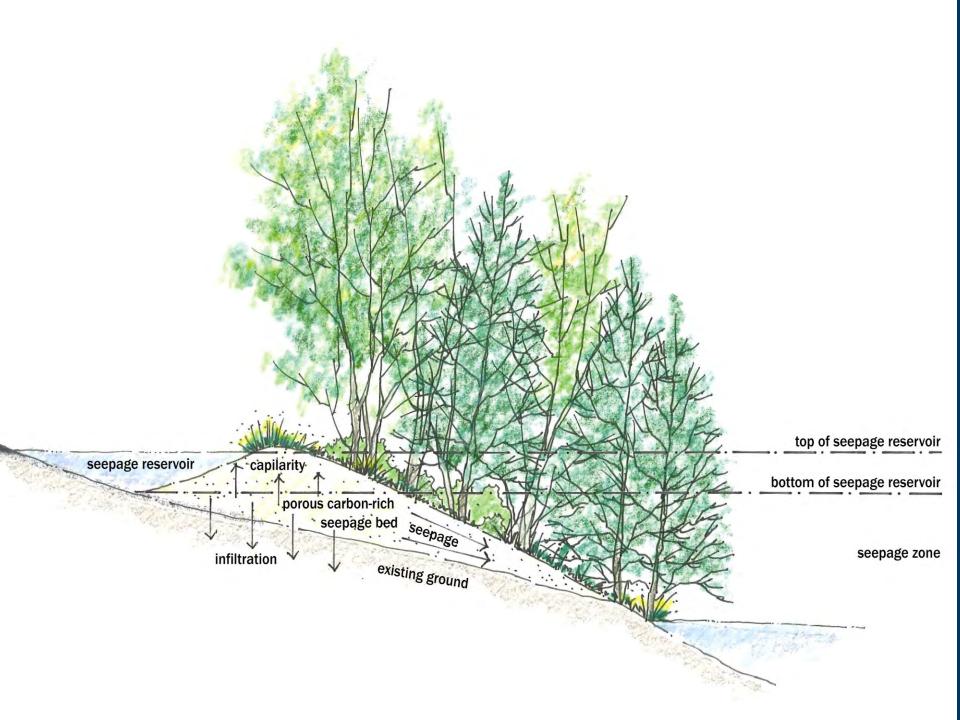


High tide



Simulation for Adjacent Property Owners

Actual appearance after 1 growing season



Seepage reservoir

Seepage berm / trail surface during construction







Dynamic soil system, not static sand bed

















**Critical Area Constraint** 









Bishopville, MD 21813

368

Hoteling





Kevin Smith (DNR) **Richard Davidson** Steve Kopecky Ellen Cummings (landowner) Keith Underwood Joe Berg (Underwood & Associates) (Biohabitats) (COE) Sandy Coyman Rob Shreeve Steve Dawson Roman Jesien (COE) (Worcester CO) (SHA) (DNR) (MCBP) Joe Kincaid (MDE)

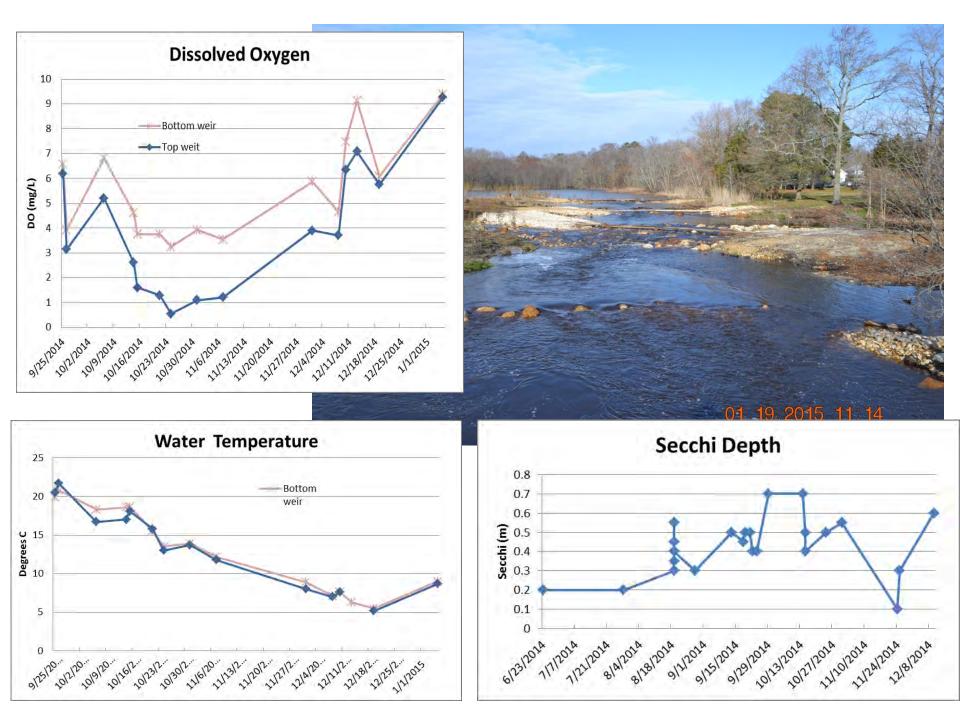
> Bishopville Dam, MD Feb 7, 2006 Kickoff

Summer 2014 Construction Start

Spring 2015 Perch, alewife and eel move upstream

tailrace

Bishopville Dam



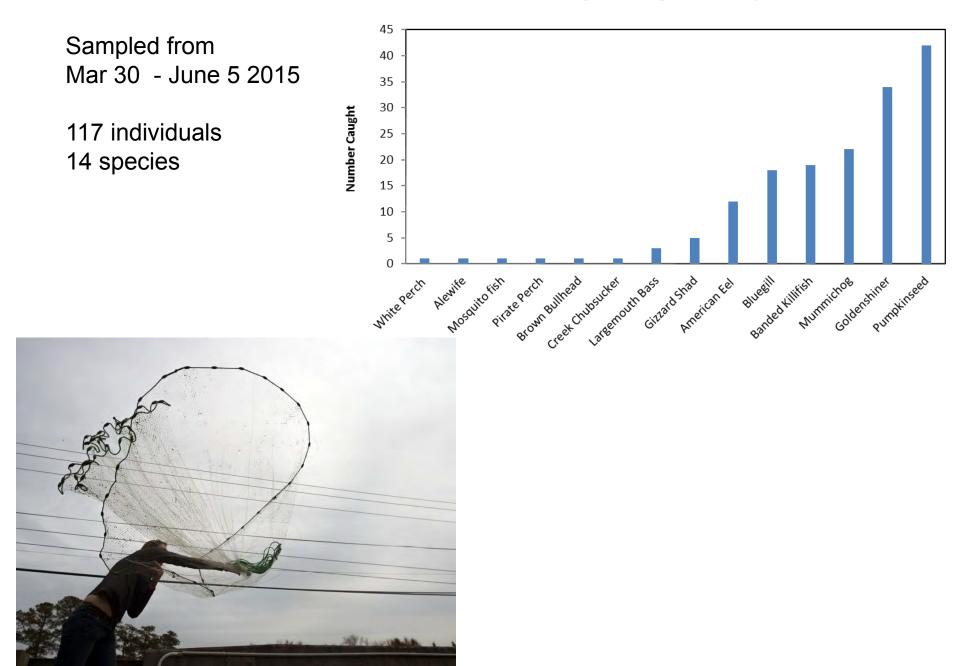


## Classroom instruction

## Volunteer opportunities



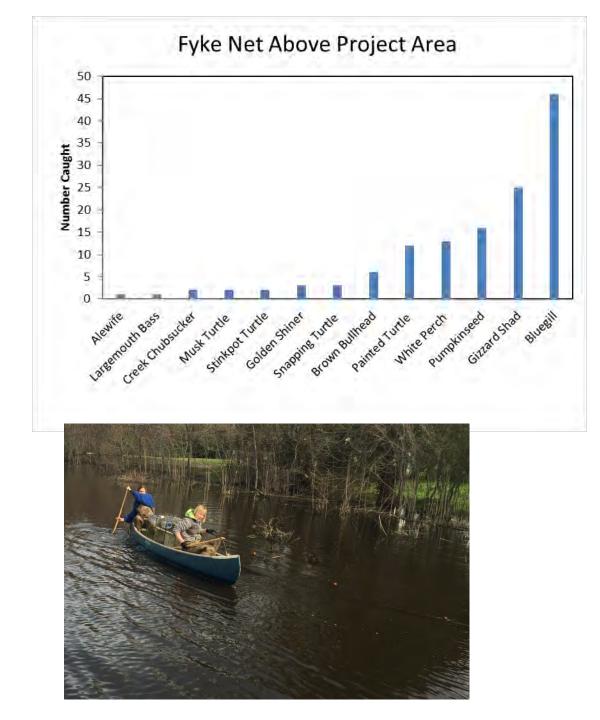
## **Cast Netting Throughout Project Area**



Sampled from April 7 - May 25, 2015

113 Individuals10 fish species3 turtle species







## **Documented Benefits**

Restored' runs of white perch and alewife
Elimination of turtle loss on Md 367
Reduction of anoxic discharges to Coastal Bays

