

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Population Estimation

Monitoring Program: SENTINEL SITES **State:** MARYLAND **Year:** 1996

[Sentinel Sites in Maryland](#)

Sentinel sites have been established in Maryland tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay to facilitate monitoring of oyster populations at specific locations over time. The term "sentinel site" is used to describe a monitoring station for which long-term monitoring data are available. Monitoring at the sentinel sites is being performed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The monitoring program was established to track oyster population and disease levels baywide. Replenishment and restoration activities are in progress near many of the existing sentinel sites.

[Monitoring Data Notes](#)

Oyster populations at sentinel sites are evaluated using annual dredge survey data. All of the sentinel site locations are sampled annually by scientists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Two half-bushel samples are collected. Data for these stations is reported using oyster counts and individual oyster shell measurements.

This summary sheet was assembled at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources by Kelly Greenhawk and Jessica Vanisko.

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Basin	Water Body	Area	No. of samples	Oysters/bushel*	Biomass/bushel**
Chester	Chester River	Buoy Rock	2	19	22
Chester	Chester River	Old Field	2	173	200.7
Choptank	Broad Creek	Deep Neck	2	408	473.3
Choptank	Choptank	Cook Point	2	3	3.5
Choptank	Choptank	Lighthouse	2	62	71.9
Choptank	Choptank	Oystershell Point	2	82	95.1
Choptank	Choptank	Royston	2	87	100.9
Choptank	Choptank	Sandy Hill	2	57	66.1
Choptank	Choptank	Tilghman Wharf	2	324	375.8
Choptank	Tred Avon River	Double Mills	2	31	36
Eastern Bay	Eastern Bay	Bugby	2	27	31.3
Eastern Bay	Eastern Bay	Hollicutts Noose	2	66	76.6
Eastern Bay	Eastern Bay	Parsons Island	2	56	65
Eastern Bay	Miles River	Bruffs Island	2	17	19.7
Eastern Bay	Miles River	Long Point	2	62	71.9
Eastern Bay	Miles River	Turtle Back	2	149	172.8
Little Choptank	Little Choptank	Cason	2	205	237.8
Little Choptank	Little Choptank	Ragged Point	2	98	113.7
Mainstem	Bay North	Swan Point	2	49	56.8
Mainstem	Mid-Eastern Shore	Stone Rock	2	159	184.4
Mainstem	Upper Bay	Hacketts	2	67	77.7
Mainstem	Western Shore	Butlers	2	96	111.4
Mainstem	Western Shore	Flagpond	2	32	37.1
Mainstem	Western Shore	Hog Island	2	28	32.5
Mainstem	Western Shore	Holland Point	2	18	20.9
Patuxent	Patuxent River	Broome Island	2	39	45.2
Potomac	Potomac River	Cornfield Harbor	2	55	63.8
Potomac	Potomac River	Lower Cedar Point	2	44	51
Potomac	Potomac River	Ragged Point	2	16	18.6
Potomac	St. Mary's River	Chickencock	2	194	225
Potomac	St. Mary's River	Pagan	2	169	196
Potomac	West Wicomico	Lancaster	2	79	91.6
Potomac	West Wicomico	Mills West	2	119	138
Tangier	Fishing Bay	Goose Creek	2	56	65
Tangier	Holland Straits	Holland Straits	2	71	82.4
Tangier	Honga River	Normans	2	27	31.3
Tangier	Manokin River	Georges	2	62	71.9
Tangier	Nanticoke River	Wilson Shoal	2	56	65
Tangier	Pocomoke Sound	Marumsco	2	32	37.1
Tangier	Tangier Sound	Back Cove	2	159	184.4
Tangier	Tangier Sound	Old Womans Leg	2	45	52.2
Tangier	Tangier Sound	Piney Island	2	47	54.5
Tangier	Tangier Sound	Sharkfin Shoals	2	61	70.8

* total number of oysters from 2 half bushel samples combined

** reported as grams dry weight per bushel