



Hard-Working Volunteers and Soft, Steep Bottoms – Using Oyster Catcher Materials as Part of a Shoreline Protection Solution



Bo Lusk, Coastal Scientist
The Nature Conservancy
blusk@tnc.org

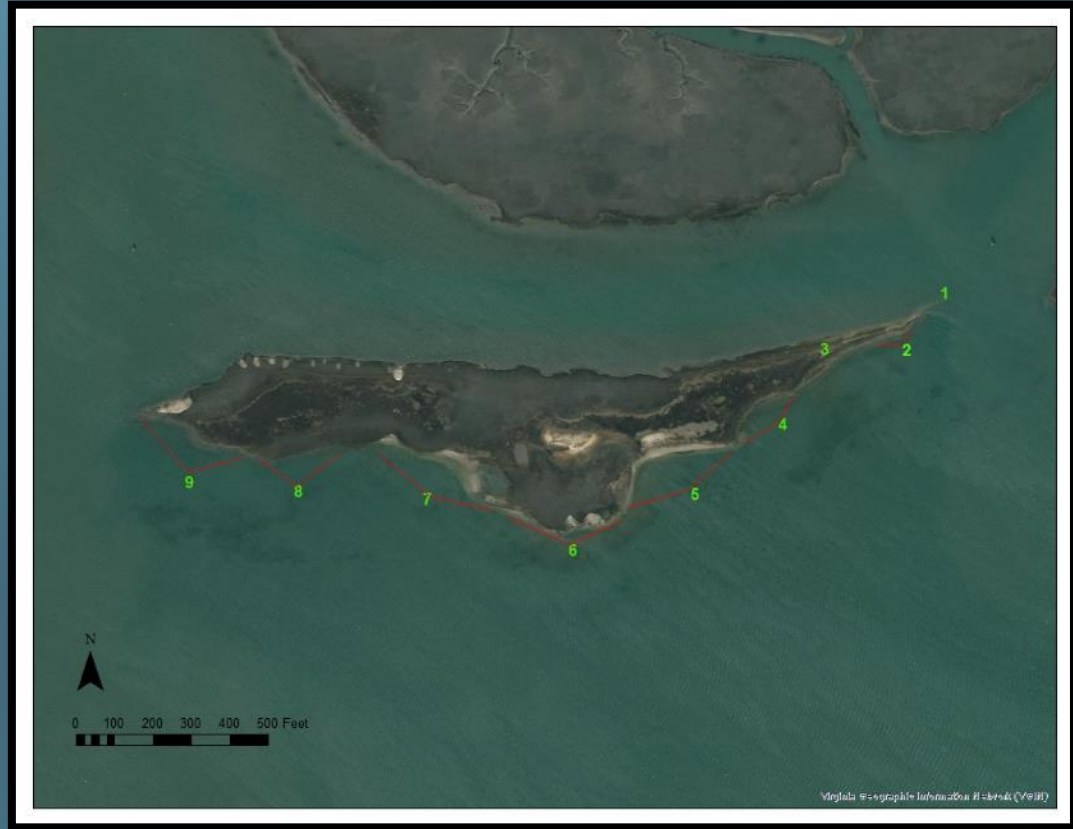
Wachapreague, VA

- Working Waterfront





NFWF Shoreline Project



Varying conditions
require different designs
and substrates
combinations along the
692 m of shoreline





Ideal Conditions for Castles

- Only Along **34%** of Shoreline



Sections with harder, sandy bottom up to marsh scarp. Sediment must be relatively even for castles to interlock.



Oyster Catcher Substrates

- Necessary Along **41%** of Shoreline



Very soft, uneven bottom at marsh scarp. Water depth increases quickly away from marsh.



Combine Castles and Oyster Catcher

– Trial along 25% of Shoreline



Sections with firmer, more level bottom offshore and uneven, muddy bottom at marsh scarp



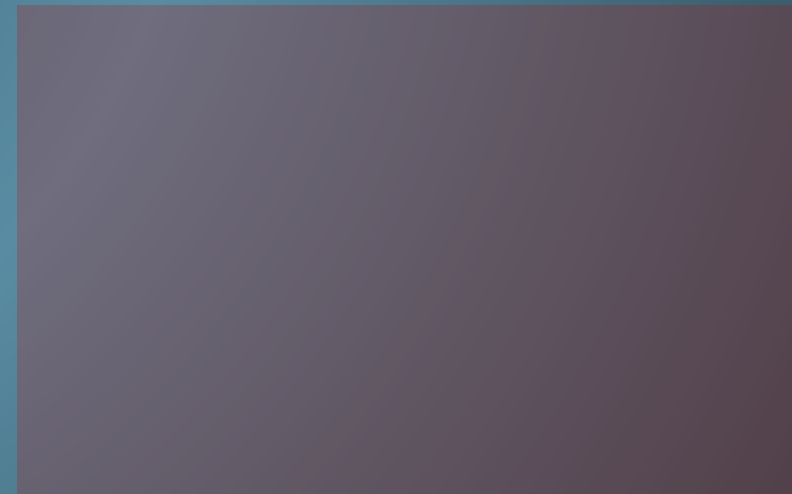
This is going to require a lot of substrate!

- ▶ Must produce over 2000 pieces of Oyster Catcher materials
- ▶ Set up license agreement with Sandbar Oyster Co.
- ▶ Constructed simple production facility
- ▶ Pledged about 4,000 volunteer hours as match
- ▶ Crossed our fingers that we could teach our volunteers to do this!





Volunteers soaking jute in cement and forming materials





Recruitment on both substrates,
Castles and Oyster Catcher,
1.5 months post-deployment





Bo Lusk
Coastal Scientist
The Nature Conservancy's
Virginia Coast Reserve
blusk@tnc.org

