Fig. 1. Time series of Maryland, USA, oyster landings (source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources). Panel segments show corresponding evolution of oyster fishing gears: (A) use of hand tongs (Ht); (B) introduction of dredges (Dr) (*note production peak in 1884); (C) introduction of patent tongs (Pt) which corresponds with the beginning of the catch decline; (D) introduction of the hydraulic patent tong (HPl) in 1950 and date when disease was first recorded; (E) the addition of diver harvesting (Di) in 1980.
Figure 2. Reported landings of oysters in Maryland over the past 14 decades, in millions of bushels (approx. 1-3 times standard U.S. bushel). The harvest period for oysters begins at the end of the old year and extends into the new. The timeline refers to the new year (for example, 1961 denotes the 1960-1961 harvest period). Important events in the history of management in Maryland are noted. (After Grave 1912, modified.)
Figure 1. Coastwide catch rate of market ($\geq 3$ inches) and small (1-3 inches) oysters in Texas bay systems.
Figure 8.7 Total U.S. oyster landings for all species (Eastern, Pacific, European Flat, and Olympia) in lbs of meats by region from 1950-2009 (NMFS pers. comm.)
Figure 9.4 Oyster harvest shares by Gulf state (percent of total lbs) for selected time periods, 1960-2008.
Figure 18. Size frequency distribution of oysters on reefs in Louisiana. A. Reef in an area of natural reproduction. B. Reef in an area of low natural reproduction; seed oysters planted by an oyster fisherman.
1988: 30.5 seed and 2.8 sack oysters per square meter
Figure 9.5 Total leased water-bottom acreage (in thousands) for the production of oysters in Louisiana, 1960-2008.
Figure 9.7 Production per acre from Louisiana oyster leases (lbs), 1960-2008.
Restoration to what, and for what purpose?

- Stock enhancement/production vs.
- Ecosystem Services

Or

- Commodity vs.
- Valued habitat

Or

- Hybrid
What Gets Considered?

- Salinity
- Permit Feasibility
- Substrate
- Adjacent Landowners
- Pipelines
- Oyster Leases
- Wave Energy
- Historic Reef
- Erosion
- Community Resilience
- Partnerships
- Bathymetry
- Navigation
- Risk
- Funding
- Monitoring
- ....and more
In the Beginning…
Lake Eloi and Fortuna showed reduced erosion at reef sites, following construction.

Little to no effect on Grand Isle shoreline.
OysterBreak ™ photos source: D. Dehon, 2008
Integrating restoration with commercial interests
Questions?