



History of SAV in Delaware's Inland Bays

10/20/2023

Brittany Haywood

Coastal Ecology Specialist

haywoobl@udel.edu

[illegible]

SAV in the Inland Bays Timeline

Key events from the 1920s to present day. Compiled during the 2023

DE SAV Stakeholder Workshop.

Timeline: 1920 - 1983

pre-1920

- Abundant SAV populations

1921

- Abrupt declines in eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in Assawoman Bay

1950

- Delaware's tax ditches and canal systems began to be dug

1954

- Eelgrass planting in Delaware Bay and Indian River

1983

- Inland Bays Habitat Suitability Study

Timeline: 1985 - 2010

1985 - 86

- Water Quality Study performed
- Inland Bays deemed vacant of rooted estuarine SAV

1997

- DNREC purchased macroalgae harvester
- Project to Analyze Critical SAV Habitat Requirements began

1998-99

- Eelgrass transplant project from Chincoteague Bay to Inland Bays
- Delaware's Nutrient Management Law was passed

2004

- Survey of eelgrass beds in Pasture Point

2010

- SAV sightings during clam survey: Whites Creek, Seashore State Park, James Farm and Great Herring Creek Stomp
- Water Quality Study performed

Timeline: 2010 - 2024

2010

- Regulatory update that prevents shellfish harvest in SAV beds

- DNREC begins to compile GIS data on SAV beds

- U.S. EPA trialed echosounder in the Inland Bays

- CIB deployed pearl bags, Trialed use of drones as mapping tool, Mapped acreage of freshwater SAV, Found horned pondweed in Love Creek

- DNREC, CIB & DESG piloted seed processing method

- DE SAV Practitioner Stakeholder Workgroup meeting held

2024

- Development of Delaware SAV Workgroup

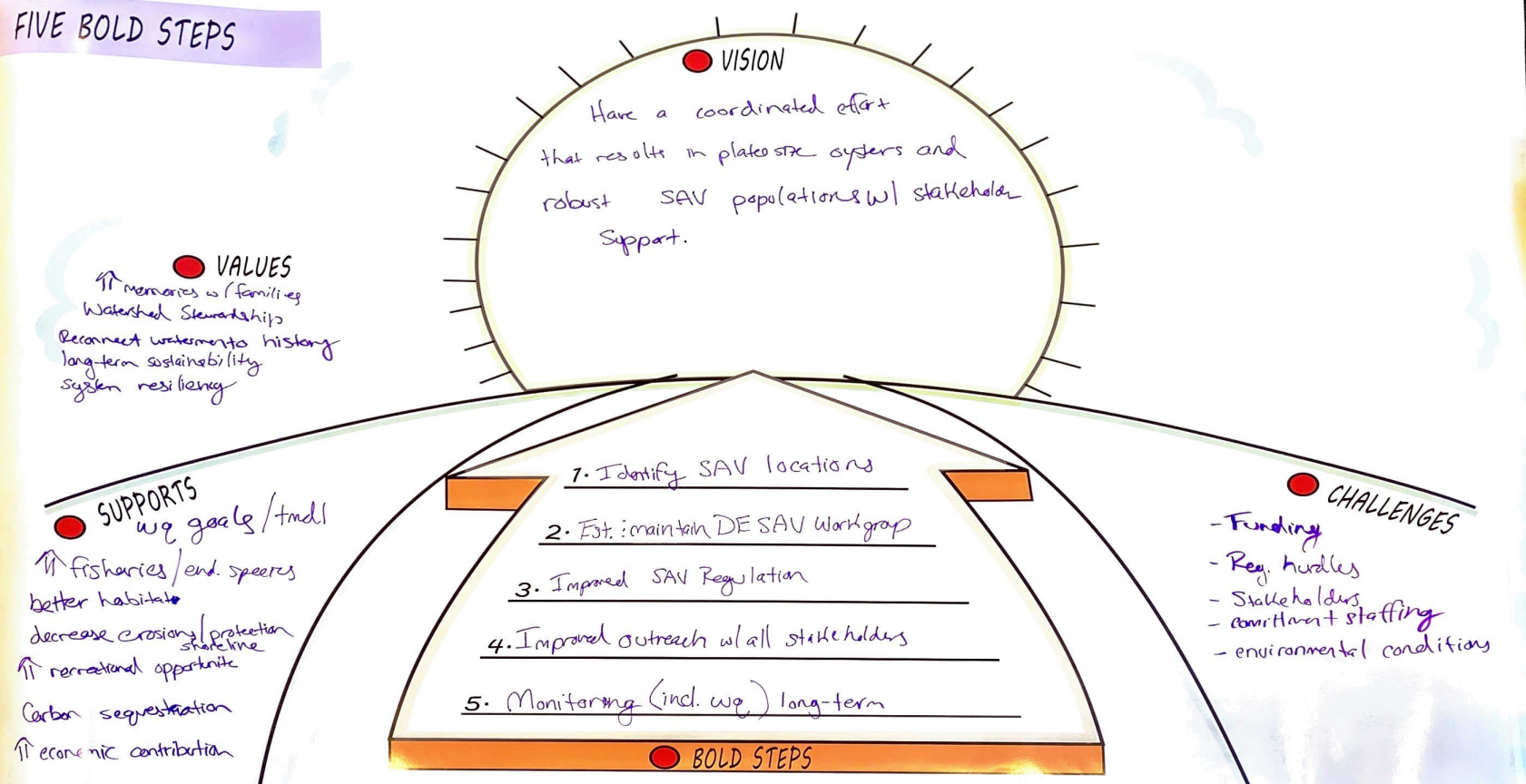
awareness bad beds better current efforts established exist
expanded freshwater general habitat improve increased
inland bays invasive managing mapping monitoring plant
process projects removal resources restoration
sav seed shellfish species start state wide success
suitable tidal water quality



Science serving the Delaware coast!

Identifying SAV Needs in Delaware

FIVE BOLD STEPS



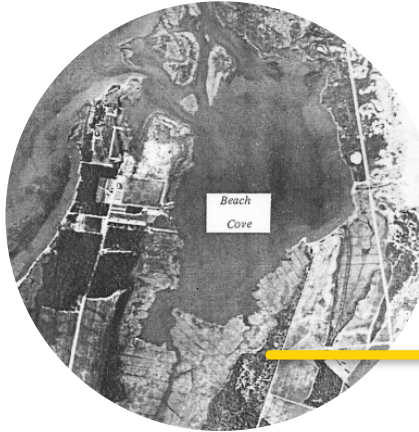
Brainstorming Statewide Vision

Have a coordinated effort that results in plate-size oysters and robust SAV populations with stakeholder support.

**Improve SAV
Regulations**



**Improve
Stakeholder
Outreach**



**Identify SAV
Locations**



**Establish & Maintain
DE SAV Workgroup**



**Est. Long-Term
Monitoring**

**Initiative
Ideas**

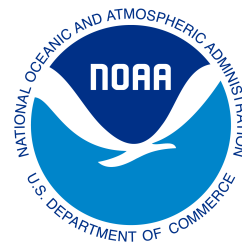
Get In Touch

For more information on
this presentation, contact:

Brittany Haywood
Coastal Ecology Specialist
Marine Advisory Service
haywoobl@udel.edu

www.deseagrant.org

Follow us on social media



Questions...

And Thank You!

