



Retracing John Smith's Historic Voyage

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On June 2, 1608, Captain John Smith and fourteen English colonists set out from Jamestown, Virginia in a 30-foot open boat known as a "shallop" to explore and map the Chesapeake Bay. Traveling over 1,700 miles in just over three months, Smith and his men witnessed the Chesapeake at its productive peak, with its incredible ecosystem intact. Smith and his crew observed a Chesapeake that teemed with aquatic life, such as; sturgeon, striped bass, menhaden, perch, eels, crabs, oysters, mussels, and clams. Deer, rabbits, opossums, raccoons, bears, foxes, wolves, bobcats, and beavers were common in the deep hardwood forest that covered most of the land around the Bay. It is Smith's documented observations of the beauty and bounty of the Chesapeake that have formed the benchmark by which the current state of the Chesapeake is compared. Almost 400 years later, on May 12, 2007, Captain Ian Bystrom and twelve modern-day explorers set out from Jamestown, Virginia to retrace Captain Smith's incredible 1608 expedition. Traveling in a 28-foot reproduction of Smith's shallop, and living much as Smith and his men did 400 years ago, the shallop and her crew spent 121-days voyaging to the headwaters of almost every tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Along the route, the crew used modern day instrumentation to continually collect water quality data. They also noted the current conditions of the Bay's shores. These data and observations are compared to John Smith's historic notes to examine how the Bay has changed over the last 400 years.



1608 Visualizations Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and Penn State

1608



2008



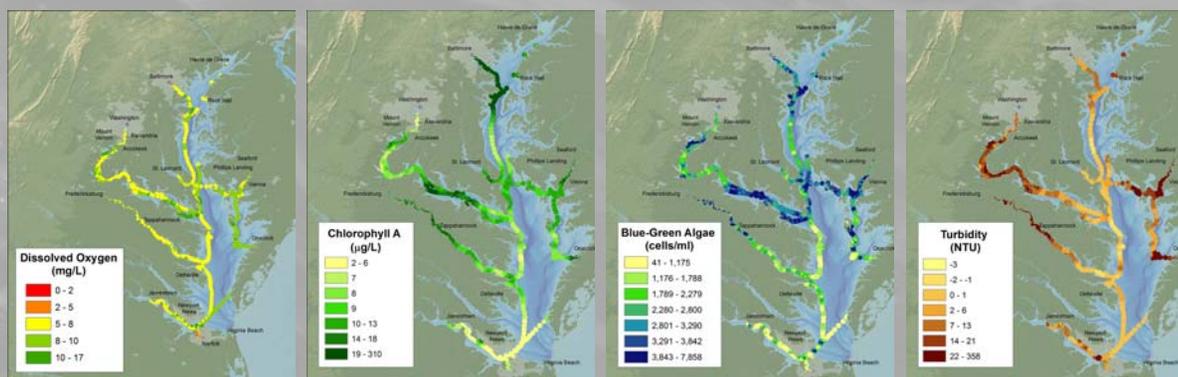
John Smith's Map of the Chesapeake Bay from his 1608 Voyages



YSI Custom Continuous Underway Water Quality Sampling System for the Shallop

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Data Maps Courtesy of Mike Peccini, NOAA