



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

May 3, 2019

TO: OYSTER INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: THE ISSUANCE OF OUT OF STATE SEED TRANSFER PERMITS

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission will continue the prohibition on issuing the permits required by §28.2-546 of the Code of Virginia to carry oysters out of state. With adherence to the provisions of Chapter 4 VAC 20-720-91 et seq., the Commissioner has determined that the seed areas currently open to harvest are becoming depleted and the additional granting of such permits could seriously injure the seed areas. The total standing stock of the seed areas is lower than it has been in recent years. The most recent stock assessment survey has indicated the cultch levels in some areas have fallen below 10 liters of shell per square meter for the first time since the survey of these areas began in 2002. All of the seed areas will be reassessed to determine if permits required by §28.2-546 of the Code of Virginia can be issued in the fall of 2019.

Therefore, until further notice, no permits required by §28.2-546 of the Code of Virginia shall be issued. The out of state transfer of any seed oysters from the James River Seed Area, including the Deep Water Shoal State Replenishment Seed Area shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-720-91 et seq.).

If you have any questions or comments please contact the VMRC Conservation and Replenishment Department at (757) 247-2120.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD