

**“PERTAINING TO GENERAL OYSTER PLANTING GROUND LEASE RENEWAL FEE”**

**CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-1350-10 ET SEQ.**

**PREAMBLE**

The chapter establishes the application procedures and fee for the renewal of general oyster planting ground leases. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to the authority contained in § 28.2-613 of the Code of Virginia. The effective date of this chapter is October 1, 2019.

**4 VAC 20-1350-10. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish the application procedures and fee for the renewal of general oyster planting ground leases and time limits to request a formal hearing concerning any denial of such renewal.

**4 VAC 20-1350-20. Definitions.**

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“General oyster planting ground” means any lease granted for the propagation of oysters or clams as defined under § 28.2-603 of the Code of Virginia.

**4 VAC 20-1350-30. General Oyster Planting Ground review form, fee and denial.**

- A. Each leaseholder shall complete the application form for renewal of general oyster planting ground prior to the expiration of each ten-year lease term. The form shall be sent to the leaseholder by regular mail and certified mail approximately two months prior to the ten-year lease renewal date.
- B. A non-refundable fee for review of the renewal application, as authorized by § 28.2-613 of the Code of Virginia, shall be \$150.00 per lease. This fee shall be submitted with the completed form, and the completed form and fee must be received or postmarked on or before the current ten-year lease expiration date.
- C. The review for reassignment of a general oyster planting ground lease shall be conducted by the Commissioner considering the requirements of § 28.2-613 of the Code of Virginia and all lease use or production requirements contained within either regulation or guidance as approved by the Commission. Failure to meet use or production requirements or failure to return the completed form and fee by the expiration date of the current ten-year term shall result in denial of the lease renewal.
- D. Any Commissioner’s decision to deny a lease renewal application shall be mailed by certified mail to the last known address for the applicant.

