

# NOTICE

CRD Notice: 14-01

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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF SEED OYSTERS IN THE GREAT WICOMICO AND PIANKATANK RIVERS FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANTING ON PRIVATE OYSTER GROUND LEASES

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission will be offering for harvest by the private oyster industry approximately 20,000 bushels of seed oysters from both the Great Wicomico and Piankatank Rivers.

THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME.

### GENERAL:

Harvest dates will be March 31, 2014 through April 11, 2014.

The harvest area will be designated and marked by VMRC personnel.

Harvesting will be done by standard oyster dredges, hand scrape or hand tongs. All harvesting will be completed by 2:00 p.m.

Seed oysters will be unculled and a minimum count of 400 oysters/bushel in the Great Wicomico River and 400 oysters/bushel in the Piankatank River.

VMRC personnel will be present to measure and/or tally and document each harvester's daily catch. All bushels shall be standard Virginia bushels. Receipts for seed harvested will be provided to participants and will provide a record of shells to be replanted or monies to be paid.

All seed oysters harvested may only be replanted on private ground leases in Virginia waters.

These seed oysters are being made available to the private oyster industry on the basis that for every bushel of seed oysters harvested by private industry, two bushels of shell will be planted on the same public beds by the buyer of the seed oysters in the summer of 2014. Shells may be replaced by the buyer of seed oysters, or payment for the cost of purchasing, transporting, and planting that amount of shells can be paid directly to VMRC at a rate of \$6.60/bushel of seed harvested for the Great Wicomico River and \$5.20/bushel of seed harvested for the Piankatank River.

VMRC personnel will be present for all planting of shells back on to the harvest areas. VMRC will also tally and direct replanting of shells in the Great Wicomico River and the Piankatank.

**Individuals may only apply for seed oyster harvest in one river location, either the Piankatank or Great Wicomico Rivers.**

**RESPONSE DEADLINE:**

**All interested buyers must contact the Conservation and Replenishment Department by mail, fax, or e-mail no later than March 19, 2014. The response must indicate the amount desired (200-500 bushel increments) and whether shell replacement on public grounds will be by shellplanting themselves (2-bushels of shell for 1-bushel of seed) or by paying VMRC \$6.60 per bushel in the Great Wicomico River or \$5.20 per bushel of seed harvested in the Piankatank River.**

**If all responses should total more than the 20,000 bushels available in each river, then the requests will be adjusted proportional to the number of bushels requested.**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

**James A. Wesson, Dept. Head  
Conservation and Replenishment Department  
Fisheries Management Division  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newport News, VA 23607  
Phone: 757-247-2121  
FAX: 757-247-8101  
E-mail: [jim.wesson@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:jim.wesson@mrc.virginia.gov)**

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