

# Mandatory Shellfish Dealer and Harvester Education Certification

## BACKGROUND

The [National Shellfish Sanitation Program](#) guidelines now require training and education programs for all shellfish harvesters and certified dealers. This training program is currently being implemented in Virginia and is now required for all 2015 shellfish permits and licenses with Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Division of Shellfish Sanitation (DSS). The training is free and will be required every two years in Virginia. Completion of the training is a pre-requisite for licensing. The intent is to increase the awareness of temperature control and food handling practices for shellfish to minimize growth of *Vibrio* bacteria.

Read below for details on how/where to access the training.

## HARVESTERS

**Shellfish Harvester Training:** Starting in 2015, Virginia shellfish harvesters will be required to complete this FREE training prior to purchasing VMRC shellfish licenses and permits.

- Online option available now at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/training/register.php>
- Pre-register for a FREE in-person training opportunity (details below)

## DEALERS

This educational requirement is in addition to HACCP requirements. Shellfish dealers must obtain this training within 90 days of initial licensing in order to be listed on the interstate certified shellfish shippers list ([ICSSL](#)). At a minimum, one individual involved in the shellfish operations must obtain the required training. All shellfish dealers are encouraged to attend the entire training (harvester and dealer) to become familiar with the harvester requirements as well as the proper cooling and handling principles.

- Online option not currently available
- Pre-register for a FREE in-person training opportunity (details below)

## IN-PERSON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES –preregistration required

July 31, 2014	August 13, 2014	August 19, 2014
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
<a href="#">Eastern Shore Community College</a>	<a href="#">VIMS</a>	<a href="#">RCC Warsaw</a>
Lecture Hall (main building)	Watermen’s Hall Auditorium	Lecture Hall
29300 Lankford Highway, Melfa	1208 Greate Rd, Gloucester Pt	52 Campus Drive, Warsaw
<b>AGENDA:</b>		
1:30 pm Dealer training	1:30 pm Dealer training	1:30 pm Dealer training
3:00 pm Harvester training	3:00 pm Harvester training	3:00 pm Harvester training

## HOW TO PREREGISTER FOR IN-PERSON TRAINING (or for questions regarding the training)

Call or email: Karen Hudson at VIMS [khudson@vims.edu](mailto:khudson@vims.edu) 804-684-7742  
Danielle Schools, VDH/DSS [Danielle.schools@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Danielle.schools@vdh.virginia.gov) 804-864-7484

Harvesters must provide: Date attending, full name, birthdate and VMRC ID

Dealers must provide: Date attending, full name, company name, SS/SP/RS number