

Oyster Committees

Overview of the County Oyster Committees

Structure
Membership
Purpose
Topics
Working Together



County Oyster Committees

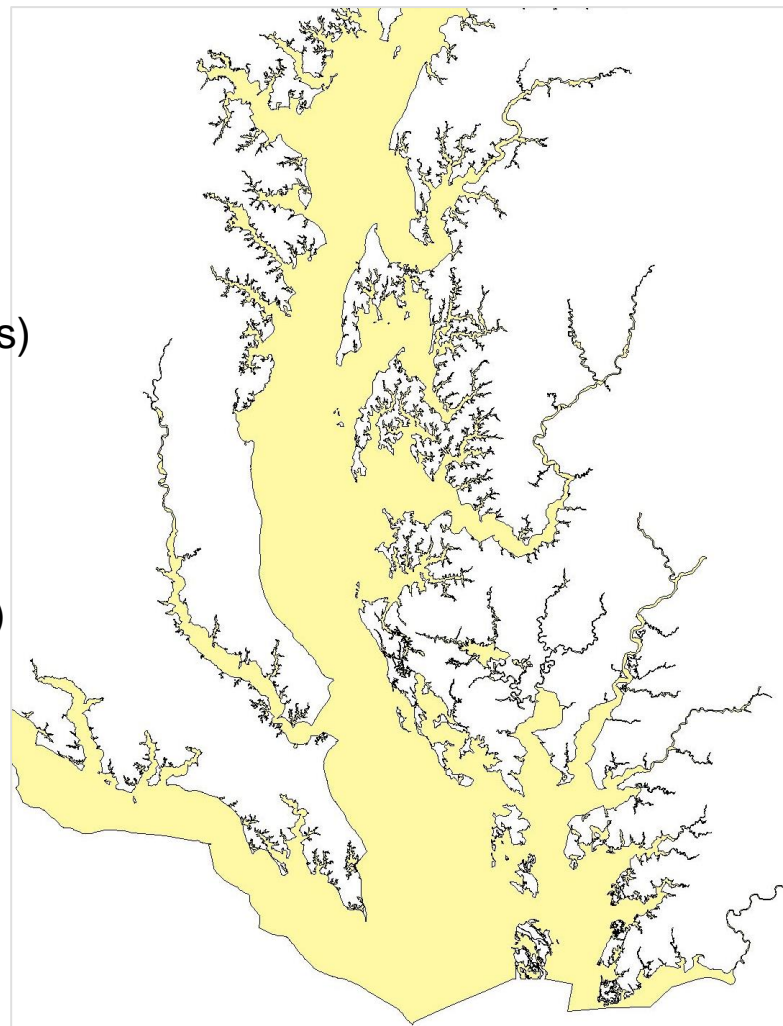
Structure

- Tidewater counties: AA, BA, KE, QA, TA, DO, SO, WI, SM, CH, CA
- Watermen who earn their livelihood catching oysters
- Paid surcharge required (the current year, or one of the previous two)
- Various gear types represented on the Committees
- Members are elected by the County watermen
- Term of membership is 4 years

County Oyster Committees

Purpose and Topics

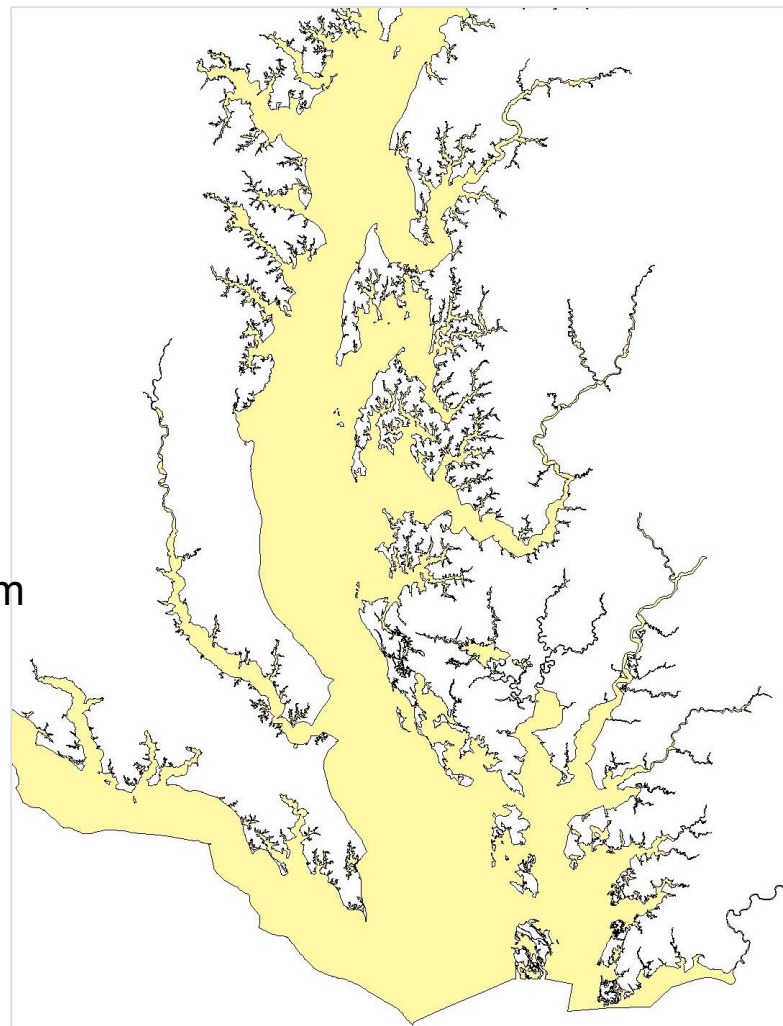
- To represent local oyster harvesters
- To confer with DNR (and other State & Federal groups)
 - Industry, Sanctuaries, Aquaculture
 - Other oyster related topics
- Primary Topics
 - Seed and Shell Plantings (volume and locations)
 - Budget for same
 - Closings and Openings
- Other Topics
 - Surcharge fee & Limiting surcharges
 - Enforcement issues
 - Sewage Trt Plant outfalls
 - Mitigation projects for impacts to oyster bars
 - Issues with other industries (clamming, leasing, etc)



County Oyster Committees

Working Together

- Longterm history of Working Together
- Progress on
 - Funding for the program
 - Setting up Seed Areas
 - Assisting Mders Grow Oysters
 - Selecting sites together for various projects
 - Implementing the current “Spat on Shell” program
 - Discussing rotational ideas
- **Continuing the Progress:**
 - **DNR plans to meet with the Committees**
 - To discuss the OAC....
 - ...and topics being covered by the OAC



County Oyster Committees

Working Together

- Recent Projects and Ideas
 - Swan Pt Project KE County
 - “Co-Op” Project with AA County
 - CH County presentation
 - CA County presentation

**“The Bay is a big place,
There’s room for everyone,
We can work it out together”**

