

- SUMMARY -

COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE MEETING

TO DISCUSS ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL PROCESS

September 24, 2016

Submitted October 17, 2016 to the Oyster Advisory Commission

At the September 12, 2016 meeting of the OAC it was decided that DNR and the County Oyster Committees should meet to discuss rotational harvesting as it relates to the OAC's "Task 3"; with an emphasis on rotational harvest in areas that are now sanctuaries. Input from the Oyster Committees was sought by the OAC.

On September 24th, a meeting was held with the Oyster Committee *chairs* (and other committee members that opted to attend), to discuss the OAC's request for input. Task 3 was discussed and the guidelines for proposals were explained in detail. A "worksheet" was provided to guide the development of the county proposals. It is attached.

As of October 17, two proposals have been submitted. Three other counties have indicated they are close to submitting.

Date: Saturday, September 24, 2016

Location: Harris Restaurant Meeting Room, Kent Island

In Attendance:

<u>Oyster Committees</u> (number attending)	<u>OAC Members</u>	<u>DNR Staff</u>
AA 2	Co-chairs. Kelley Cox and Scott Eglseder	Chris Judy
CA 1	Jim Mullin	Jodi Baxter
DO 1	Robert T. Brown	George O'Donnell
KE 1	Sen. Hershey	
QA 3	Jeff Harrison	
SM 2	Ben Parks	
SO 1		
TA 1		

* WI, CH, and BA counties were not in attendance. At a later date, Chris Judy, DNR Shellfish Director, met with WI and CH counties. A meeting still needs to be arranged with BA. Also after Sept 24th, a meeting was held with DO county to discuss their draft proposal before they submitted it.

Summary: The meeting that was requested by the OAC was held. Outreach that was recommended by the OAC was conducted.

Task 3 – "Provide DNR with recommendations for changes to oyster sanctuaries and public fishing areas based on the available data in the DNR 5-Year Oyster Review Report. The OAC was advised to consider the public fishing areas in making their recommendation. The goal of the sanctuary program is to protect 20%-30% of the designated oyster bottom in Maryland as area for restoration and sanctuary. Currently 24% of the oyster bottom in Maryland is protected as sanctuary and 76% is open to use for the public fishery."

OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

_____ COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

In response to “Task 3” that was assigned to the OAC, the _____ County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:

Sanctuary:

Oyster Bars:

Harvest Proposal:

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-
-
-
-

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

Task 3 – “Provide DNR with recommendations for changes to oyster sanctuaries and public fishing areas based on the available data in the DNR 5-Year Oyster Review Report. The OAC was advised to consider the public fishing areas in making their recommendation. The goal of the sanctuary program is to protect 20%-30% of the designated oyster bottom in Maryland as area for restoration and sanctuary. Currently 24% of the oyster bottom in Maryland is protected as sanctuary and 76% is open to use for the public fishery.”

Proposal Guidelines: Access is viewed as limited, not a wholesale opening of sanctuaries; Investment is needed for opened area (seed or shell planting); Rotational managed harvest; Maintain the overall current ratio of sanctuary areas (20%-30%); Equivalent exchange of a harvest area for an opened area to maintain the sanctuary ratio.