

Calvert County Oyster Committee

September 5, 2016

Maryland Oyster Advisory Commission  
Ms. Kelley Cox, Co-chair  
Mr. Scott Eglseder, Co-chair  
CC: Chris Judy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The Calvert County Oyster Committee would like to make the following proposal acknowledging the conclusions and management strategies outlined in the *Draft 5 Year Oyster Report*.

Part I

The *Five Year Oyster Report* concludes Cedar Point Sanctuary is a "Tier 3 Sanctuary" with, "poor habitat and extremely low densities or zero presence of oysters." A management alternative outlined in the *Draft 5 Year Oyster Report* for Tier III sanctuaries is to manage under public fishery rules. Therefore, the Calvert County Oyster Committee would like to request the Cedar Point sanctuary be reinstated as a PSFA. We understand this 3,473 acre bottom, identified as a Tier 3, is, "Known to have low densities of oyster or poor habitat" (91). The Cedar Point sanctuary would return to the permissible gear types prior to the implementation of sanctuaries.

Part II

The *Five Year Oyster Report* identifies Calvert Shore sanctuary as a Tier 2 Sanctuary. In August of 2012, two years after being designated as a sanctuary, Calvert Shore was dredged by the State of Maryland and shell, undersized oysters, and brood stock were removed without the consent or support of the Calvert County Oyster Committee. The Calvert County Oyster Committee was later told 22,000+ bushel of shell was removed from the sanctuary. There is no inclusion of this in the *Five Year Oyster Report*. This management does not meet the objectives for sanctuaries:

- 1) Protect half of the Bay's most productive oyster grounds that remain and allow investigation of the reasons why these remain most productive;
- 2) Facilitate development of natural disease resistance;
- 3) Provide essential natural ecological functions that cannot be obtained on a harvest bar;
- 4) Serve as a reservoir of reproductive capacity;
- 5) Provide a broad geographic distribution across all salinity zones; and
- 6) Increase our [DNR] ability to protect these important areas from poaching.

The Calvert County oyster committee would like to request the Calvert Shore Sanctuary be reinstated as a PSFA as it has received no resources while designated as a sanctuary and has instead been mined for its resources. Returning the Calvert sanctuary to PSFA status can provide economic and cultural benefits to Maryland's commercial oyster industry. The Calvert Shore sanctuary would return to the permissible gear types prior to the implementation of sanctuaries.

**Part III**

The *Five Year Oyster Report* fails to provide options for specific bars located within designated sanctuaries. Grouping all bars in the Upper Patuxent River Sanctuary does not allow for recognizing the uniqueness of each individual bar and its management potential. Nor does it recognize the successful management practices historically used including: seeding, shell plantings, and harvest reserves. Oystermen who hand tonged in the Upper Patuxent River harvested oysters on multiple bars prior to the implementation of sanctuaries. Since the implementation of oyster sanctuaries, hand tong bars were all but eliminated in the Patuxent River.

The *Five Year Oyster Report* concludes all of the bars in the Upper Patuxent River are Tier 1A. Tier 1A alternative 3 reads, "investment would be a condition to allow harvest, and funds could be generated by sources such as license surcharge funds, oyster bushel taxes, leasing, and private-public partnerships." Therefore, Calvert County would like to propose to invest a minimum of 15% of Calvert County's annual MDOT and oyster surcharges to reinstate Holland Bar as a PSFA. Holland Bar would return to the permissible gear type, hand tong only, prior to the implementation of sanctuaries.

The Calvert County Oyster Committee would like for the O.A.C., working in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources to consider this proposal in its entirety, but also as individual proposals that can be accepted as they are or revised to expedite the proposed changes.

Respectfully,

**Calvert County Oyster Committee**

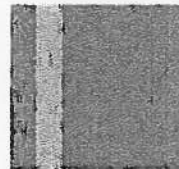
Milburn A Buckler, Co-chair



Dale "Simon" Dean, Co-chair



# Charles County Oyster Committee



Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Tawe's Building, 580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chris Judy  
Frank Marengi

We the Oyster committee of Charles County are proposing the immediate closure of 2 Oyster Bars in the Wicomico River. Located in the State of Maryland Shellfish Harvest area Map chart # 33, bar # 11 Windmill bar and Oyster Bar # 2 Stoddard Bar.

2015 money's that was received from the MDOT program was used for the planting of approximately 15 million seed on shell on Windmill Bar and we would like to see it reach its full potential of being able to grow to mature size.

2016 money's that was received from the MDOT program will be used for the planting of spat on shell on Stoddard Bar and we would like to see it reach its full potential of being able to grow to mature size.

Data is showing and local watermen see that this program is not reaching its full potential because of the premature harvesting on these areas that have been planted in the past. Harvesting is occurring when approximately 20 to 30 percent are of legal size and in the culling process many smaller oysters are being killed or even worse, stolen.

This is the first step that the Oyster Committee of Charles County is taken that leads into a bigger plan for the Wicomico River. We want to develop a rotational Oyster harvest program that will have closures and openings throughout the Oyster seasons. We see the benefits in this type of program and believe it will benefit the local watermen who pays for the surcharge as well as the value to the river by leaving the living oyster in the river for a longer period of time.

It is the wishes of the Charles County Oyster committee to close Windmill Bar until September 2018 were as the committee will evaluate the fall survey and make a determination if an opening is warranted for the 2018 / 2019 Oyster season, perhaps and most likely a 2020 / 2021 opening will occur again based on fall survey.

It is the wishes of the Charles County Oyster committee to close Stoddard Bar until September 2019 were as the committee will evaluate the fall survey and make a determination if an opening is warranted for the 2019 / 2020 Oyster season, perhaps and most likely a 2021 / 2022 opening will occur again based on fall survey.



The markings of the closures perhaps are an unforeseen burden (expense) that DNR is going to absorb. It is the wishes of the Charles County Oyster Committee to assist DNR in marking the proposed closures with the use of our commercial boats if acceptable with DNR. GPS coordinates will be supplied from the committee for the location of where these markings should be located. In the past and as with the Bramleigh Creek reserve the marking buoys are a great distance away from the Oyster bar. We want a clear and precise visibility to be known to the harvester if they are in a restricted area or not.

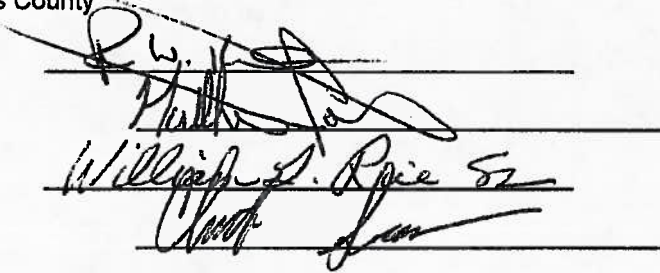
Oyster Committee of Charles County

Francis (Bill) W. Kilinski

Matthew R. Fowler

William (Billy) Rice Sr.

Christopher Swann



Bill Kilinski  
Chairman Charles County Oyster Committee



OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dor COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Dorchester

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

Body of Water:

Choptank River

Sanctuary:

Sandy Hill Sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

Sandy Hill

Management Proposal:

- Return to Hand Tong Only
- Open One year for harvest
- Close and let stand for 2 years
- Open again after 2 years
- Continue on rotation

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

Plant up to \$5,000 worth of seed on the bar

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

In light of our planting/harvesting proposal, we feel this investment into this unfunded bar is more sufficient than an exchange of bottom

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 fishing."

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.

OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dorchester COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

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

Body of Water:

Little Choptank River

Sanctuary:

yes

Oyster Bars:

see attached

Harvest Proposal:

-

- see attached

-

-

-

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

see attached

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

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**OYSTER BARS WE WANT FOR 2017:**

**BARN POINT**

**SALT WORKS**

**FISHING CREEK**

**NEXT YEAR 2018:**

**HUDSON CREEK**

**ROSS**

**LITTLE POLLAND**

**3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR 2019:**

**BRUMMELL**

**CHERRY ISLAND**

**JONES**

*Dorchester*

*Dorchester*

**HARVEST PROPOSAL/SEED OR SHELL PLANTING PROPOSAL:**

**WE PROPOSE TO HARVEST AND SEED THE ABOVE BARS FOR 2017 AND THEN CLOSE THE BAR FOR 3 YEARS.**

**FOLLOWING YEAR, 2018 WE PROPOSE TO HARVEST AND SEED THEN AGAIN CLOSE THE BAR FOR 3 YEARS.**

**3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR, 2019 WE PROPOSE TO HARVEST AND SEED THE ABOVE BARS THAN CLOSE THOSE FOR 3 YEARS.**

**4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WE PROPOSE TO RE-OPEN THE 2017 BARS.**



OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

10/11/16  
From: Wayne Wilso

Kent COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

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

Body of Water: Chester River

Sanctuary: Upper Chester

Oyster Bars: - All bars in the main stem of the Chester River up to Deep Point. Not including Lankford Bay, Corsica River and Reeds Creek

Harvest Proposal:

- To take combined bottom above dive line, make three sections, close the section we have planted.
- Work one of the others and then close it.
- The following year have both of them closed.
- Work the other section. Plant one section every year and have two closed.
- 
- 

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

We really don't have any bottom to exchange. We are willing to put 1/2 million oysters a year in closed sanctuaries (Lankford or Corsica) area. We feel this would be fair because no oysters have been planted in sanctuary other than Maryland's Grow Oysters.

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**OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE**

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the Queen Anne's County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:  
Chester River

Sanctuary:  
Upper Chester

Oyster Bars:  
All bars in the main stem of the Chester River up to Deep Point not including Lankford Bay, Corsica River and Reeds Creek.

Harvest Proposal:

- \* Combine above dive line and make three sections.
- \* Close the section we have planted and work one of the other sections. The following year both would be closed and another section would be worked.
- \* Plant one section every year and have two sections closed.

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

We will plan spat on shell on the bars that will be in the rotation

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

- \* No bottom exchange proposal
- \* Each county would put 500,000 oysters a year on closed sanctuaries.

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Som COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Somerset

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

Body of Water:

Lower tangier Sound

Sanctuary:

Somerset

Oyster Bars:

100 ACRES

Harvest Proposal:

- Declassify it as p5FA  
-  
-  
-  
-

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

NONE

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

NONE

Cost DNR thousands of Dollars to police this Area and thus saving state funds. Watermen feel this is similar to a speed trap. it will NOT take away the 24.76% of Sanctuary Bottom.

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

St. MARY'S

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the \_\_\_\_\_ County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water: St. Mary's River

Sanctuary: St. Mary's River Sanctuary

Oyster Bars: Horseshoe BAR and Box OAK BAR  
(a line From Horseshoe point to Martin Point) East of this line

Harvest Proposal:  
We would like to be able to go into this area the last three weeks of the season and work with all rules already in place before this river was made a sanctuary.

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:  
with our existing county program we will shell back the area we harvest. we feel shell is more than adequate as the St. Mary's most always has a very good natural strike

Bottom Exchange Proposal: N/A.  
we are not interested in exchanging bottom.

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

1c COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Talbot

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the 1c County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:

Miles River

Sanctuary:

~~Handlong~~

Oyster Bars:

Handlong area only #14 #13 #12

Harvest Proposal:

- ONLY month of March 2017 #17 #19 #16 #15 #18 #11 #10 #9 #8 #7 #6 #5 #4
- power dredge to the selected area
- to clean shell and prepare for future spat on
- shell plantings

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

To be determined

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."

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

10 COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Talbot

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the 10 County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:

Wye River

Sanctuary:

yes. wye River sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

wye town #14 in closer book

Harvest Proposal:

Dive, hand tong

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

To be determined

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

10 COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Talbot

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the 10 County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:

upper choptank

Sanctuary:

upper Choptank Sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

# 17 Boling broke sand

Harvest Proposal:

- hand tong

-  
-  
-  
-

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

To be determined

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

10 COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Talbot

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the 10 County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:

Lower Choptank

Sanctuary:

Cook pt Sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

# 12 Cook pt

Harvest Proposal:

- Dredge, dive  
-  
-  
-  
-

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

To be determined

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

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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."

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

10 COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

Talbot

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the 10 County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water:

Upper Choptank

Sanctuary:

Upper Choptank Sanctuary

Oyster Bars:

# 13 Sugar loaf

Harvest Proposal:

- Hand tong

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

To be determined

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

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OUTLINE OF ROTATIONAL HARVEST PROPOSAL TO DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wicomico COUNTY OYSTER COMMITTEE

In response to "Task 3" that was assigned to the OAC, the W.I. County Oyster Committee submits this proposal for consideration.

Body of Water: NANTICOKE RIVER

Sanctuary: NATICOKE

Oyster Bars: WILSON SHOAL, BOARD SHOAL, (HILL SHOAL) Outer Hole CEDAR SHOAL

Harvest Proposal:

- Dec 1 - March 31<sup>ST</sup> or season close
- Jan 1 - March 31<sup>ST</sup>

Seed or Shell Planting Proposal:

PLANT HATCHERY SEED

Bottom Exchange Proposal:

IN LIEU OF AN EXCHANGE WE WILL PLANT SEED IN AREA WHERE CURRENTLY NOTHING HAS BEEN PLANTED IN 10 YRS OR MORE

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