

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO OYSTER MANAGEMENT AREAS to DNR and OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Organization: _____

In response to “Task 3” that was assigned to the OAC, this proposal is submitted for consideration. A map illustrating the proposal is attached.

Body of Water:

Sanctuary:

Oyster Bars:

Proposal:

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: Maintain the overall current ratio of sanctuary areas (20%-30%); Equivalent exchange of area types to maintain the 20-30%; Changes to areas is viewed as limited, not a wholesale opening of sanctuaries or closing of public bottom; Investment is needed for areas that are proposed for change of status (seed or shell plantings, for example, in order to boost populations); Rotational managed harvest is suggested for areas proposed for harvest.

Maps: DNR suggests including a map in the proposal. Maps can be found at:

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/ShellfishClosureBook.pdf>

Background Information: Oyster information on specific areas of the bay can be found in the 5 Year Oyster Review Report, specifically in Appendix A and B. <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/oysters/5-Year-Oyster-Review-Report.aspx>

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