

Update: Man O War Shell Dredging Permit

Oyster Advisory Commission Meeting
February 13, 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u> <i>(most recent events in italics)</i>
July 15, 2015	- DNR re-submits the application
Feb 2 & 3 2016	- Corps holds public hearings on the application
April 4, 2016	- DNR received a letter from the Corps, re: Federal agency issues on shell dredging
August 19, 2016	- DNR replied to the Federal agency issues
Nov 22, 2016	- DNR met with the Federal agencies to discuss questions and issues remaining from the August reply, and address additional questions
<i>Dec 9, 2016</i>	<i>- DNR received a letter highlighting 15 questions from the Nov 22 meeting</i> <i>- April 2017 deadline for reply</i>
<i>Feb 13, 2017</i>	<i>- DNR responded to the Dec 9 letter</i>
<i>3-4 months</i>	<i>- estimated time for a decision, as per the Corps</i>

Highlights of the December Issues

- describe specifics of the dredging process (how does the dredge work, formation of cuts, etc)
 - describe the habitat at the bottom of the dredge cuts, and impacts
 - revise numerous sections of "Attachment 1"
 - provide new oyster population data for Man O War (new survey was done Dec 2016)
 - discuss the silt plume (size, TSS, etc) and impacts to living resources
- All the items above relate to information needed for the Essential Fish Habitat review (EFH)*
- provide information regarding Sea Turtles and Sturgeon for the Endangered Species Act review (ESA)
 - describe how planting sites will be determined

DNR's response is posted online: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/oysters/permit-applications.aspx>