



*Martin O'Malley, Governor*  
*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*  
*John R. Griffin, Secretary*  
*Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary*

**To:** Tidal Fish Advisory Commission  
**From:** Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Services,  
Apprenticeship Program  
**Date:** October 12, 2011  
**Re:** TFAC- Apprenticeship Hearing

Commercial Tidal Fish License Apprenticeship Program requirements for a single license type (excluding a unlimited tidal fish license) include:

- 1,200 hours logged under a commercially licensed individual
  - ◆ Individuals can go back 10 years and record any hours previously worked
  - ◆ Hours can include anything from the activity itself (crabbing, fishing, oystering), building gear, cleaning gear, baiting gear, buying bait, cleaning and maintenance on boat, etc.
- Boater's Safety Course or Coast Guard Captain's License
- Apprenticeship Class

Hours logged by an apprentice under a commercially licensed watermen must be submitted to the Department on a log sheet. This log must be signed by the apprentice and the commercial license holder with whom the individual worked must provide a signature next to each day's reported activity.

Once this log is received by DNR, it is entered into a data base and compared with the harvest reports of the license holder. This is important to ensure that the harvest activities reported by the license holder match with the apprentice's daily log sheets.

Joseph P. Shirriell Jr is in the Apprenticeship Program for the Limited Crab Harvester – up to 50 pots license (LCC). The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Services (DNR) received Mr. Shirriell Jr.'s May 2007-October 2007 DNR Tidal Fish License Apprenticeship Program Daily Record of Practical Experience log sheets showing 1,400 hours for a combination of crabbing (912 hours), baiting lines (288 hours) and boat cleaning (200 hours), logged under the supervision of Mark Dale Swann Jr. The Commercial Crab Reports submitted by Mr. Swann Jr. from 2007 show 24 hours of crabbing occurring on three separated days in May of 2007 and "Did Not Crab" on his April, July, August, and November 2007 reports. Mr. Swann Jr.'s 2007 reports for June, September, and October were not turned in.

Based on the inconsistencies it appears as though Mr. Shirriell Jr. does not have the practical experience necessary to obtain the LCC license through the Apprenticeship Program. DNR is requesting a formal recommendation from the TFAC on this matter. Options for recommendation include but are not limited to:

- Grant the requested Limited Crab Harvester – up to 50 pots license;
- Require the individual to complete 1,200 crabbing hours in order to satisfy the requirements of the Apprenticeship Program; or
- Permanently remove the individual from the Apprenticeship Program for submitting false reports and refund the \$50.00 fee.