

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tawe's Building, 580 Taylor Ave.

Annapolis, MD 21401

Ms. Gina Hunt

After considerable deliberation the Oyster Committee for Charles County has decided not to go with the immediate closure of Windmill Bar in the hopes that language in a new regulation relating to Rotational Harvest areas will be adopted very soon that will allow more clarity from the Oyster Committees in Maryland to close and reopen Oyster bars.

To help with the language in the new regulation it is the intent of the Charles County Committee to close a Harvest area that has been seeded with MDOT moneys or perhaps even the help from the ORP division for a minimum of 3 years and reopening the Oyster bar after close monitoring by the committee and finding majority of the oysters within harvestable size.

The Oyster bars' that the Charles County Oyster Committee would like to see be added in a rotational Oyster Harvest area program are:

Rock Point (21) John Thomas bar is the local name for this bar

Lancaster (19)

Wicomico Middle Ground (14)

Windmill (11)

Mills West (6)

Stoddard (2)

Joes Lumps (9)

- White Point (16)
- Mills East (7)
- Cohouck (3)
- Key (1)

State of Maryland Shellfish Closure book was used as the reference in the naming and numbering of the Oyster bars, the Wicomico River can be found on Chart 33, page 73 in the Book.

The oyster's bars 21, 19, 14, 11, 6, and 2 are located on the Charles County side of the Wicomico. The oyster bars 16, 7, 3, and 1 are located on the St. Mary's side of the Wicomico. It is the intent of our committee to work with St. Mary's Oyster Committee and also include these areas in the regulation also. However if this poses a problem I do not want to slow the proposed regulation process down, just identify the Oyster bars on Charles County side of the Wicomico and we'll address this at a later date.

We are willing to meet with DNR staff to discuss further details of our intent and have a better understanding of certain language that might be needed in developing a Rotational Harvest program for the Wicomico River.

Bill Kilinski

Chairman Charles County Oyster Committee

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