

Remote Setting Program



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Background

- Federal Crab Disaster Grant supporting establishment of 30 Remote Setting Tanks (15 locations) over three years (2011, 2012, 2013)
 - 5 (2 tank sites) established in 2011
- Grants to primarily provide equipment set-up, larvae and technical support





- A Remote Setting System includes:
 - Two (2) 8' round setting tanks
 - Each holds 300 ½ bushels bags of shell
 - Necessary pump, blower, platform and pipes
 - Larvae
 - Electricity to operate
- What was NOT included:
 - Aged, cleaned shell
 - Labor to load, unload shell, clean tanks, etc.





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RSS Locations

- Based on producer/leaseholder survey, five locations were established in 2011
 - Choptank River (UMCES HPL Cambridge)
 - St. George's Creek/Potomac (DNR Piney Point Facility)
 - Patuxent River (Pax River Naval Station Solomons)
 - West/Rhode River (CBF Discovery Village Shady Side)
 - Tangier Sound (DNR Deal Island)
- Future locations based on demand by producers





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Remote Setting Site



The Deal Island RS Site at
the DNR facility





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Operating Guidelines

- First come, first serve
 - Need an approved lease before you can use
- 2011 available dates
 - June 6, June 20, July 4, July 20, August 1 and August 15
- Each producer offered two weeks
- If another period is open, a producer can signup and do another set





Operating Guidelines

- ORP handled scheduling each producer; coordinated shell purchase
 - Each producer received an information package and signed a liability waiver
- Producer/Leaseholder responsible for acquiring their shell. Options included:
 - Swap green, non-cleaned shell for cleaned, aged shell - \$0
 - Purchase cleaned, aged shell - \$1.50/bushel (loose)
 - Purchase cleaned, aged and bagged shell - \$1.50 per bag (1/2 bushel)
- Once spat on shell has been removed, operator clean the tank/cleaned up area for the next grower
 - No issues experienced with any grower





Setting Operations

- UMCES provided:
 - Larvae for growers to set first two tanks
 - Two hatchery personnel provided onsite support
 - Each user got an operations checklist/instruction manual
- Factors impacting participation
 - Salinity delayed sets in upper Bay sites; leased bottom areas were too fresh for SOS
 - Leaseholders not having their lease in time
 - Hurricane – secured Deale Island, Piney, Pax River sites for potential flooding, winds





2011 Program Summary

- Operating Locations: 5
- Total Participants: 16
- Sets completed: 20
- Total larvae used: 218M
- Estimated SOS produced and planted: 32M SOS

- Bagged Shell Used: 9,950 Bags (4,975 bushels)
- Loose Shell Used: 1,270 bushels
- Crushed Shell Used: 1,800 bushels

All watermen purchased shell from the State





2011 RS Schedule

Remote Setting Schedule

| | 6-Jun | 20-Jun | 4-Jul | 20-Jul | 1-Aug | 15-Aug |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| DNR, Piney Point | | Mike McWilliams) | Scott Russell | Joan/Ron Welch | Brian Russell | |
| Pax River Naval Station, Solomons | | | | Mike McWilliams | | Mike Bowles |
| CBF Discovery Village, Shady Side | | | | Rob Witt | Terry Witt | John VanAlstine |
| UMCES Horn Point, Cambridge | Eddie Walters | Paul Basel | Paul Basel | Eric Wisner | Eric Wisner | Larry Simns |
| DNR, Deal Island | | | Eric Wisner | Ernie Nichols | Mike Lindemon | Mike Lindemon |





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2012 Planning

- UMCES, UMD Extension and ORP reviewing 2011 operations and planning for 2012
- Identify new setting locations and/or add additional tanks to existing sites
- Explore lengthening number of sets allocated per RST location and/or pre-staging shell at RST locations





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Contact Information

Stephan Abel, Executive Director
Oyster Recovery Partnership, Inc.
1805A Virginia Street
Annapolis MD 21401
Phone: 410-990-4970
Email: sabel@oysterrecovery.org
<http://orp@oysterrecovery.org>

