Opportunities in Shellfish Aquaculture

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Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Conference

Program

- Business Planning, Finance and Marketing
- Getting Your Business Organized
- Rebuilding Our Industry
- Production Planning
- Assuring Quality Products
Vision Statement

To create economic growth and increase employment by developing a sustainable aquaculture industry that produces high quality fish, shellfish, and plant products for commercial sale and environmental restoration purposes.
• Establish a single point of contact for aquaculture applications
• Restructure the Maryland Aquaculture Advisory Committee as a Coordinating Council
• Establish Aquaculture Enterprise Zones
• Create an Aquaculture Development Board through the University of Maryland
• Provide support for Extension services available through the University of Maryland
• Support annual conferences providing technical expertise for the development and growth of the aquaculture industry
• Provide resources for surveying and certifying shellfish growing waters and enterprise zones
• Provide resources to conduct permitting, enforce regulations, and enforce private property rights
Support from our Governor and Maryland General Assembly

• Governor O’Malley’s “Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan”
  – Expand aquaculture leasing opportunities
  – Encourage the development of aquaculture businesses
  – Bring back our native oyster
  – Create new jobs and economic activity

• General Assembly Legislation
  – Restructured lease laws by a unanimous vote, lifting leasing moratoriums and opening new areas for leasing
  – Streamlined permitting and consolidated State Agency authority for aquaculture permitting at DNR to improve efficiency in application processing and lease issuance
DNR AQUACULTURE DIVISION

- Administration of the Coordinating Council and operation of the Review Board
- Coordinate permitting/leasing activities between State & Federal agencies
- Assist applicants with locating sites and developing application materials
- Maryland Grow Oysters Program
- Field operations for technical assistance, surveys and compliance
- Collaborate with UM Extension to provide business planning assistance
Joint Application

- DNR and Army Corps of Engineers
- Submerged Land Lease
- Water Column Lease
- Identify Location
- Detailed Description of Project
- Maps and Drawings
Shellfish Leasing Process

Past Process:
Department of Agriculture
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Environment
US Army Corps of Engineers
Board of Public Works
Issuance – 6 months to 1 year +

Current Process:
Department of Natural Resources
US Army Corps of Engineers
Issuance – 120 days

The Regional General Permit further streamlines the Federal process to include issuance within 60 days to those projects that qualify under the conditions established in the RGP-1.
Aquaculture Initiatives

Shellfish Aquaculture Loan Program
DNR and MARBIDCO partnership
Provide access to start-up capital
Low interest loans with a subsidy

Environmental Quality Incentives Program
USDA/NRCS
Provides funding for planting oysters and shell
Cost-share assistance for approved practices

Aquaculture Education and Training Program
UMD and ORP
Remote setting workshops
Hatchery short course
Use of regional setting systems
Annual aquaculture conferences
MD Shellfish Aquaculture

- 400 active shellfish leases – 3958 acres
  - 384 Submerged Land Bottom leases
  - 16 Water Column Leases (cages & floats)

- Over 100 lease applications received in past year-2800 acres
  - submerged land leases
    - 10 issued - 10 pending issuance
    - 25 under review
  - water column leases
    - 10 issued - 2 pending issuance
    - 17 under review