

## **2010 Derelict Gear Retrieval and Oyster Shell Rehabilitation Projects**

**Application Deadline has been extended to January 13, 2010.  
Additional areas are available in the Derelict Gear portion of the program:  
Zone F (mouth of Little Choptank River), Zone G (mouth of Patuxent River) and  
Zone H (mouth of the Northeast River).**

**If you have already submitted your application and would like to switch to one of the new zones, please call 410-990-4971. All changes must be made by Wednesday, January 13th.**

**Deadline for Submission:** 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday January 13, 2010 (applications received after this date will not be accepted or be considered)

**Notices of acceptance to be distributed:** February 3, 2010

Please see attached forms to state your interest to do work on the derelict gear retrieval or oyster shell rehabilitation projects for 2010. This work will be funded by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in conjunction with the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) and the Maryland Watermen's Association (MWA). These funds are being made available as part of a Federal Crab Disaster grant from NOAA. In order to make sure that work begins at the scheduled time, we are beginning this application process before we have received final approval from NOAA. Please be aware that if funding is not available by the planned start date the work will need to be delayed.

This program is intended to support active, commercial watermen throughout Maryland who were directly impacted as a result of the crab harvest reductions. The amount of work we are able to provide will depend upon the number of watermen who apply. However, a minimum of five (5) working days will be guaranteed to all watermen that are accepted into the work program. We anticipate a large response, but we will not be able to determine who is accepted and the exact number of working days until all applications are submitted and reviewed. Those selected will be notified by MD DNR or a designated representative via a letter and a phone call.

When submitting your application, please read the directions and criteria carefully. **You may apply to only one project;** Derelict Gear Retrieval OR Oyster Shell Rehabilitation.

### **Derelict Gear Retrieval Project Overview:**

This project will collect derelict crab traps using a long line with grappling hooks from the mouth of Zone A (West/Rhode/South Rivers), Zone B (Crisfield), Zone C (Rock Hall) and Zone D (Patapsco River), Zone E (Hooper Strait/Upper Tangier Sound), Zone F (Little Choptank River), Zone G (Patuxent River), and Zone H (Northeast River). The West/Rhode River will occur in early February, the Northeast area work will occur in April and the remaining areas will occur in late February/March 2010. Participants in this program are required to attend a day of training before work begins. Date, time and location of training will be sent to those that are accepted for this program. Captains will receive \$400 per day and will be able to keep all hardware

collected (zincs, rebar and cull rings), but no wire pots. Captains are authorized one crewman who will be paid \$150 per day.

### **Oyster Shell Rehabilitation Project Overview:**

The project will entail reclaiming silt covered oyster shell from targeted oyster reefs using at least a 30" power dredge from March through May 2010 at various regions around the Bay that will be determined at a later date. Captains will receive \$500 per day. Captains are authorized one crewman who will be paid \$150 per day.

### **Who is Eligible to Participate and Selection Process:**

In order to be considered for either program, boat captains must have a current commercial fishing license. Priority will be given to those that have actively crabbled in Maryland over the last five (5) years and caught more than ten (10) bushels of crabs annually (based on DNR reporting), and those that participate in a fishery that provides bait for crabbing.

We will be reviewing individual records to verify eligibility. Boat captains will NOT be eligible to participate in either program if starting in January 1, 2008 you have any of the following:

- One (1) violation pertaining to crabbing on mandatory days off, exceeding mature female crab bushel limit by 10 or more bushels, or crabbing during closed season;
- Three (3) violations pertaining to: possession of undersize crabs, possessing more than 5 female crabs per bushel when the season is closed to females, setting pots in restricted areas, and exceeding the time limit for crabbing by more than 60 minutes.
- One (1) violation for working over an oyster line, a time violation of one half hour before or after the start/finish time, any violation for harvest over the daily limit, or a cull violation of 10% or higher while harvesting oysters.

Pending violations need to be satisfied with a not guilty verdict or probation before judgment (PBJ) before you will be considered for participation. If more boats and crewmen are available than are needed for a particular project, watermen will be selected via lottery based on the project and location requested with initial preference given to those Captains (and their crew) with minimal convicted violations. For those boat captains who apply for oyster bar rehabilitation, priority will be given to those watermen who have purchased an oyster surcharge in 2008 and 2009.

While there is no eligibility requirements for crewman, priority will be given to crewman who have a commercial license.

Those not selected to work in 2010 will be given preference to work in 2011, pending you continue to be eligible for the program.

### **Application Process:**

When submitting your application, please read the directions and criteria carefully. You may apply to only one project; Derelict Gear Retrieval OR Oyster Shell Rehabilitation.

Boat captains who wish to provide their own crew must submit both applications together. Crew members must have a separate application form stating the desired captain they wish to work for.

To participate in the program this year, boat captains must undergo a drug test. Once you are notified of your acceptance into the work program, you will be directed to go and have a drug test completed at an approved laboratory, at no charge to you. You must pass the test prior to commencing work. If you are in possession of a Coast Guard Captain's license, then you are already in a random sampling program as part of the Coast Guard maritime random drug testing program. You will be requested to submit a copy of your Coast Guard license with your application so we are aware of your enrollment status.

By submitting an application for the water based assistance program you are agreeing to the conditions put in place by the Department of Natural Resources. If you are accepted into the program, you will be acting solely as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the State of Maryland, the Oyster Recovery Partnership or the Maryland Watermen's Association and they are not liable for any incidents or accidents that occur as a result of this employment. Program managers and/or Natural Resource Police officers will be on station and be allowed to board and inspect your boat at any time and will be doing so to ensure that these rules are being abided by.

**NO OYSTERS, CRABS OR ANY OTHER SEAFOOD ARE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE WORK AREA OR TAKEN ASHORE BY ANY INDIVIDUAL UNDER PENALTY OF ELIMINATION FROM THIS AND FUTURE RESTORATION PROGRAMS.**

Please read the form carefully and fill it out completely before faxing, hand carrying or mailing it to the Oyster Recovery Partnership office. Please return the forms to us as soon as possible and no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

Please mail or fax the response forms to:

Oyster Recovery Partnership  
1805 A Virginia Street  
Annapolis, MD, 21401  
Tel: 410-990-4970  
Fax:

## 2010 Derelict Gear Retrieval and Oyster Shell Rehabilitation Project Application Form

Please read the form carefully and fill it out completely before faxing, hand carrying, or mailing it to the Oyster Recovery Partnership office. Mark the type of work and river systems with which you are most familiar. All fields are required to be completed.

I wish to be considered for a contract as a:

\_\_\_\_\_ Boat Captain **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ Crewman

I wish to be considered for the following program (select only one) and location (select only first and second choice):

Derelict Gear Retrieval	<b>OR</b>	Oyster Shell Rehabilitation
_____ Zone A (West/Rhode/South Rivers)		_____ Region A (Upper Western Shore)
_____ Zone B (Crisfield)		_____ Region B (Lower Western Shore)
_____ Zone C (Rock Hall)		_____ Region C (Upper Eastern Shore)
_____ Zone D (Patapsco River)		_____ Region D (Mid/Lower MES)
_____ Zone E (Hooper Strait/Upper Tangier Sound)		
_____ Zone F (Little Choptank River)		
_____ Zone G (Patuxent River)		
_____ Zone H (Northeast River)		

Captain Name \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

Crewman Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

License # \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If you have been using a transferred license, please provide a copy of the paperwork provided by MD DNR at time of transfer.*

Mailing Address:

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: MD Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # home: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Engine: HP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Port: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident County: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Dredge (must be at least 30'') (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years experienced in dredging operations: \_\_\_\_\_ years

**To participate in the program, the Captain and Crewman agree to the following:**

- **Captain must be able bodied to do the following: shoveling, handling dredges, moving shells, moving buoys and other physical labor. A crewmember is not required.**
- **The Captain, named above who is accepted into the program, must be onboard the vessel at all times during the work period.**

