



**Potomac River Fisheries Commission**  
**Commercial License Application Instructions**

**Commercial License Registration Fee** – All persons must pay the Commercial License Registration Fee prior to the purchase of any commercial license(s) on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Notice to Renewal Licensees** - By making this application for renewal you are certifying to the PRFC that you have filed all catch reports.

**Oyster Licenses** – All persons must pay the Oyster License Surcharge prior to the purchase of any commercial oyster license(s) on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Any boat may have only one set of "OT" and/or "HS" tags, which are required before taking oysters. Each boat limited to one licensed "operator" who will receive tags and file catch reports as required. Power assist hand tong rigging may not be aboard "HS" vessel. The operator of any "OT" vessel rigged with power assist hand tongs must obtain power assist hand tong boat license in addition to the tong boat operator license.

**Clam Licenses** - Sign and return receipt for Potomac River clam chart. By making this application you are certifying that you will be the captain, master and/or operator of the boat listed.

**Oyster Buy Boat License (Reg. I, Sec. 2(g))** – For each person desiring to purchase any oysters harvested from the Potomac River on the Potomac River, they shall first purchase an Oyster Buy Boat License for a fee of \$250.00, to be used on a vessel at least 40 feet in length. No more than one Oyster Buy Boat License may be issued for use on any single boat. To qualify for a PRFC Oyster Buy Boat license, the applicant must be a certified dealer or working on behalf of a certified dealer on the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List (ICSSL).

No hand tongs, power assisted hand tongs, hand scrapes, dredges, dive gear, or patent tongs may be aboard any Oyster Buy Boat at any time. Oyster Buy Boats are not permitted to engage in any oyster harvest activity. Oyster Buy Boats must display or have on board all tags, licenses or markings required by the PRFC.

All oysters must be contained in large oyster vats, and each vat must be properly tagged with a certified dealer tag, as required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Model Ordinance. All PRFC issued harvester identification tags collected from the bushel baskets of oyster purchased each day, shall be batched and kept for 90 days (required time period). It shall be unlawful for any Oyster Buy Boat to purchase oysters in excess of the riverwide daily oyster bushel limit (set by PRFC Order) from any PRFC licensed Hand Tong or Hand Scrape vessel. It shall be unlawful for any Oyster Buy Boat to purchase oysters from any person or vessel that has not been issued a valid PRFC oyster harvest license. During the established oyster harvest season for the Potomac River, Oyster Buy Boat licensees or operators must comply with applicable shellfish regulations for Maryland, when landing oysters in Maryland, or with Virginia, when landing oysters in Virginia (e.g. Vibrio Control Plans).

The Oyster Buy Boat License issued pursuant hereto may be used by a duly authorized agent or employee of the Oyster Buy Boat licensee, as the Oyster Buy Boat operator, provided said agent or employee and the Oyster Buy Boat License are aboard the boat used in purchasing oysters and the Oyster Buy Boat licensee shall continue to be responsible therefore. Oyster Buy Boats must have buyer tickets, certified dealer tags, and harvester identification tags from each bushel purchased available for inspection by any duly authorized officer or PRFC representative. The Oyster Buy Boat licensee shall keep an accurate and complete daily account of any oysters purchased, and submit their report weekly, with their tax payment due thereon, to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission not later than Thursday of the week following, on forms furnished by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.