



Potomac River Fisheries Commission



MARYLAND - VIRGINIA
"Potomac River Compact of 1958"

Membership and Procedures for Oyster Management Reserve Program

September 29, 2022

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission voted unanimously in 2010 to establish the Oyster Management Reserve program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River. Regulation VIII was adopted on August 30, 2012 and became effective January 1, 2013 that establishes the details to the program. This program will operate under the following general guidelines:

Procedures: The participants shall establish a written set of by-laws for the conduct of their meetings and affairs. The Commission may from time to time refer, for recommendation, issues related to the OMR's field of interest.

Voting Process: In order to vote for the transaction of any business, participants must be present, physically or virtually, and must vote on the business being transacted. There is no minimum number of participants required to be present to vote and the majority vote rules.

Chairman and Vice Chairman: The chairman and vice-chairman shall be elected by a majority of the members every two years. At the first meeting of the participants after April 1st of each odd year, the participants shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

OMR Membership: Membership terms shall be for the calendar year of which the OMR license is valid. OMR License fees, surcharges, and details can be found under Regulation VIII.

Meetings: OMR meetings may be held publicly at the PRFC office or such other place and at such times as may be selected by the Chairman. Participants will be notified of new meetings by e-mail and by postal service. Meeting details will also be advertised on the PRFC website's calendar. The proceedings of the meetings held at the PRFC office will be electronically recorded by a PRFC supplied recording secretary who will assist the program with reports, mailings, correspondence, etc.

OMR Program Reports: Program reports of findings and recommendations shall be reported to the Commission in writing and may be presented at any regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Any program report containing recommendations which call for immediate action by the Commission must be submitted in writing at least 20 calendar days prior to the next scheduled Commission meeting.

Staff Review: All written program reports containing recommendations requiring Commission actions regarding regulations or policies shall be reviewed by staff for technical and legal purposes. This review could include appropriate representatives from MD DNR/VMRC, CBL/VIMS and the Maryland and Virginia Marine Police.

Oyster Bar Surveying: The participants may from time to time request the designated areas, as described in Reg. VIII, Sec. 6(a), be surveyed to determine if the areas are ready for harvest. The chairman must coordinate with PRFC Staff to determine the survey details at least 5 business days prior to the desired survey date. PRFC staff must be on board the vessel which will perform the survey. If a PRFC staff member is unable to attend, the surveyor must obtain a letter from PRFC including the date, time, vessel number, names of participants/crew/helpers that will be present, and that law enforcement has been properly notified.

Opening Bars: If the designated areas are ready to harvest, the participants shall set dates, days, and times to open the reserves and the size and bushel harvest limits by a majority vote. If there is a majority vote to open, the Commission will announce the bar as being open and ready to harvest by the eligible participants.

Summary of OMR Fees and Surcharges:

Natural Person/Person Participant License Fee: \$550

- Must purchase between Dec 1 and March 31
- Valid for one calendar year
- Reg. VIII, Sec. 4(a)(b)
- Natural Person Transfer Fee: \$100
 - Reg VIII, Sec. 5(c)
- Person Transfer Fee: \$50
 - Reg. VIII, Sec. 4(b)

OMR Crew License Fee: \$600

- Must purchase between Dec 1 and March 31
- Limit two per participant
- Increases share of harvest per crew member
- Reg. VIII, Sec. 4(c)(1)

OMR Helper License Fee: \$100

- Must purchase between Dec 1 and March 31
- Limit one per participant
- Does not increase harvest share
- Reg. VIII, Sec. 4(c)(2)

OMR License Planting Surcharge Fee: \$375 per person per year

- Set by Order #2019-15
- Reg. VIII, Sec. 4(e)

OMR Oyster Identification Tags: \$2.00/tag

- Can return for refund before the next year's tags are purchased
- Reg. VIII, Sec. 7(d)