



Potomac River Fisheries Commission

MARYLAND - VIRGINIA
"Potomac River Compact of 1958"



ORDER 2025-18

2025-2026 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: The 2025-2026 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

<u>Gear</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2025 thru Mar. 31, 2026	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

- That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 1**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37° 58.668’ N, 76° 17.229’ W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38° 4.640’ N, 76° 29.309’ W); thence northerly to a point (38° 6.149’ N, 76° 28.458’ W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38° 5.817’ N, 76° 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38° 4.816’ N, 76° 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38° 4.323’ N, 76° 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38° 3.738’ N, 76° 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38° 3.134’ N, 76° 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38° 3.489’ N, 76° 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38° 2.188’ N, 76° 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.
- That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 2**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37° 58.668’ N, 76° 17.229’ W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37° 53.390’ N, 76° 14.150’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38° 2.740’ N, 76° 31.259’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38° 4.640’ N, 76° 29.309’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.
- That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38° 2.740’ N, 76° 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38° 9.956’ N, 76° 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R 2”; thence northerly to a point (38° 12.099’ N, 76° 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38° 10.234’ N, 76° 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.
- That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38° 12.099’ N, 76° 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38° 13.493’ N, 76° 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid “G C 15”; thence northeasterly to a point (38° 14.192’ N, 76° 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 18”; thence northeasterly to a point (38° 15.676’ N, 76° 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38° 17.580’ N, 76° 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38° 18.699’ N, 76° 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38° 12.409’ N, 76° 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

- e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 3**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38° 4.640’ N, 76° 29.309’ W); thence northwesterly to a point (38° 10.234’ N, 76° 35.365’ W); thence westerly to a point (38° 12.099’ N, 76° 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38° 12.409’ N, 76° 44.722’ W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “M4A” (38° 12.492’ N, 76° 44.572’ W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38° 6.149’ N, 76° 28.458’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.
- f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38° 12.099’ N, 76° 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38° 9.956’ N, 76° 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R 2”; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38° 16.462’ N, 76° 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38° 17.580’ N, 76° 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38° 15.676’ N, 76° 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38° 14.192’ N, 76° 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 18”; thence southeasterly to a point (38° 13.493’ N, 76° 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid “G C 15”; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.
- g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 7**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38° 21.570’ N, 77° 0.899’ W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38° 21.831’ N, 76° 59.010’ W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38° 18.699’ N, 76° 55.314’ W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38° 16.462’ N, 76° 59.413’ W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.
- h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 8**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38° 21.831’ N, 76° 59.010’ W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38° 21.570’ N, 77° 0.899’ W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38° 22.073’ N, 77° 5.605’ W); thence northerly to a point (38° 24.356’ N, 77° 5.537’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-18 shall become effective November 1, 2025 and remain in effect until March 31, 2026.



Potomac River Fisheries Commission

MARYLAND - VIRGINIA
"Potomac River Compact of 1958"



PRFC Oyster Bar Closures & Restrictions

Season: 2025-2026

Areas Open to Hand Scrape

Area Name	Oyster Bars
Area 1	Cornfield Harbor Kitts
Area 2	Great Neck Hog Island Lower Bank Middle Banks Thicket Point
Area 4	Billys Point Bonums opens Jan. 1, 2026 Coles Point Currioman Kingcopsico Peach Orchard Ragged Point Red Rock Stoney Wrights Point
Area 5	Cobb Island Line Bar Natural Oyster Bar Peanut Hill Sheepshead Bay Swan Point Yellow Banks

The following bars are independently managed by the listed PRFC Orders and Regulations:

Cornfield Seed Area	Order 2025-22
Jones Shore	Order 2025-20
Knotts Hollow	Order 2018-10
Green Hill/Old Farm	Order 2024-19
Lower Cedar Point	Order 2025-08 "Revised"
Bluff Point Lumps	Regulation II, Section 4(a)
Heron Island	Regulation II, Section 4(a)

Areas Closed to Hand Scrape

Area Name	Oyster Bars
Area 3	Blake Creek Herring Run Huggins Point Piney Point Poseys Bluff St. George Island Tall Timbers
Area 6	Bluff Point Colonial Beach Gum Nomini Cliffs Wakefield Watsons
Area 7	Machadoc Pascahanna Stoney Point Tylers Walkers Yates
Area 8	Beacon Greers Hawks Nest Horseshoe Martis Lump Popes Creek Salthouse Upper Cedar Point Waterloo Wilmer Windmill

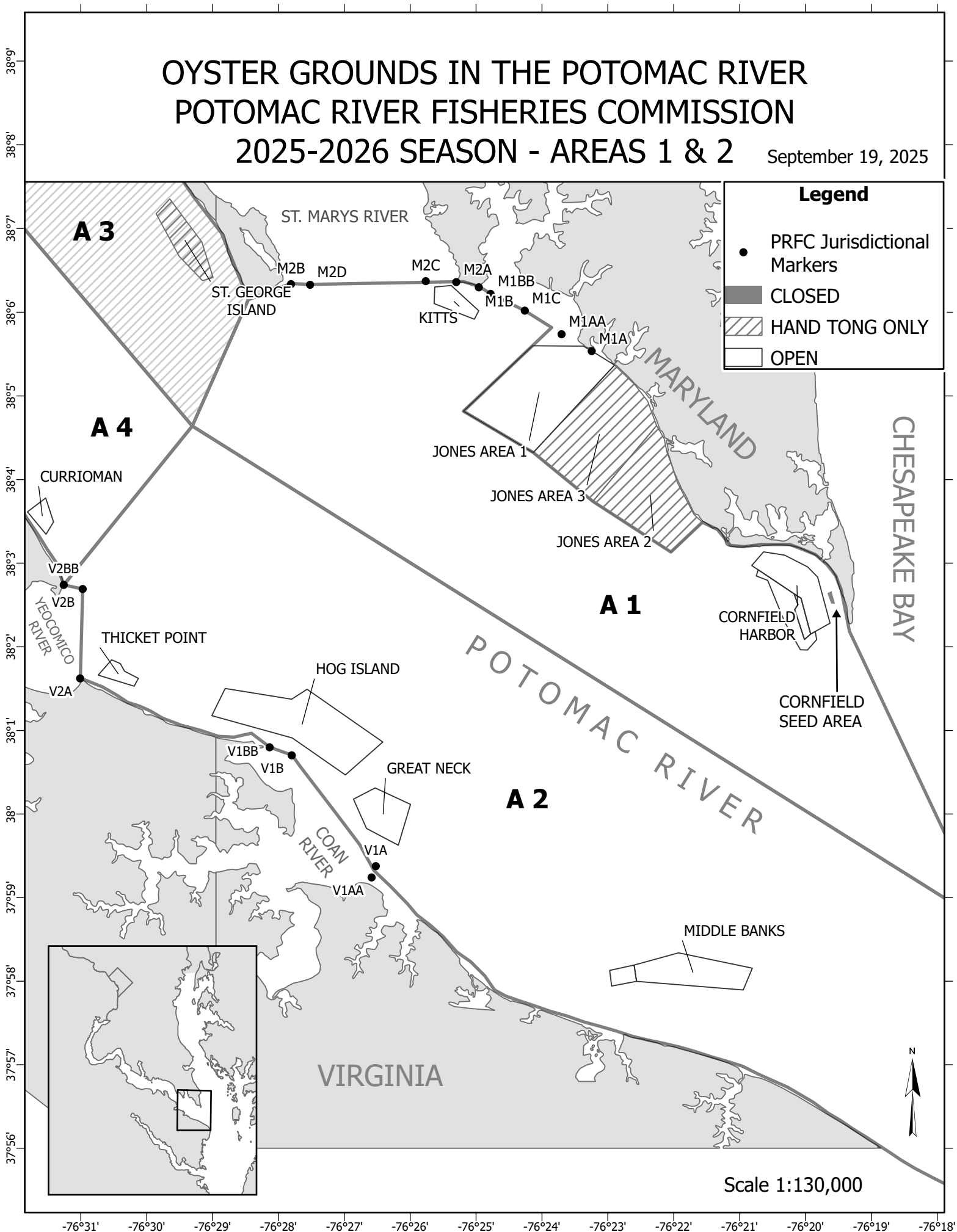
Note: All areas open to hand tong harvest unless otherwise noted in the PRFC Orders and Regulations.

OYSTER GROUNDS IN THE POTOMAC RIVER

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

2025-2026 SEASON - AREAS 1 & 2

September 19, 2025

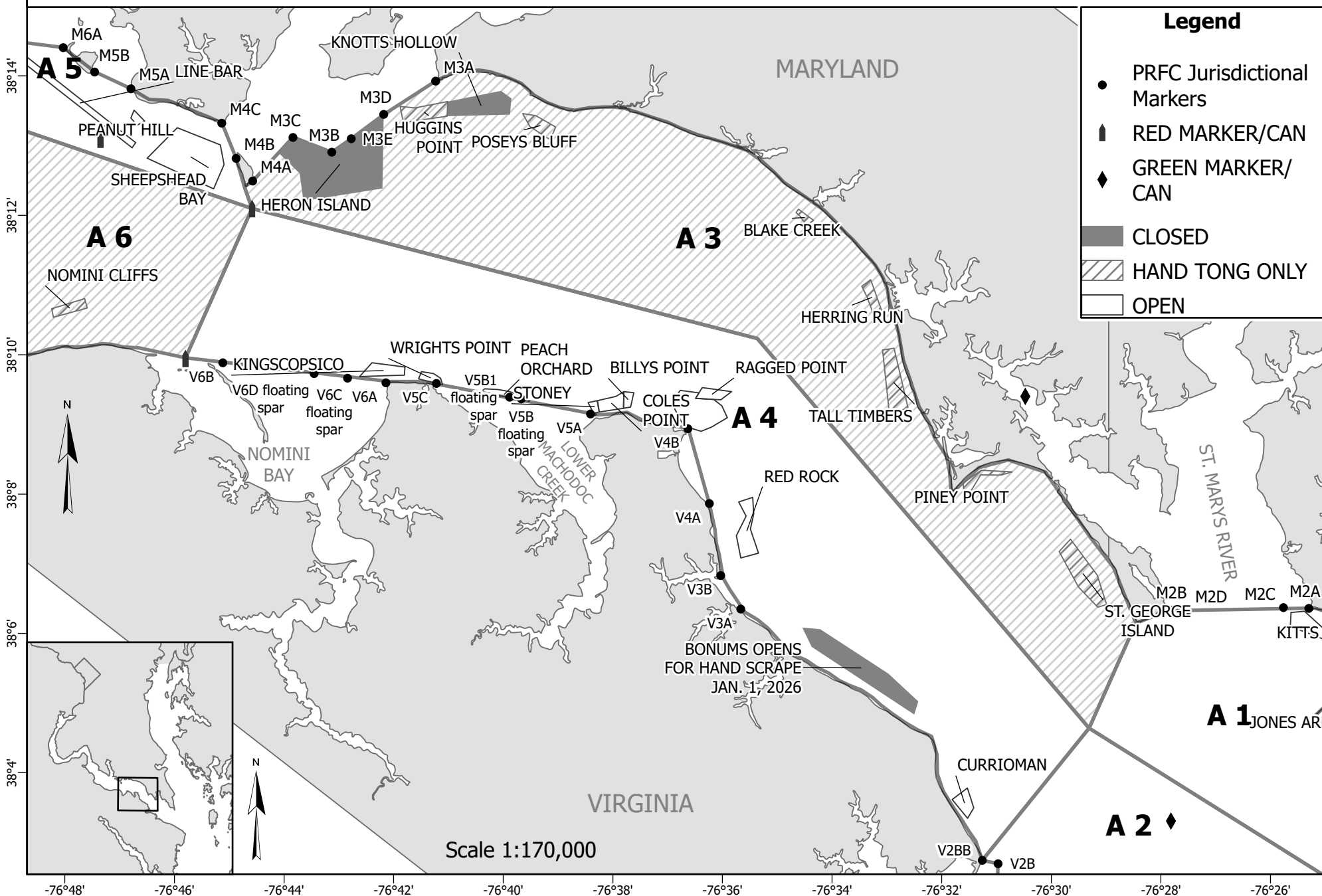


OYSTER GROUNDS IN THE POTOMAC RIVER

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

2025-2026 SEASON - AREAS 3 & 4

September 19, 2025



OYSTER GROUNDS IN THE POTOMAC RIVER

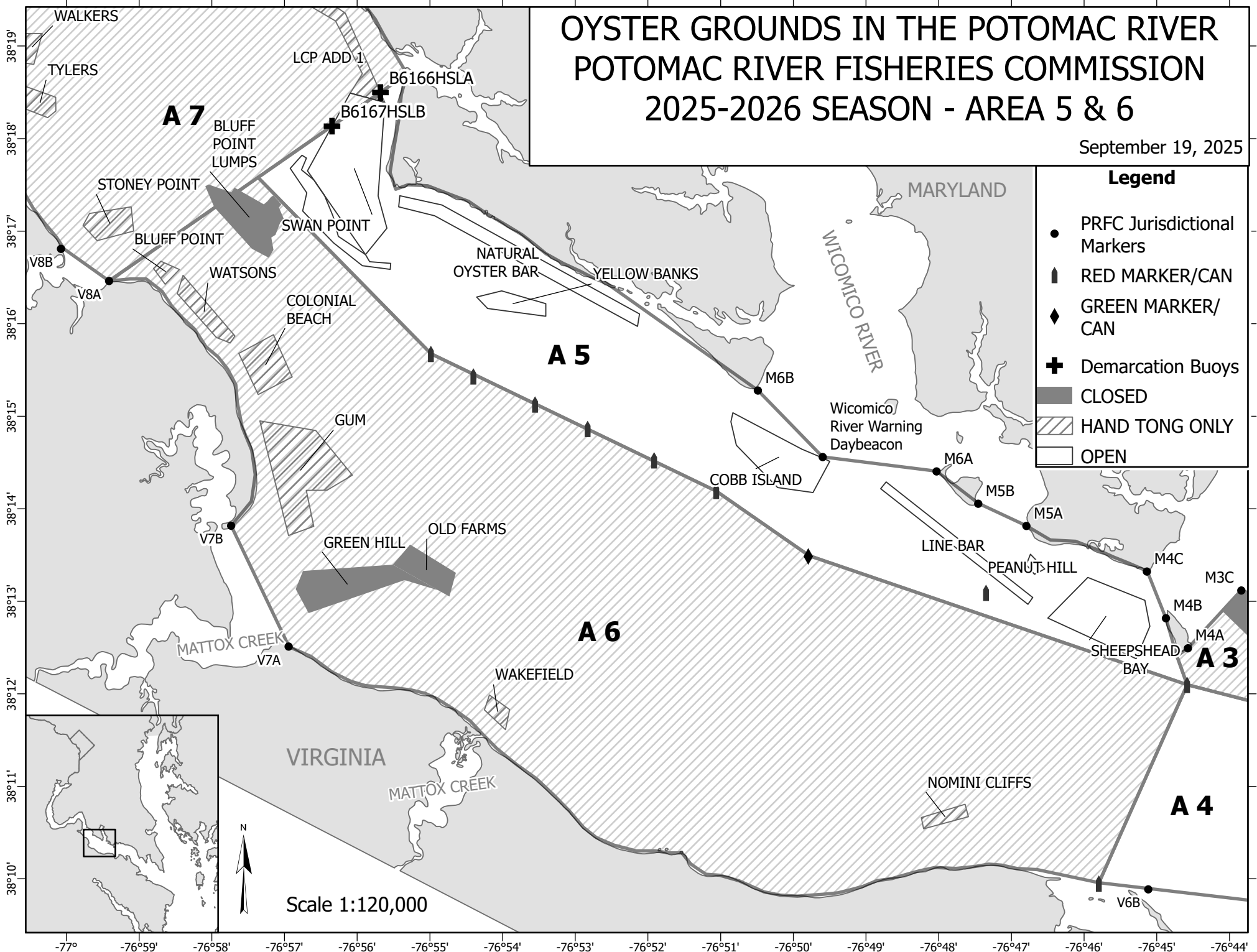
POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

2025-2026 SEASON - AREA 5 & 6

September 19, 2025

Legend

- PRFC Jurisdictional Markers
- ▬ RED MARKER/CAN
- ◆ GREEN MARKER/CAN
- ✚ Demarcation Buoys
- CLOSED
- ▨ HAND TONG ONLY
- OPEN



OYSTER GROUNDS IN THE POTOMAC RIVER

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

2025-2026 SEASON - AREA 7 & 8

September 19, 2025

Legend

- PRFC Jurisdictional Markers
- ▬ RED MARKER/CAN
- ◆ GREEN MARKER/CAN
- ⊕ Demarcation Buoys
- CLOSED
- ▨ HAND TONG ONLY
- OPEN

