



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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OYSTER NEWS – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

By now all of last year's spat should be transferred to the SRA Oyster Sanctuary and enjoying the nutrient-rich waters of the Severn. The sanctuary reef has five years' of oysters actively filtering the waters flowing in and out with the tide. Divers will check on them to determine their growth.

This begins the sixth year of growing oysters on the Severn and helping restore Chesapeake Bay water quality. The Marylanders Grow Oysters program continues to expand, as described at <http://www.oysters.maryland.gov/>. With your participation, SRA has the most growers of any tributary, and this year we will distribute spat at eight locations in the Severn watershed.

Consider this the "last call" reminder for you to place your order for spat. If you haven't already, please tell your local coordinator how many cages you want to sponsor this year. The coordinators are busy compiling their orders for ORP (Oyster Recovery Partnership) who will deliver most of our spat on September 11th. Remember, one bag fills 3 cages, so only order what you need. Check with your coordinator to learn the details of distribution at:

Whitehall Marina (Whitehall Bay Conservancy) - djcarren@verizon.net

Herald Harbor (north) - silbrstein@aol.com

Herald Harbor (south) – dlccrump@gmail.com

Long Point – lengle.t@verizon.net

Mid-river West (Saefern Marina) - sraoysters@comcast.net

Mid-river East (Severn Heights) - miller550@comcast.net

Bay Ridge Marina (Lake Ogleton) – kkarsten@talbotenergy.com

Annapolis Yacht Club (Eastport docks)-JHyde@annapolisyc.org



Please let your coordinator know your needs for spat as soon as possible so they order the right quantity. If you want more cages, or recruit your neighbor or others to participate, again let your coordinator know, as ORP will deliver new cages for first-time growers. We can also obtain replacement cages if you need them. By now your cages should be cleaned and ready for the newest crop of spat.

All these efforts require much time from our volunteers, and if you'd like to help or just express thanks to the Severn River Association for sponsoring this program, please email me directly.

Bob Whitcomb
Chair
SRA Oyster Committee