



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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West Annapolis Civic Association
West Severna Park Community Assn
Whitehall Bay Conservancy
Winchester on the Severn

OYSTER NEWS – MAY 2015

We've had reports of good spat growth this year, for those whose spat survived the winter's freeze (many succumbed to the freezing temperatures when they were exposed by the low February tides). Please make sure your cage is raised up to the upper 18" of the water column where there is the most tidal movement, and offers the most food for their growth.

Chris Judy, DNR's MGO Manager, provided new markers for the SRA oyster sanctuary reef, which we installed this week. The reef is just south of the Route 50 bridge, near the entrance to Crouchs Pond (aka Winchester Pond). There are three orange-flagged stick markers placed along this year's planting row, beginning at GPS coordinates N39.00.470 and W76.29.950 extending in a 155 degree direction.

We will again layer the new oysters on top of older oysters to create a living, multi-generational habitat, this time on top of the "west row" planted in 2012. You are welcome to plant your oysters now that the flags are in place.



Those with access to small boats (with less than 3' draft) are encouraged to bring their oysters and join us the afternoon of June 6th, between 2 and 3:30pm for the planting. Please plant your oysters in a row about 20' wide along the channel side of the 3 markers. We'll be there to welcome oyster growers, taking pictures as you plant your spat, and we especially look forward to meeting new growers.

Don't worry if you can't make it on June 6th, as you may plant your oysters anytime this summer. You should work with your Oyster Coordinator (email me your street address, and I'll put you in touch with your Coordinator) as to when he/she can arrange for pickup of your oysters, as there will be subsequent pickups. Your cages will be left on your dock, and you should clean and store them out of the water until new spat is available next September.

Bob Whitcomb
Chair, SRA Oyster Committee