



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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OYSTER NEWS – MAY 2016

We've had reports of good spat growth this year, for those whose spat survived February's freeze and April's low tides. Please make sure your cage is raised up to the upper 18" of the water column where the tidal movement 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 in late April. 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 N39.00.48 and W76.29.95 extending in a 150 degree direction. Here's a clump of mature oysters probably planted 6 years ago that we found as we removed last year's markers.



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 "east row" planted in 2010 and 2013. You are welcome to plant your oysters now that the flags are in place.



The "official" planting days begin June 4, and you may choose to move your oysters to the reef any time in June. We recommend coming in a smaller boat (with less than 3' draft), and the popular time to do this is mid-afternoon on June 4th. Please plant your oysters in a row about 20' wide along the channel side of the 3 markers. There may be photographers there to take pictures as you plant your spat.

Don't worry if you can't make it on June 4th, 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