



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

BOX 146 • ANNAPOLIS, MD 21404 • severnriver.org • 443-569-3556 voicemail

OYSTER NEWS – MAY 2017



Your spat should have survived the mild winter, as long as they were above the low tides, so will have a growth spurt this spring. 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.

DNR's Chris Judy 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 'DNR' orange flag stick markers placed where this year's row is to be planted, beginning at GPS coordinates N39.00.474 and W76.29.946 extending in a 150 degree direction. Please plant your oysters in a row about 20' wide along the channel side of the 3 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 "middle row" planted in 2011 and 2014. You are welcome to plant your oysters now that the flags are in place. The "official" planting days begin June 1, 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).

Please 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. Once emptied of oysters, the 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