



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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OYSTER NEWS – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

By now everyone should have planted their spat on the SRA Oyster Sanctuary in the Severn River. We now have two years of oysters are actively filtering the waters flowing in and out with the tide. We are initiating a monitoring program to determine how well the oysters are growing (and to verify they are surviving and haven't been pouched), using divers from The Naval Academy and following the good guidance of Dick Carey who has been doing this for years on the Magothy. Valeria Culotta is leading our monitoring effort, and has scheduled the first dive next weekend, so we are anxious for the results.

It is now time to plan for the third year of growing oysters for the Severn and helping restore Chesapeake Bay water quality. The Marylanders Grow Oysters program expanded from 11 to 21 rivers, as described at <http://www.oysters.maryland.gov/>. The sponsors for distributing oysters via the Annapolis Maritime Museum have resigned from the program, but I am actively recruiting a team to do this in Lake Ogelton. We will still distribute spat at three locations, as described in the attached announcement for enrolling in this program on the Severn.

We ask all of you to participate so we maintain our lead as the watershed with the most volunteers in the MGO program. Soon you will hear from your local team coordinator who's busy compiling an order to DNR of how many bagged spat are needed (one bag will be enough for 3 cages). We've asked DNR to schedule our distributions in September at:

- Saefern Marina - Bob Whitcomb
- Whitehall Marina (Whitehall Bay Conservancy) - Don Carren
- Round Bay (Long Point, Herald Harbor) – Tom Lendle, Ray Dumentat

It is important to 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 DNR will deliver new cages for those who 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 your thanks, please join the Severn River Association by going to <http://www.severnriver.org/join.htm>.

Bob Whitcomb
Chair
SRA Oyster Committee