

# Marylanders Grow Oysters...

## Join the Team Application Form Attached

Launched by Governor Martin O'Malley in September 2008, Marylanders Grow Oysters is a program designed to foster stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and create living oyster reefs in sanctuaries. Through the cooperative efforts of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and numerous partners, waterfront property owners along the Tred Avon River began growing oysters in over 850 oyster cages in the first phase of the program, which expanded to additional rivers in both 2009 and 2010. Currently there are 18 rivers and approximately 8,000 cages growing oysters. Now, in 2011, the program will expand again.

Through this fun, educational program, citizen volunteers tend young oysters growing in wire mesh cages suspended from their piers for their first year



of life. The oyster spat and cages are provided by DNR at no charge to the volunteer oyster growers. The oysters require minimal care – mostly rinsing the cages every week or two. Growers enjoy the personal rewards of stewardship while

contributing to the enhancement of an oyster reef in their area. After about 9 to 10 months, the oysters are collected and planted in a local oyster sanctuary, and a new group of young oysters are distributed to participating growers to start the process again.

### Join the 2011 Expansion

Marylanders Grow Oysters is expanding in 2011, and DNR is looking for new rivers, creeks or similar Bay areas to join the program, lead by a local coordinator to manage the program for the area. A local coordinator could be a community association, a non-profit organization, a RiverKeeper or similar group who will recruit waterfront property owners for the program, organize the delivery of oyster cages to the growers, and develop a collection plan for the oysters after they have grown. DNR will assist the coordinator with planning and implementation.

The identifying features of the Marylanders Grow Oysters program are: (1) Tributary Focus – growers are sought for a concentrated effort in a creek or river, (b) Ecological Purpose – oysters are grown to enhance the ecology of the sanctuary, they are not grown to be eaten, (c) Cages & Oysters – are provided at no cost to the grower, (d) Local Sponsor – the program needs your local commitment to implement the program in 2011.

Through your efforts and the effort of your growers, an oyster sanctuary will be enhanced both with oysters and the abundance of living creatures associated with an oyster reef.

Following is additional information on how the program operates, its goals, and how you can be involved in 2011 and beyond.

## Responsibilities 2011

### ***DNR and its program partners will:***

- provide and deliver the cages and oyster spat to a central location between June and September 2011 (date and location to be determined with the coordinator)
- provide guidance and advice to assist the coordinator with program implementation
- select the sanctuary for planting the oysters
- guide the planting of the oysters in the sanctuary

### ***The Local Group and Coordinator will:***

- identify oyster growers and assemble an address list
- coordinate and implement the filling of the cages with spat and delivery of cages and spat to growers
- warehouse any extra cages containing spat at a location suitable for holding cages for a few months pending additional growers
- maintain monthly contact with the growers and DNR
- collect the oysters after one year and count oysters from select cages to assess growth and survival results
- coordinate the planting of oysters in the sanctuary, with DNR guidance
- restock the growers with spat

For data collection to track results, DNR will provide training and forms.

## Application Process

An application form for Marylanders Grow Oysters is attached. DNR wants your application to be successful and will help by providing advice and guidance. Feel free to contact us as you prepare this form. DNR will most likely follow-up with applicants before making a final decision.

Completed applications are due to DNR by **March 31, 2011**. The application package must:

- address the responsibilities listed above and explain how the local group will accomplish them
- provide documentation on the group's ability to implement the project in terms of staff, volunteers, logistics and any funding that is needed by the applicant (DNR is not able to provide funding for tasks to be completed by the applicant)
- include a map of the tributary and the geographic area to be covered
- estimate the number of piers within the project area and the number of potential growers
- name the location of the in-the-water "warehouse" site (pier or beach) for holding cages if such a site is needed. (If all the cages can be distributed in one day, there is no need for a "warehouse" site).

Please mail, email, or FAX your application package by **March 31, 2011** to:

Christopher Judy                      Phone: 410-260-8259  
Fisheries Service, B-2              FAX: 410-260-8279  
580 Taylor Avenue                  email: cjudy@dnr.state.md.us  
Annapolis MD 21401

## Tributary Selection

A tributary or area for Marylanders Grow Oysters must have salinities that support oyster survival and growth (see attached map showing the range of suitable environments), enough piers to support at least 200 cages with a target of 4 to 20 cages per pier, and a local organization able to implement the program tasks. Preference will be given to tributaries/groups that are able to identify substantial numbers of interested participants and use this project to further engage participants in other Bay related activities.

## Timeline

MARCH	DNR receives application forms
MAY	DNR selects the tribs/groups for 2011 Program
JUNE-JULY	Local Group assembles growers
JULY/AUGUST	Local Group distributes cages/oysters and warehouses extras until growers are found
SEPTEMBER	Local Group wraps up cage distribution
DECEMBER	Local Group submits 2011 progress report to DNR
2011-2012	Growers tend oysters
JUNE 2012	Oysters are collected and planted in a sanctuary
SUMMER 2012	Oyster cages are refilled with new spat
DEC. 2012	Local Group submits final report to DNR

## Marylanders Grow Oysters Partners Maryland Department of Natural Resources

– project oversight and coordination

### Oyster Recovery Partnership

– cage distribution and spat production

### University of MD Center for Estuarine and Environmental Studies

– spat production

### Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

– cage construction

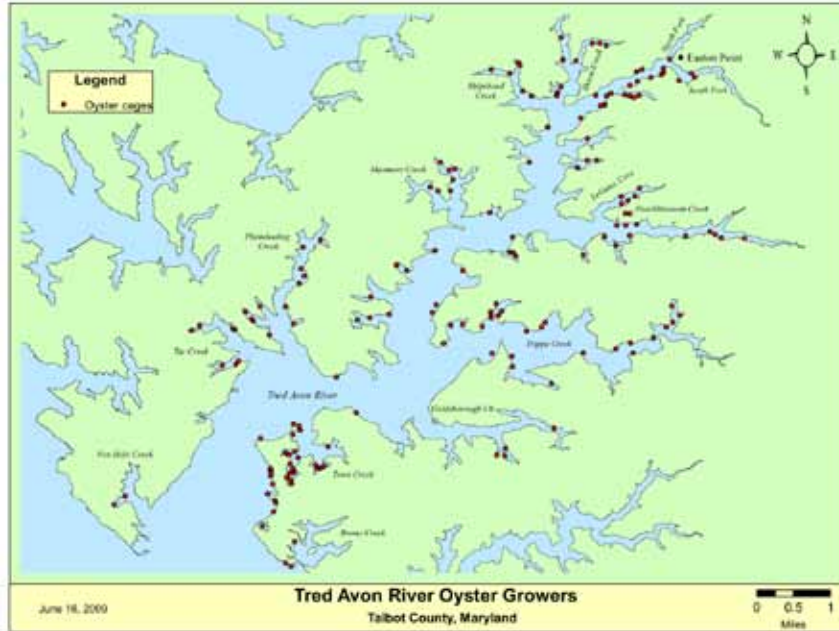
**Tributary Teams** – local outreach and coordination

### Local Groups and Coordinators

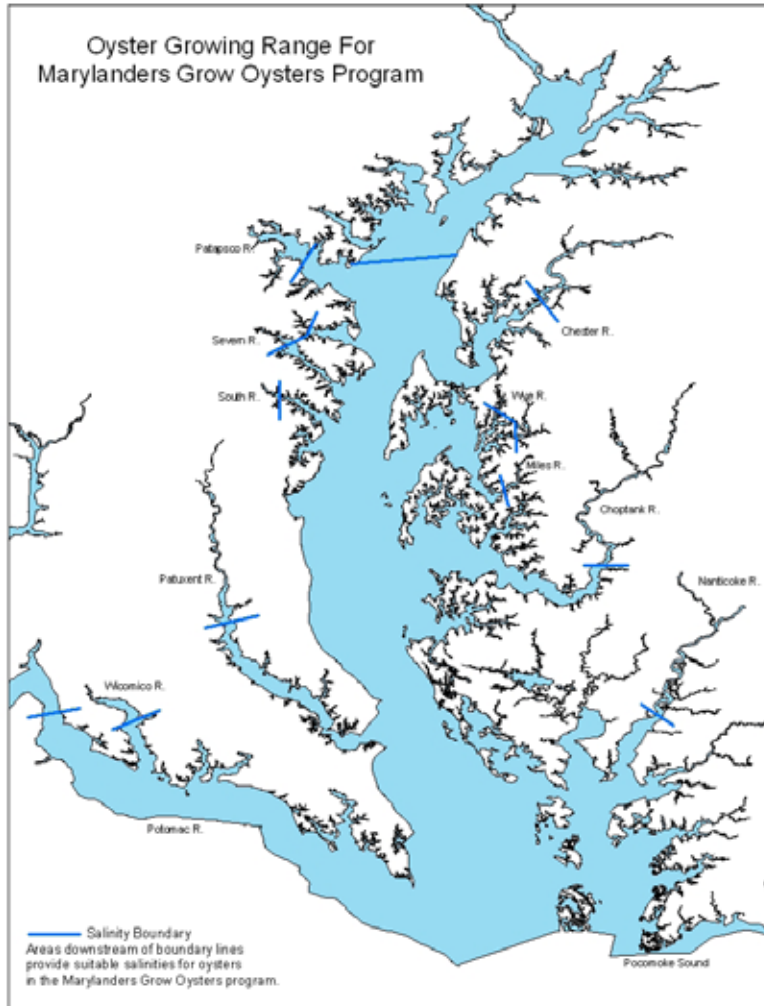
– implement the program in their area

**Growers** – the waterfront property owners

Tred Avon River Oyster Growers – an example of one river



Oyster Growing Range for Marylanders Grow Oysters





# Marylanders Grow Oysters

## Application Form

Complete the application, attaching additional pages as needed.  
**Submit the application form no later than March 31, 2011 to:**

Christopher Judy  
Fisheries Service  
580 Taylor Avenue B-2  
Annapolis MD 21401  
Phone: 410-260-8259  
FAX: 410-260-8279  
email: cjudy@dnr.state.md.us

### 1. Applicant Information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mission of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Status (i.e., 501c3, local government, public school, etc.) – if applicable:  
It is not required that your group have any special tax status.

Executive Officer of Requesting Organization

Project Officer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Original Signature required**

**Original Signature required**



# Marylanders Grow Oysters

## application form - page 2

### **2. Project Location Information**

In which river, creek, or area will the project be located? Please provide a map.

In which county or counties will the project be located?

### **3. Project Implementation Information**

Respond to each question below. Brief responses are suitable.

A) Project Abstract: In a short paragraph, briefly describe how you will implement Marylanders Grow Oysters. Include a couple of sentences on what you hope to accomplish; the specific objectives of the project.

B) Project Description:

- What are the steps that will be taken to complete the project (methodology)? How will you accomplish your responsibilities? Please respond to each of your specific responsibilities listed on page 2 of this packet. Your application will be evaluated largely on this response.
- List your project partners for Marylanders Grow Oysters and briefly describe what specific roles each partner will play in completing the project.
- How many piers are in your project area? An estimate is suitable, if the exact number isn't known.
- How many oyster cages do you anticipate distributing?

### **C) Additional Information:**

- Is your organization already growing oysters through another gardening or growing program? If so, please list the lead organization and contact person, source of oysters, type of equipment used to grow the oysters, number of growers in the program if known to you.
- If you are applying for a grant to another organization to assist you in implementing Marylanders Grow Oysters, please provide the name of the grant, the agency, and a contact person. DNR would like to assist with any needed coordination with such an effort.
- Describe your organization's experience in completing similar oyster restoration and/or environmental Bay related projects.
- How many members are in your community/volunteer group?

### **D) Project Timeline:**

Outline the project schedule. You can list the timeline by month or week (exact dates aren't required). Include major milestones as you implement Marylanders Grow Oysters in your area.