



MARYLAND  
OYSTERMEN  
ASSOCIATION

September 27, 2009

Greetings Members:

Sorry for the delay in getting out this newsletter. Just like you folks, we've been really busy just trying to make a living. That's what the Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC), DNR and the CCA count on, that we're too busy to put up a fight. Well, they are wrong. Thanks to our efforts in Annapolis we finally got the seed program back up and running. As of this writing 100,000 plus bushels of seed are being distributed bay wide. We have moved this seed in August-September instead of April-May because that was the soonest we could get the DNR and their related agencies in gear and moving. A late summer-early fall program is better than no program! The DNR has shown a bit more willingness to cooperate with us of late. We've received from them a commitment of at least 3-5 more years of seed program and a corresponding allotment of shell for clutch. To revive and continue the seed shell relocation program was and is the stated goal of this organization. Maybe they finally understand that we're not going away! However, the battle to ensure the survival of the watermen's way of life continues. Towards that end we have been lobbying hard to have DNR reapply for a permit to allow Langfellers to dig for fossil shell for oyster bar rehabilitation. Foolishly they have (by OAC recommendation) applied for that permit with the stipulation that the shell, when dug, be divided on a ration of 90% to environmental concerns and the remaining 10% to be allocated to commercial use. That 10% would be further divided between aquaculture, leased bottom and the seed program! Because of this stipulation in the application to the Army Corp. of Engineers, we must oppose the permit as it is written. Politics as usual in Annapolis. We will direct our efforts toward having that 90-10 split redivided in a manner that is fair to the watermen. That 90-10 division would only supply us with enough shell to cover 7 acres 6" deep. Not enough! We will be heard again and again if necessary.

We are working on the state level to have the permits for the reclaimed shell permit applied for. This would allow the reclamation of shell that has either silted over or is lying dormant and could be put to better use in another location. This work could and should be done by watermen with dredges. That is our goal. We have talked at length with DNR and Oyster Recovery Program about the need for this shell reclamation. As of this writing the process is moving forward.

Behind closed doors the OAC and DNR are putting together a recommendation that all commercial dredging and patent tonging of oystering in the Chesapeake Bay be discontinued. Again, special interest groups opposed to waterman are hard at work to shut us down. We intend to let them

know where we stand and we will need you to contact your delegates also. More on that in our next newsletter.

Our new membership cars will be out in November so keep watch for it. We have over 400 members are still growing. Our board members have spent a lot of time and energy in Annapolis working on behalf of Chesapeake Bay watermen. Many a day's work has been lost sitting in an office in Annapolis waiting on some government official to hear us out. Without this investment of time and energy we would be out of business. We will continue to do whatever it takes to represent the membership of the MOA. We know that with your help we have and will continue to make a difference.

If you have not sent in you membership renewals for 2009 please send in your \$20 to MOA, PO Box 290, Rock Hall, MD 21661. Please send current mailing and email addresses.

Sincerely,

MOA board members

Representative contacts:

Delegate Michael D. Smigiel, Sr., 410-841-3543 michael.smigiel@house.state.md.us

Delegate David D. Rudolph, 410-841-3444 david.rudolph@house.state.md.us

Senator Edward J. Pipkin, 410-841-3639 ej.pipkin@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Richard A. Sossi, 410-841-3449 richard.sossi@house.state.md.us

Delegate Mary Roe Walkup, 410-841-3449 mary.roe.walkup@house.state.md.us

Senator Richard F. Colburn, 410-841-3590 richard.colburn@senate.state.md.us

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, 202-224-4524 cardin.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm

Delegate Rudolph C. Cane, 410-841-3427 rudolph.cane@house.state.md.us

Delegate Adelaide C. Eckardt, 410-841-3343 adelaide.eckart@house.state.md.us

Delegate Jeannie Haddaway, 410-841-3429 jeannie.haddaway@house.state.md.us

Senator J. Lowell Stoltzfus, 410-841-3645 lowell.stoltzfus@senate.state.md.us

Delegate D. Page Elmore, 410-841-3433 page.elmore@house.state.md.us

Delegate Norman H. Conway, 410-841-3407 norman.conway@house.state.md.us

Delegate James N. Mathias, 410-841-3431 james.mathias@house.state.md.us

Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell, 410-841-3314 anthony.odonnell@house.state.md.us

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, 202-224-4654 mikulski.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm

Frank Kratovil, 202-225-3121 lcaligiuri@kratovil.com