

MARYLAND OYSTERMEN ASSOCIATION



Hand Tonger

The mission of this organization is oyster revitalization and looking for alternative shell sources. This can be accomplished as well as supporting an age old industry that's a very important part of Maryland's economy, heritage and social well being. The goal of this organization is to unite the oyster industries with the bay user groups and consumers of quality local seafood through education and positive image about oyster revitalization.



Skipjack



Seed Boat Loading Baby Oysters

In 1970 the Chesapeake Bay was infected by MSX, a disease that devastated the oyster population not only in Maryland, but Delaware and New Jersey as well as other coastal states. The MSX disease will not allow oysters to reach maturity in high salinity areas, but when moved to lower salinity areas MSX virtually disappeared and the oysters grew to legal market size. This in turn supports the industry as well as filtering larger quantities of bay water and creates a cleaner habitat for fish, crabs and all types of marine life.



Unloading Baby Oysters

The Department of Natural Resources, Oystermen and other agencies have found that by moving the shells and seed from the nonproductive areas to highly productive areas is a minimum investment that provides a maximum return.



Oyster Packer Buying Oysters

This procedure was funded mainly by a surcharge paid by every individual engaged in harvesting as well as per bushel severance tax paid by the oyster packers.

HELPING TO RESTORE THE BAY



Power Dredging



Oyster Diving



Patent Tonger

This system worked for forty years but drew opposition from special interest groups. The permit to dredge these shell deposits has not been re-instated and this program has basically been abandoned. The Maryland Oystermen Association feels with your support as well as the cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources officials we can build public interest as well as restore a clean healthy bay. This would keep a Maryland heritage and culture alive.

Application Name:

Address:

Phone #

Individual - \$20
Groups over 15 - \$200

Corporate Sponsorship \$ _____

Thank You for Your Support!

Maryland Oystermen Association
P.O. Box 290
Rock Hall, MD 21661

Please Visit our website for further information.
www.mdoystermen.org

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"Oysters on half shell"

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