APPLICATION FOR VIRGINIA

OYSTER PLANTING GROUND

Information updated January 2025

INSTRUCTIONS

- **Complete the Application for Virgina Oyster Planting Ground in its entirety.**
- Submit the **application** along with the appropriate **non-refundable fee** to VMRC at the address below (Checks or money orders should be made payable to the "Treasurer of Virginia")

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651
Attn: Engineering/Surveying

THE FOLLOWING CHARGES ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF 02-27-2019

Please note that the application fee is **non-refundable.** You may contact the Engineering/Surveying Department for a pre-application consultation before submitting an application.	
Requested Acreage	**Application Fee**
0.01-4.99	$300
5.00-25.00	$500
25.01-250.00	$1,000
Advertising	**Cost varies**
Surveying Fee	**$750**
Plat Fee	**$100**
Notification of Adjacent Leaseholders and Highland Property Owners (per letter)	**$5.60**
Rental Amount (per acre/per year)	**$1.50**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, all applications are subject to compliance with all applicable provisions of law and whether in the judgement of the Commissioner the assignment is in the public interest. In making the determination for assignment the Commissioner shall consider (i) the factors set out in the Code of Virginia subsection A of §28.2-1205 and (ii) the public benefits and impacts of shellfish aquaculture.
- Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, §28.2-606, the application will be advertised in the local newspaper for two consecutive weeks. VMRC will submit the notice to the newspaper and the paper bill you directly for the advertisement. Contact the newspaper for charge amounts. No lease can be assigned if the notice has not been run as required by the Code. All applications within 200 feet of highland property require notification of such property owners. All leaseholders adjacent to an application request must also be notified. The cost of these notifications, when required, (by either registered or certified mail) must be paid by the applicant(s) who will be billed accordingly based on the number of parties to be notified. Payment of such notifications is required even if the application lease is denied.
- Each application will be given priority based upon the order that it is received by the agency, but such priority may be impacted if the request is protested. If signing as a Power of Attorney, provide documentation; for Corporations, corporation affidavit may be required and/or proof that the corporation adheres to the Code of Virginia, §28.2-604.

Riparian Leases: Riparian oyster ground leases require a minimum of 205 linear feet along the mean low water line and the name on the application must be shown exactly as on the highland deed. A plat and/or deed of your highland property are required to complete the survey. No newspaper advertisement is required for a riparian ground lease application.

Applications: A map for unassigned or vacant areas can be accessed by contacting the Engineering/Surveying Department or online at: https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/oystergrounds/search_applications.php

Surveys: After a 60-day Code mandated waiting period, a VMRC surveyor will complete the field survey and prepare a plat. A 30-day waiting period after the plat is approved is required, by Code, before the ground can be assigned. (If you wish to use a Virginia private licensed land surveyor, they must contact this office to ensure the survey and plat meet VMRC standards). If the application is protested a public hearing may be required for full Commission action for approval.

VMRC
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

APPLICATION FOR VIRGINIA
OYSTER PLANTING GROUND

Information updated January 2025

Electronic applications may be submitted online at:
https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/oystergrounds/apply.php
or by scanning the QR Code

Applications must include the non-refundable fee.
Applicants agree to promptly pay the newspaper for the required advertising. All applicants are equally responsible to pay all fees for advertising, notification of adjacent leaseholders, notification of adjacent highland property owners, surveying, mapping, assigning, and recording as specified in the Code of Virginia, Title 28.2.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

All Applicants must be Virginia residents or eligible business entities, See Code §28.2-604			
***Primary* Applicant Information**			
Name:		Date of Birth:	
Email Address:		Phone No.:	
Mailing Address:			
911 Address:			
***Additional* Applicant Information**			
Name:		Date of Birth:	
Email Address:		Phone No.:	
Mailing Address:			
***Additional* Applicant Information**			
Name:		Date of Birth:	
Email Address:		Phone No.:	
Mailing Address:			
***Contact Person* Information** (*if contact person is not an applicant*)			
Name:		Affiliation:	☐ Agent
Email Address:			☐ Power of Attorney
Phone No.:			☐ Corporate Office
Mailing Address:			

Do you currently lease oyster ground in this name?	☐ Yes ☐ No	Billing #:	**Do you currently have an MRCID?**	☐ Yes ☐ No	MRCID:
Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), if applicable:			**Is this application for a riparian lease?**	☐ Yes ☐ No	

APPLICATION FOR VIRGINIA

OYSTER PLANTING GROUND

Information updated January 2025

LEASE INFORMATION:

Waterbody:		**Acreage:**		**City/County:**	

Description of Area		
Please Provide:	**A printed map** (https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/maps/chesapeakebay_map.php)	
	List of adjoining leases:	
	Adjoining public ground:	
Please Provide:	**Proximity to mean low water:**	
	Proximity to navigation channels:	
	Proximity to any other nearby physical landmarks:	

Proposed Lease Use Questionaire	
The Code of Virginia requires that leased areas "**be occupied for the purpose of planting or propagating oysters**" (Chapter 6, §28.2-603). **Shellfish lease applications will not be accepted for the sole purpose of attempting to exclude other legal uses of the area.**	
Planned method of shellfish cultivation:	☐ Loose on the bottom substrate of the leased area
	☐ In structures secured to the bottom (*less than 12 inches above substrate)*
	☐ In protective nets
	☐ In floating structures (*more than 12 inches above substrate*)
	Any floating structures that extend more than 12 inches above the substrate (or that are marked by bouys or stakes) will require additional authorization from VMRC and are <u>not authorized by this application</u>.
Explain any other proposed uses:	

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS

Please provide a map from of your locality's tax map or GIS property map with the appropriate highland properties highlighted along with the name and address of each such property owner.

***Please note that applications <u>will not be accepted</u> without this attached map and list**

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

All applicants must sign below. By signing this application, all applicants agree to be responsible for paying the fees associated with the oyster ground application in a timely manner

_____ _____

(*primary applicant signature*) (*date*)

_____ _____

(*additional applicant signature*) (*date*)

_____ _____

(*additional applicant signature*) (*date*)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application. No.:		Date Entered:		
Billing Number:		Payment:	☐ Check/Cash	☐ Online