

Guide to Buy/Sell Oysters

Steps to buy/sell oysters from Private or Public Ground:

1. You must first become a Certified Shellfish Dealer through Virginia Department of Health/ Division of Shellfish Safety and Waterborne Hazards (VDH/DSSWH)
   - Click here for further information about becoming a Certified Shellfish Dealer.

2. Contact VDH/DSSWH for information and inspection of establishment.
   - Click here for contact information.

3. Once you have been inspected and certified through VDH/DSSWH, you will be placed on the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List. The certification expires the end of September of each year.
   - Click here for the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List.

VMRC License requirements:

*Once you become a Certified Shellfish Dealer and you wish to buy oysters from **Public Ground**, you will need:*

- MRC ID number (Commercial or Non-Commercial)
- Oyster Buyers User Fee
- Oyster Buyers License
  - Oyster Buyers Place of Business Permit (Gear Code 414)
    - No Fee for permit.
  - Vehicle or vessel ID Permit (Gear Code 414) for each vehicle or vessel that carries oysters.
    - No Fee for permit.
- Purchased at the Main Office ONLY, preferably by appointment.
  - Contact (757) 247-2200 to get in contact with the Licensing Department to make an appointment.

There are two types of Oyster Buyer User Fees and Oyster Buyers Licenses:

Oyster **Single Buyer** User Fee (Gear Code 385) / Oyster **Single Buyer** license (Gear Code 412):
A single place of business with one boat or motor vehicle used for buying oysters.

Oyster **Multiple Buyer** User Fee (Gear Code 386) / Oyster **Multiple Buyer** license (Gear Code 413):
A single place of business with multiple boats or motor vehicles used for buying oysters.

First time as an Oyster Buyer:

Please contact Conservation & Replenishment Department at (757) 247-2120 prior to purchasing. A staff member will assist you with the Oyster Buyer User Fee and Oyster Licenses that best meets your needs.

Need a Non-Commercial MRC ID Number:

Please contact Conservation & Replenishment Department at (757) 247-2120. A staff member will assign a Non-Commercial MRC ID Number to you.

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