Virginia General Permit #3 (Oyster Gardening)

Oyster Gardening Quick Facts

- Shellfish must be grown either at your own private pier or otherwise **in the riparian area** of the shoreline of ***your*** waterfront private property
- Shellfish grown must be in containers: floats, cages, etc.
- Total area of containers may not exceed 160 square feet
- Shellfish grown are for **noncommercial** purposes only - you may not sell any shellfish grown with an oyster gardening permit.
- The oyster gardening permit is a free permit
- If approved, the permit lasts for 5 years and then must be renewed

QUESTIONS ABOUT OYSTER GARDENING PERMITS?

ADAM KENYON
CHIEF, SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT
(757)247-8068
adam.kenyon@mrc.virginia.gov

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Oyster Gardening FAQ's

Q: Can I be issued an oyster gardening permit if my growing area is in condemned water?
A: Yes, the water quality status or quality classification of the water in the proposed growing area will not prevent you from obtaining an oyster gardening permit, **however**, you may not harvest oysters from condemned areas due to human health & safety concerns.

Q: Can I grow oysters at a community pier or boat slip that I have access to?
A: No, the VGP3 only authorizes waterfront property owners to install aquaculture structures at their own private property. If the proposed site is not your exclusive private property, you cannot install permanent aquaculture structures there.

Q: Where can I obtain an application for an Oyster Gardening Permit?
A: You can find the application on our website at:
https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/gp3/ or by scanning the QR Code
Once submitted, the application will be processed and you will be notified via email upon completion.

Q: How can I renew my permit after 5 years?
A: You will be sent a permit re-issue request form a few months before your permit expires. You must fill the form out in its entirety and submit it to VMRC. You will be notified when the permit extension is processed.

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