NOTICE

CRD NOTICE 2026-08

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PURCHASE CLEAN, GROUND CRUSHED GRANITE STONE AND TO DEPLOY THIS MATERIAL ON OYSTER BEDS IN RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER FOR THE 2026 OYSTER REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM

NOTICE is hereby given that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) intends to purchase clean, ground crushed granite stone and contract for the deployment of this material on oyster beds in the Rappahannock River for the 2026 Oyster Replenishment Program:

THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME.

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATION:

The operator must have barges or vessels capable of carrying a minimum of 80 tons of substrate in one load and be capable of deploying a minimum of 500 tons of substrate a day. Vessels and barges used for the deployment of substrate shall have a maximum loaded draft of less than 6 feet. The operator must show evidence of significant experience in operating this type of machinery and have prior experience with oyster restoration efforts in Virginia waters and with projects of a similar scale. The operator must have all barge and planting equipment necessary, to transport, and plant the substrate.

GENERAL:

Approximate project date will be June 3 through June 30, 2026.

Processed crushed granite stone will be a Virginia (VDOT) graduation size VA#1 or VA#2. For VA#1, 100 percent of the processed crushed granite stone must pass through a four-inch sieve, 90-100 percent passing a 3.5 inch sieve, 25 to 60 percent passing a 2.5 inch sieve, 0-15 percent passing a 1.5 inch sieve, and 0-5 percent passing a 0.75 inch sieve. For VA#2, 100 percent of the processed crushed granite stone must pass through a three-inch sieve, 95-100 percent passing a 2.5 inch sieve, 35 to 70 percent passing a 2.0 inch sieve, max 15 percent passing a 1.5 inch sieve, and max 5 percent passing a 0.75 inch sieve.

Up to or approximately 2,500 tons of crushed granite stone will be planted in the Rappahannock River. The crushed granite stone will be washed off a constantly moving vessel such that the material is dispersed evenly over each area.

The planters will be contractors for this project. VMRC personnel will be present to measure and/or verify documentation of the volume of crushed granite stone. Payment will be based on a per ton price, for stone deployed at the planting sites.

The planting areas will be designated and marked by VMRC personnel. VMRC personnel will supervise all planting of the crushed granite stone at the deployment areas.

The price per ton to be paid to the planter/contractor will be $78.00 in the Rappahannock River. Before any payments can be made to the contractor, there must be verification of registration with the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprises, as a small, woman, or minority owned company, a contract, and a current Tax form (W-9) completed and on file at the Marine Resources Commission main.

Payment will be processed after receipt, verification, and approval of all supporting documentation.

All vessels conducting work for the 2026 Restoration/Replenishment Plan will be required to have on board a vessel monitoring device, provided by Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Shellfish Management Division. Monitoring device is required to be on board at all times while under contract. The monitoring device will be provided by Shellfish Management Division staff overseeing the project.

RESPONSE DEADLINE:

Planter/contractors should respond to the Conservation and Replenishment Department office in writing by mail, fax or e-mail no later than 12 pm, **June 1, 2026**. Applicants should include a description of their crushed granite stone deployment equipment and experience with shell or other cultch material planting in the Chesapeake Bay area.

SELECTION:

VMRC plans to select up to 3 contractors to perform the work. If more responses than this are received then selection will be made by lottery.

LOTTERY:

If there are more than three applicants, and all applicants have experience in deploying shell or other cultch material in the Chesapeake Bay area, then a lottery will be held on, **June 1, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m**. at the VMRC Conservation and Replenishment Department office located at Fort Monroe. Building address is: VMRC, 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, Virginia. The lottery will be open to those individuals who wish to be present during the drawing.

CONTACT PERSON:

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