



DELMARVA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION INC. OVERVIEW

The Delmarva Fisheries Association Inc. (DFA) represents more than 80% of the licensed commercial watermen in the region. It is the largest not for profit organization in the region focused on efforts to ensure the Chesapeake Bay and waters in the Bay's watershed; as well as the historic and unique lifestyle of watermen all survive and thrive. As the livelihoods of watermen depend on a healthy Bay with sustainable harvests, watermen are unsung heroes as environmentalists and as preservationists. Association members of DFA include the Dorchester Seafood Heritage Association, Queen Anne's County Watermen's Association, Kent County Watermen's Association, Talbot County Watermen's Association, and Maryland Clammers Association. DFA is affiliated with the Southeastern Fisheries Association. DFA is a volunteer led organization without a large operating budget, without a large reserve fund, without paid staff, without real estate holdings and without a cadre of advocates in Annapolis. DFA does not solicit donations from the public.

DELMARVA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION KEY MARYLAND INITIATIVES FOR 2022

- Funding for the most cost effective and environmentally sound processes for oyster population restoration and pollution filtering efforts e.g., natural oyster shells dredged from the Man O War Shoal in the Bay for spat seeding programs. **See attached for more details.**
- Greater urgency and commitment to efforts to address pollution from sediment trapped behind the Conowingo Dam and scoured downstream during storm events.
- Greater awareness that recent legal action to address raw sewage discharges from Baltimore area sewage treatment plants needs to acknowledge there have been much larger amounts of pollution discharges prior to the dates and violations cited included in the current lawsuit
- Greater utilization of DFA's experience, expertise, and research findings by all those charged with making policy decisions on all matters related to the Bay and commercial fisheries
- Greater recognition that harvests from wild fisheries provide seafood consumers the freshest and best tasting seafood available anywhere in the world.
- Greater support for expanding wild fisheries and stop efforts to phase out wild fisheries

DELMARVA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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General Counsel – Chip MacLeod -- cmacleod@mlg-lawyers.com



ATTACHMENT A
REASONS TO IMPLEMENT DFA'S OYSTER RESTORATION INITIATIVE
TO DREDGE OYSTER SHELLS

FROM THE MAN O WAR SHOAL IN THE UPPER CHESAPEAKE BAY

- It is a proven cost effective and an environmentally sound process to restore the Bay's oyster population.
- Hatchery produced spat on shell has a **95 to 98% MORTALITY rate**.
- Shell that is transplanted and is struck by wild oyster larvae and transplanted back to areas has a **90% SURVIVABILITY rate**.
- The \$73-million-dollar investment made in restoration efforts for oysters, comparably, has shown no return financially on the investment, and no significant increase in biomass or recruitment in those areas.
- Commercial watermen of Talbot County invested \$1 million over 10 years in Broad Creek alone and have returned more than \$18 million on that investment in prudently placed shell.
- The increase in wild oyster harvest by commercial watermen has increased by 200% over the past 3 years; with biomass, recruitment, and spat productions at a 25-year high in public fishery areas. This has consistently increased over the past 3 years, specifically in areas that are being harvested and worked properly.
- This initiative will be a giant step toward on even more sustained success on restoring the Bay's oyster population.