

# NOTICE

CRD NOTICE 2026-04

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## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO TRANSPLANT SEED OYSTERS FROM THE JAMES RIVER AREA FOR THE 2026 OYSTER REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) intends to transplant up to or approximately 6,300 bushels of seed oysters from the James River, Jail Island Area to the Upper Rappahannock River.

**METHOD:** The work will be done with oyster dredges.

### **EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATION:**

The boat must be large enough to harvest, transport, and plant at least 1,000 bushels per planting.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The work is to be done during the time period April 9, 2026, through May 22, 2026.

Harvesting will be done by dredge only. Seed oysters will be unculled and a minimum count of 400 count/bushel with 6 quarts of shell maximum. All work will be supervised by VMRC personnel. All loads will be measured and documented by VMRC personnel. All bushels shall be standard Virginia bushels.

The areas from which shell and live oysters will be harvested and the areas to be planted on will be designated and marked by VMRC personnel.

The Contractor will be paid approximately \$7.87 per bushel for shell cultch and oysters that are harvested, transported, and replanted. Up to or approximately 6,300 bushels are planned to be harvested and transplanted.

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 office.

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.

**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 more than three applicants should respond, a lottery will be held on April 7, 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.

**RESPONSE DEADLINE:**

Responses are requested by no later than 12 noon, **April 7, 2026.**

These responses should be submitted to the Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division.

Information required: Name, address, telephone no., description of equipment intended for operation on this project and your boat's name or number.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Andrew Button  
Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division  
Head, Conservation and Replenishment Department

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96  
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651  
Phone: 757-247-2121  
E-mail: [andrew.button@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:andrew.button@mrc.virginia.gov)