

NOTICE

CRD NOTICE: 09-04

BLUE CRAB FISHERY RESOURCE DISASTER FUNDING PROJECT

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BLUE CRAB INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OYSTER AQUACULTURE TRAINING PROJECT FOR THE 2009 OYSTER REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) intends to conduct a training program in oyster aquaculture for active blue crab industry participants.

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

GENERAL:

The project will be starting approximately May 1, 2009.

This project will involve crab industry participants with a current (2009) crab gear license from the eastern and western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Seed oysters and equipment will be provided for each participant to grow 50,000 oysters.

All oysters and materials will remain the property of the Commonwealth until oysters have reached marketable size or the completion of the project, whichever comes first. If the participant does not complete the project, all oysters and all materials will be returned to the Conservation and Replenishment Department of VMRC.

This is what will be required of the participants:

- 1) Current (2009) crab gear license.
- 2) Ability to monitor and take care of all oysters and equipment under the environmental conditions of the Chesapeake Bay and/or Seaside Eastern Shore of Virginia.
- 3) Completion of all training exercises.
- 4) A diligent effort to follow a protocol to produce oysters by the prescribed growout techniques.
- 5) Willingness to sign a performance contract that allows the Conservation and Replenishment Department Head or his designee to remove the participant if parts of the protocol are not satisfactorily completed. If a participant is removed, the participant will receive no compensation, and oysters and materials will be

- transferred to the next person in the lottery for completion of the project.
- 6) Access to private lease ground. For those without a private lease, the Conservation and Replenishment Program will assist in locating leased ground to conduct the project.

RESPONSE DEADLINE:

Funding is available to allow up to 85 applicants to participate. Current crab industry license holders that are interested in participating in this aquaculture training project should contact the Conservation and Replenishment Department in writing either by mail, fax, or e-mail no later than 12:00 pm. Friday, April 10, 2009.

Information required: Name, Address, and a Virginia Commercial Registration License Number, and a current (2009) crab gear license. Please provide the lease number for the private ground you intend to use, or provide the closest geographic area of interest so that we might assist in the locating of a growout area.

LOTTERY:

If more than 85 applicants, selection will be done by lottery on Monday, 13, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the VMRC Conservation and Replenishment Department on the 3rd floor. The building address: VMRC, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, Virginia. Priority will be given to crab industry participants that are not involved in other crab disaster relief projects. The lottery will be open to those individuals who wish to be present during the drawing.

CONTACT PERSON:

James A. Wesson, Dept. Hd.
Conservation and Replenishment Department
Fisheries Management Division
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Ave., 3rd floor
Newport News, VA 23607-0756
Phone: 757-247-2121
FAX: 757-247-8101
E-Mail: jim.wesson@mrc.virginia.gov

3/20/09WATP (CRD NOTICE 09-04)