



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Matthew J. Strickler  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman  
Commissioner

October 30, 2018

**TO: VIRGINIA SEED OYSTER INDUSTRY**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: THE ISSUANCE OF OUT OF STATE SEED TRANSFER PERMITS**

**EFFECTIVE 2PM, October 31, 2018.**

Effective 2PM, Wednesday, October 31, 2018, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission will cease granting the permits required by §28.2-546 of the Code of Virginia. The Commissioner has determined that the seed areas currently open to harvest are becoming depleted and the additional granting of such permits could seriously injure the seed areas. The total standing stock of the seed areas is lower than it has been in recent years. In addition, the stock assessment that is currently being conducted has indicated the cultch levels in areas that are mainly being harvested for out of state transfer have fallen below 10 liters of shell per meter squared for the first time since the survey of this area began in 2002. All of the seed areas are currently being surveyed and a reassessment of the entire standing stock will be made to determine if permits required by §28.2-546 of the Code of Virginia can be issued in the spring of 2019.

**Therefore, after 2PM, October 31, 2018, until further notice, no permits required by §28.2-546 of the Code of Virginia shall be issued. The out of state transfer of any seed oysters from the James River Seed Area, including the Deep Water Shoal State Replenishment Seed Area shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-720-10 et seq.).**

If you have any questions or comments please contact the VMRC Conservation and Replenishment Department at (757) 247-2120.

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD