

## **2018 DERELICT GEAR RETRIEVAL PROJECT**

**Deadline for Submission:** February 26, 2018

This work is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and is being implemented by the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP). MDOT SHA is funding the removal and permanent disposal of derelict crab pots to accomplish compensatory mitigation of wetland impacts associated with the US 40 Bridges replacement project over the Gunpowder and Little Gunpowder Rivers in Baltimore County.

The program is intended to support active, commercial watermen working and residing in the Upper Bay area; specifically Baltimore, Cecil, Harford and Kent counties. The amount of work we are able to provide will depend upon the number of watermen who apply and ORP cannot guarantee a specific number of work days. We anticipate a large response, but will not be able to determine who is accepted and for how long until all applications are submitted. Those selected will be notified by ORP or a designated representative via a letter and/or a phone call.

Weather depending, we anticipate the work period to begin in mid-March and last for approximately one week.

### **Derelict Gear Retrieval Project Overview:**

As planned, the project will collect derelict crab traps using a long line with grappling hooks from an approximately 3,000 acre area at the mouth of the Gunpowder River.

Participants in this program will be required to attend an hour of training before work begins. Date, time and location of training will be sent to those that are accepted for this program. Captains will receive **\$425** per day and are authorized one crewman who will be paid \$150 per day. Captain refers to the individual who is in charge of vessel. A U.S. Coast Guard captain's license is not required for this program.

### **Who is Eligible to Participate:**

- To be considered, Boat Captains must have a current Maryland Tidal Fish License (TFL) or Limited Crab Catcher (LCC) commercial fishing license and reported harvest to DNR in 2017. Harvest reports submitted after December 31, 2017 will not be considered for participation in this program.
- Captain and crew must be able bodied to haul lines and participate in physically demanding work.
- Participating vessels must be a minimum of 32' in length and have a cabin.

### **Selection Process:**

- Boat captains will NOT be eligible to participate in this program if starting in January 1, 2010 to present, you have any of the following violations. Pending violations need to be satisfied with a not guilty verdict or PBJ before you will be considered for participation. (These violation criteria are consistent with those established by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) for eligibility to participate in any commercial industry advisory commission or committee and other similar work programs (This work is not a MDDNR sanctioned program).
  - One (1) violation pertaining to crabbing on mandatory days off, exceeding mature female crab bushel limit by 10 or more bushels, or crabbing during closed season;

- Two (2) violations pertaining to: possession of undersize crabs, possessing more than 8 female crabs per bushel when the season is closed to females, setting pots in restricted areas, and exceeding the time limit for crabbing by more than 60 minutes.
- One (1) violation pertaining to working over an oyster line by more than 150 feet, a time violation for taking oysters more than 2 hours after sunset, and any time before sunrise, or a cull violation of more than 15% while harvesting oysters.
- Two (2) violations pertaining to: working over an oyster line by less than 150 feet, or a cull violation of 10% to 15% while harvesting oysters.
- Received 10 or more points on their commercial license through the new point system.
- Received four (4) or more PBJ pertaining to any crab and/or oyster violations.
- Please include copies of citation to document that they were issued for a violation at a level that permits participation in the program (example, include copies of citation for a cull violation **less** than 15%, or exceeding the mature female crab bushel limit by **less** than 10 bushels).
- If more boats apply than are needed for this project, watermen will be selected via random selection with initial preference given to those Captains who reported (to MDDNR) eighty (80) or more days of crabbing for the time period April 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017. Please include copies of Crab Harvest Reports when returning your application.
- While there are no eligibility requirements for crewman, priority will be given to applicants who have a commercial license. All crewmen will be held to the same violation criteria as boat captains.

### **Application Process:**

When submitting your application, please read the directions and criteria carefully.

Captains who wish to provide their own crew **must submit both applications together. Crew members must have a separate application form stating the desired Captain they wish to work for.**

To participate in the program, boat captains must agree to undergo a drug test if you are randomly selected. Once you are notified of your acceptance into the work program, you will be directed to go and have a drug test completed at an approved laboratory at no charge to you. You must pass the test prior to commencing work. If you are in possession of a Coast Guard Captain's license, then you are already in a random sampling program as part of the Coast Guard maritime random drug testing program. You will be requested to submit a copy of your Coast Guard license with your application so we are aware of your enrollment status.

By submitting an application for work you are agreeing to the conditions put in place by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and the Oyster Recovery Partnership. If you are accepted into the program, you will be acting solely as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the State of Maryland or the Oyster Recovery Partnership and as such are not liable for any incidents or accidents that occur as a result of this employment. It is advised that contractors carry vessel and or personal liability insurance and keep it in full force for the duration of the program. If liability insurance is not carried it is required that all contractors sign a waiver releasing the MDOT SHA and ORP from all liability prior to commencing work. Program managers and/or Natural Resource Police officers may be on station and be allowed to board and inspect your boat at any time and will be doing so to ensure that these rules are being abided by.

**NO OYSTERS, CRABS OR ANY OTHER SEAFOOD ARE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE WORK AREA OR TAKEN ASHORE BY ANY INDIVIDUAL UNDER PENALTY OF ELIMINATION FROM THIS AND FUTURE MITIGATION PROGRAMS.**

Please read the form carefully and fill it out completely before faxing, hand carrying or mailing it to the Oyster Recovery Partnership office. Please return the forms to us as soon as possible and no later than February 26, 2018.

**When submitting your application please include copies of: Your commercial fishing license (TFL OR LCC), USCG license (if applicable), and proof of vessel and or personal liability insurance (if applicable).**

**Completed forms may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the following:**

**Oyster Recovery Partnership**  
Derelict Gear Retrieval Program  
1805 A Virginia Street  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

Tel: 443-433-3439  
Fax: 443-782-2275  
[kbarnes@oysterrecovery.org](mailto:kbarnes@oysterrecovery.org)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2018 Derelict Gear Retrieval Project  
Application Form**

Please read the form carefully and fill it out completely before faxing, hand carrying, or mailing it to the Oyster Recovery Partnership office by February 26, 2018.

I wish to be considered for a contract as a:

\_\_\_\_\_ Boat Captain     **OR**     \_\_\_\_\_ Crewman

Captain Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Crewman Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

License # : \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If you have been using a transferred license, please provide a copy of the paperwork provided by MD DNR at time of transfer.*

Mailing Address:

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: MD

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # home: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Port: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident County: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Length: \_\_\_\_\_

To participate in the program, the Captain and Crewman agree to the following:

- Captain and crew must be able bodied to haul lines and other physical labor. A crewmember is not required.
- The Captain, named above who is accepted into the program, must be onboard the vessel at all times during the work period.
- If the Captain or crewman is found to be misrepresenting themselves in anyway, you will be removed from the program and not be compensated.
- Captain's compensation is \$425 per day for the Derelict Gear Retrieval program for an 8-hour workday that includes use of the vessel, fuel, slip rental, and use of all boat gear.
- Captain will be docked \$50.00 per hour for starting late, stopping work any amount of time during the day or if the boat leaves the worksite early.
- The number of workdays will depend on the amount of boats signing up.
- The Captain and Crewman will be acting solely as an independent contractor. The State of Maryland and ORP are not liable for any incidents or accidents that occur as a result of this employment. A copy of your vessel's certificate of liability insurance should be carried at all times while operating in this program and may be requested.
- Vessels not carrying liability insurance will be required to sign a waiver releasing the MDOT SHA and ORP from all liability prior to commencing work and the waiver will be should be carried at all times while operating in this program and may be requested.
- Have you received, paid a ticket or been convicted for any violation since January 1, 2010 thru present? If yes, what was the violation? Failure to report violations will result in application and/or contract to be cancelled.
- All crab pots and other debris recovered during daily work hours will be thoroughly documented using datasheets supplied by ORP. Captains will maintain daily datasheets and will return datasheets to ORP representatives on the last day of work. Compensation may be withheld if datasheets are not returned.

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date

I hereby agree that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and agree to the terms outlined above.

**Completed forms may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the following:**

**Oyster Recovery Partnership**  
Derelict Gear Retrieval Program  
1805 A Virginia Street  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

Tel: 443-433-3439  
Fax: 443-782-2275  
[kbarnes@oysterrecovery.org](mailto:kbarnes@oysterrecovery.org)

**Check list of required information to be included with your application:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of commercial license (if you are working on a temporarily transferred license, include copies of transfer documentation) and USCG license (if applicable).

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of Insurance Certificate

\_\_\_\_\_ Copies of 2017 Crab Harvest Report(s) showing at least 80 days of harvest (if applicable)