

Oyster Cages Delivered To Marylanders

Thursday, August 27, 2009 - Scott Wykoff (view clip)

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Oyster Recovery Partnership today delivered 250 oyster cages and spat to Marylanders along the Severn River.

The oyster cages and spat were given to the newest participants in the State's [Marylanders Grow Oysters Program](#).

Over the next few weeks, DNR and the ORP will be working with 12 local organizations that have volunteered to support the program's expansion by acting as local coordinators. These volunteers will identify waterfront property owners willing to become oyster growers, and deliver oyster cages and young oysters to growers in their respective tributaries.

The program, launched by the state last year, is expanding to 11 new Chesapeake Bay tributaries this fall.

"I am very pleased that, with the help of a dozen local organizations and through our continuing collaboration with the Oyster Recovery Partnership, we are able to expand build on the success of last year's citizen-oyster growing program, enabling more Marylanders to play an active role in stewardship of our Bay," said Governor O'Malley.

Under the program, which is run by DNR with assistance from the ORP, 177 waterfront pier owners in Talbot County tended young oysters in cages along the Tred Avon River over the past 10 months. Those oysters were collected and planted on a sanctuary near Oxford earlier this month.

"The enthusiasm for this initiative is overwhelming," said Stephan Abel, Executive Director for the Oyster Recovery Partnership. "Public participation for Bay-related restoration, like this one, is critical for our Bay's long-term recovery."

The oyster cages for the program are constructed by inmates under the supervision of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

"This program is also providing inmates an opportunity to participate in meaningful work that they are proud of, giving something back to their fellow Marylanders and the Bay," added the Governor.

WBAL Radio Baltimore
<http://wbal.com/>