

**Tidewater Oyster Gardeners  
Master Oyster Gardener Course  
Virginia Regulatory Resources (non-commercial)**

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)**

Shellfish Aquaculture, Farming and Gardening [www.mrc.state.va.us/Shellfish\\_Aquaculture.shtm](http://www.mrc.state.va.us/Shellfish_Aquaculture.shtm)

“If you wish to grow shellfish **not for sale** at your pier in either floats or cages in the riparian area of the shoreline of your waterfront property (not to exceed 160 square feet in area), you must obtain an oyster gardening permit (General Permit #3) from our Habitat Management Division. There is no cost for this permit. Regulations and requirements for this activity are found at: [www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/garden](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/garden)

Additionally, if you own upland with a minimum of 205 linear feet along a tidal waterway, you may qualify for a riparian oyster ground lease. More information related to applying for this type of lease may be obtained from the Engineering/Surveying Department (757-247-2225).”

**Virginia Department of Health/Division of Shellfish Sanitation**

Homepage: [www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Shellfish/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Shellfish/)

Shellfish Closure Regional Maps:

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Shellfish/closureSurvey/index.htm#Map](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Shellfish/closureSurvey/index.htm#Map)

[Desktop Map of Chesapeake Bay to include Oyster Grounds, Crab Sanctuaries, and Condemnation Zones](#): The map pulls data from a variety of sources to provide current oyster ground leasing, fixed fishing device and other geospatial information.

Please check the map to see if oysters are SAFE to eat at your site. You need to be in an approved growing area. If unsure, call your local DSS office:

Accomac Field Office

23177 Front Street

Accomac, VA 23301

**757-787-5864 x221**

Norfolk Field Office

830 Southhampton Drive -Suite 3100

Norfolk, VA 23510

**757-683-8461**

White Stone Field Office

482 Chesapeake Drive

White Stone, VA 22578

**804-435-1095**