

Potomac River Fisheries Commission
January 19, 2016
AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order 6:00 pm.**
- 2. Public Hearing and Regulation Changes**
 - Notice of Hearing
 - Reg. II, Sec. 2(a)(4) – Closed Areas for Hand Scraping (Amended)
- 3. Discussion of Economic Impacts (Included)**
- 4. Oyster Industry Economic Mitigation Work Group Recommendations**
- 5. Results of the January 7, 2016 Oyster Survey on Beacon, Horseshoe and Pope's Creek Bars (Presentation)**
- 6. Oyster Clam Advisory Committee Report – January 13, 2016 (Handout)**
- 7. Maps of Areas Requested to be Opened (Included)**
- 8. Management History of Areas Requested to be Opened, Including Historical Harvest (Presentation)**
- 9. MD DNR Fall Survey Data for Areas Requested to be Opened (Presentation)**
- 10. Statement of Scientific Advisors from MD DNR & VMRC (Handout)**
- 11. Public Comment**
- 12. Staff Recommendation (Presented at the Meeting)**
- 13. Commission Discussion of Management Options**
- 14. Consideration of Draft Order 2016-06 - Opening of Middle Potomac Oyster Bars to Hand Scraping.** Considered Oyster bars: Swan Point and Yellow Banks inclusive (as described), Beacon Bar (as described), Horseshoe and Pope's Creek Bars (as described). See map of Potomac oysters bars, which references general location. 2nd map indicates boundaries of possible areas to be opened to the use of hand scrapes. (handouts (2))
- 15. Adjourn**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDERS

New Language

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
providing economic relief to the commercial oyster industry.

E M E R G E N C Y O R D E R #2016-06

OPENING of MIDDLE POTOMAC OYSTER BARS to the USE of HAND SCRAPES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having recognized the closure of several lower river oyster bars during the 2015-2016 season has resulted in economic impacts and hardship to the commercial oyster industry, and having found a desire to address those economic impacts and hardships, and finding an urgency to implement mitigative measures, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a), as delineated in the attached Schedule A; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the following oyster bars open for the use of taking or catching or attempting to take or catch oysters with hand scrapes:

- a) Swan Point, Yellow Banks and Natural Oyster Bar;
- b) Beacon Bar;
- c) Horseshoe and Popes Creek Bars,

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2016-06 shall become effective February 18, 2016, and remain in effect through March 31, 2016.
