

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** January 5, 2016

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## Potomac River Fisheries Commission Meeting

Colonial Beach, VA —

Chairman William L. Rice, Sr. announced today the Potomac River Fisheries Commission will hold a special meeting to include an advertised public hearing on **Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** in the John T. Parran Hearing Room of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (The Carpenter Building), 222 Taylor Street, Colonial Beach, Virginia. Chairman Rice invites all interested persons to attend this open public meeting.

The advertised public hearing will include the following: to enable the Commission to open and close areas to oyster harvest by Order. A discussion of potential mitigation for economic impacts to the oyster industry related to the closure of several lower river oyster bars. The full text of the proposal can be found at **[www.prfc.us](http://www.prfc.us)** or by calling 800-266-3904

Other items on the agenda include: discussion of economic impacts, recommendation(s) from the Oyster Industry Economic Mitigation Work Group, results from the oyster survey taken at Beacon, Horseshoe and Pope's Creek Bars, a report from the Oyster/Clam Advisory Committee meeting held January 13, 2016, review of historical data in regards to locations of the oyster bars, management history and harvest, review of the MD DNR fall survey data for the area(s) requested to be opened, recommendations from the scientific advisors and PRFC staff. The Commission will consider draft Order 2016-06 to possibly open some oyster bars in the middle Potomac River to the use of hand scrapes.

PRFC does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities; therefore, if you are in need of reasonable accommodations due to a disability, please call (804) 224-7148 no later than three workdays prior to the meeting date and identify your needs.