



## How do I Join?

Fill in the attached section and mail to Chesapeake Town Hall, or complete the on-line registration form at:  
[www.chesapeake-beach.md.us/cbocs.htm](http://www.chesapeake-beach.md.us/cbocs.htm)



Yes! I would like to join the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society (CBOCS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

## Contact Us Today

Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society (CBOCS)  
8200 Bayside Road, P.O. Box 400  
Chesapeake Beach, Maryland 20732  
phone: (410) 257-2230 or (301) 855-8398  
email: [cbocs@chesapeake-beach.md.us](mailto:cbocs@chesapeake-beach.md.us)  
URL: [www.chesapeake-beach.md.us/cbocs.htm](http://www.chesapeake-beach.md.us/cbocs.htm)



Oyster planting from a Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) cage



Spat (baby oysters) on shell



## Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society (CBOCS)

Providing the opportunity to improve local water quality and help restore the Bay through oyster cultivation and oyster reef restoration.



# Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society (CBOCS)

## What is CBOCS?

A town sponsored volunteer organization established to provide the citizens and businesses of Chesapeake Beach an engaging opportunity to improve local water quality while assisting with national, state and private efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay through oyster cultivation and oyster reef restoration.

Chesapeake Beach is the first municipality to join the state sponsored Marylanders Grow Oysters program initiated by Governor O'Malley.

## How is it done?

Spat (baby oysters) and cages, delivered in late August or September, are placed under Fishing Creek boardwalk, or on your private pier. After growing for about 10 months the yearling oysters are ready to be planted on local reefs by you and other CBOCS participants, and then the cycle begins anew.

## Why are oysters important?

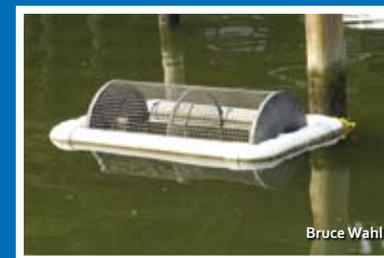
- **Oysters clean the water**  
Oysters are filter feeders. A single oyster can filter 50 gallons of water per day removing phytoplankton, its food, and more from the water. This process reduces the likelihood of oxygen deprived zones and improves water clarity, allowing light to reach important underwater plants.
- **Oysters provide food and shelter**  
Like a coral reef, an oyster reef provides habitat that hundreds of estuarine species use, directly or indirectly. For example, gobies and skilletfish use oyster reefs for their primary habitat; whereas blue crabs and striped bass visit oyster reefs to breed, find food and hide from predators.
- **Oysters help sustain fisheries**  
Oyster reefs attract some of the highest densities of fish of any type of habitat in the Bay, helping sustain vibrant recreational fisheries and species diversity.
- **Oysters are good for the economy**  
Until recent decades oysters supported a thriving shellfish industry in the Bay region. Steps being taken today to reduce water pollution, manage harvests, combat disease, restore wild populations, and encourage oyster aquaculture hold promise for an oyster renaissance.

## How can you help?

Join CBOCS and grow oysters from your pier, using a self-cleaning Bouyant Oyster Cultivation System (BOCS) or a Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) oyster cage, and help plant them in local oyster reefs. Don't have a pier or water access? That's okay. The town will provide gardening space below the Fishing Creek boardwalk.



Setting spat on shell at Johnny Oysterseed



Bouyant Oyster Cultivation System (BOCS)



Spat on shell ready to transfer to cages