

WILD HARVEST CULTCH REQUIREMENTS

All Master Harvesters that participate in the wild harvest of oysters and clams are contractually obligated to meet minimum cultching requirements on each of their Harvest Areas where wild shellfish are harvested. The Shellfish Policy Manual can be found online at <https://coastalgadnr.org/commercialshellfishharvest> for more detail. For all new Harvest Areas, the minimum cultching requirements are as follows:

- The master harvester must place **on each Harvest Area** the equivalent of at least 10 bushels of cultch per acre of leased intertidal bottom **OR** the quantity of cultch equivalent to at least 1/3 of the landings reported **from that Harvest Area** the previous year, whichever is greater. Bushel conversion rates can be found in the table below.
- Only the following CRD-approved materials may be used for cultching:
 - Recycled Shell (Oyster, Clam, Etc.)
 - Untreated Wood
 - Bamboo
 - Wire (Vinyl-Coated or Non-Galvanized)
 - PVC
 - Crushed Aggregate (Gravel, Limestone, etc.)
 - Bio-concrete and other oyster reef building materials (oyster reef balls, oyster restoration tiles, etc.)
- Other materials may be approved by CRD and must be submitted in writing by the Master Harvester.
- Prior to cultching, a Cultch Deployment Form must be approved by CRD. Cultch Deployment Forms must be completed and submitted annually by the Master Harvester no later than the last day of December of each calendar year.
- It is the responsibility of the Master Harvester to send a Pre-Construction Notification to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Savannah District Office and obtain proper authorizations before deploying cultch materials.
- Signage or hazard markers may be required to mark cultch depending on the cultch material and relief from natural sediment bottoms. The approval by CRD and/or the USACE will contain specific requirements for signage.
- CRD must be notified **5 working days before** placing cultch.

CULTCH MATERIAL CONVERSIONS

A U.S. bushel is equal to 1.2 cubic feet. If you plan to use a cultch material not on this conversion chart, CRD must assess your cultch for volume and assign a bushel credit number.

- RECYCLED OYSTER SHELL 60LBS = 1BU.
- RECYCLED CLAM SHELL 75LBS = 1BU.
- RECYCLED SCALLOP SHELL 40LBS = 1BU.
- 2 IN. FOSSIL STONE (MARL) 90LBS = 1BU.
- CRUSHED AGGREGATE 90LBS = 1BU.
- WOOD BUNDLES 3'H X 10'L 1 BUN. = 10BU.
- CRAB TRAP 1 TRAP = 1BU.

* CRAB TRAPS MUST BE CUT IN HALF, OR OTHERWISE NON-FISHING, PRIOR TO BEING USED AS CULTCH MATERIAL AND ALL REBAR MUST BE REMOVED.

CULTCH DEPLOYMENT FORM

Master Harvester: _____ Harvest Area #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone #(s): _____ Email: _____

GA Department of Agriculture Certification #: _____

Cultch Deployment Plan

Please describe the cultch material you intend to deploy on your harvest area in the table below and **provide a map** of your Harvest Area (CRD can provide a map of your harvest area if needed) indicating where you intend to cultch. Specify the quantity, size, and location of cultch.

*Map should enable an inspector to locate your cultch. *

Cultch Inventory			
Cultch description - indicate type, attach diagram or pictures	# of cultch units to be deployed	Bushel amount equivalent	Map reference – please draw general locations on provided map label and list GPS coordinates
Example: 10 lb. Bags of oyster shell	50	10	Bags will be placed in area A

Cultch description - indicate type, attach diagram or pictures	# of cultch units to be deployed	Bushel amount equivalent	Map reference – please draw general locations on provided map label and list GPS coordinates

Please attach pictures of cultch materials you intend to deploy on your Harvest Area.

Provide a description of your cultch deployment plan:

Wild Clam Cultching Requirements

If you did not harvest wild clams you do not need to fill out this section

This section is only required for Master Harvesters who participate in wild clam harvest on **State Harvest Areas**. The Master Harvester must annually replant seed clams no smaller than Four (4) millimeters in width or transplant larger clams, in the amount of at least a two to one (2:1) ratio of planted clams to harvested clams from the previous year from that Harvest Area. If smaller seed clams are planted, additional cultch will be required to establish viable clam habitat and serve as a protective barrier from predators.

- Quantity of clams harvested last year: _____
- Quantity of clam seed to be planted: _____
- Intended hatchery for seed purchase: _____
- Type(s) of overburden to be used:

- Attach a map or locations (GPS Coordinates) of clam clutch locations:

THE APPLICANT SHALL PERMIT THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, GADNR/CRD, GADOA, AND OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL PERMIT INSPECTION AGENCIES, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE(S), TO MAKE RECOMMENDED ALTERATIONS TO THE ACTIVITIES PROPOSED AND PERFORM PERIODIC INSPECTIONS AT ANY TIME DEEMED NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE ACTIVITY BEING PERFORMED IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRESCRIBED HEREIN.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY COMPLIES WITH THE ENFORCEABLE POLICIES OF GEORGIA'S APPROVED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH SUCH PROGRAM.

Signature

Date