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## **Shellfish and Mariculture Advisory Panel**

March 4, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Brunswick-Glynn County Library, Brunswick

- 6:00 Welcome
- 6:05 Recap of last meeting and questions
- 6:10 Discuss Panel Charge
  1. Lottery for Subtidal Leases
  2. Proposed Subtidal Lease Sites
  3. Cage Policy and Fees
- 7:40 Wrap up and questions
- 7:50 Adjourn



# Shellfish Mariculture Advisory Panel Meeting

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# Agenda

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- 6:05 Recap of last meeting and questions
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# Recap of Last Meeting

- Interagency review of the permitting process
- Lottery criteria and priority points
- Gear types and quantities

## Ga. Code § 27-4-198 - Lease of shellfish beds from department

- (1) The department may offer leases of state subtidal water bottoms within approved growing areas for the exclusive rights to mariculture shellfish to in-state and out-of-state residents. Prior to offering a subtidal water bottoms lease, the department shall consider compatibility with other public uses of the marine and estuarine resources in proximity of the lease area that include, but are not limited to, navigation, fishing, swimming, and other forms of recreation. Such lease shall include terms and conditions as the department may prescribe.
- (2) **Subtidal water bottoms leases shall be issued through a lottery devised and operated by the department. Preference may be given to certified firms, lease holders, and state residents.**
- (3) Subtidal water bottoms annual lease fees shall be equal to the fair market value per acre as determined by the department but not less than \$50.00 per acre.

# Lottery Minimum Criteria

The Department has established these minimum requirements for entering the lottery to select law abiding applicants with adequate financial resources and to provide continued new subtidal mariculture opportunities:

- No Game and fish violations in the past 2 years
- Valid Georgia Commercial fishing license with endorsement
- Cannot reenter after winning lotto for a period of 3 years
- Cannot hold more than a total of 30 acres of subtidal waterbottoms
- Bank Instrument of \$70,000 (ref. 2020 UGA Oyster Crop Budget Tool)
  - Examples: Pre-approval letter, proof of funds letter, line of credit, etc..



## SINGLE SEED FLOATING CAGE OYSTER CROP BUDGET

### Marketing 50,000 up to 1,000,000 oysters per year

May 2020

*Instructions: Start by entering the first year's target annual oyster sales. This sales number will be the basis to calculate expected costs and returns for Year 1-5 for a representative farm based on variables chosen based upon prior research. Most other variables in this worksheet can be changed however, those that have the most impact are identified by red-color. Changes to fixed cost item's unit costs must be made in the Line Item Notes worksheet by selecting that tab at the bottom of the screen. Many cells are locked to protect proper functioning of the spreadsheet. For a complete set of instructions please see the user manual.*

Item	Key Assumptions	Year #	Oyster Seed Planted	Target Annual Oyster Sales
Average Market Price	\$0.54	Year 1	133,333	100,000 ← Start Here with 1st Year Target Sales
Oyster Mortality Rate	25%	Year 2	313,333	235,000
Starting Cages	84	Year 3	493,333	370,000
Increase in Cages per year	225	Year 4	673,333	505,000
Increase in Seed Per Year (Stocking Density)	135,000	Year 5	853,333	640,000

6.) Revenue Estimates			➔	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Total Annual Expenses				\$ 68,038.34	\$ 155,112.49	\$ 171,352.26	\$ 194,171.40	\$ 196,691.40
Estimated Net Revenue				\$ (14,038.34)	\$ (28,212.49)	\$ 28,447.74	\$ 78,528.60	\$ 148,908.60
YTD Profit/Loss				\$ (14,038.34)	\$ (42,250.83)	\$ (13,803.09)	\$ 64,725.51	\$ 213,634.12

# Priority Points

Due to limited subtidal leasing opportunities, the Department established these priority points to select the most qualified individuals.

- State Resident- 1 point
- GADOA Certification (shellfish) - 1 point
- Existing shellfish lease holder - 1 point
- Evidence of experience with commercial molluscan shellfish operations
  - Experience can be verified by HACCP cert., Landing records, Shipment records, Receiving records, Employment history w/ references, Lease Contracts, GADOA Certification, Records of retail sales, etc.
    - 1+ years = 1 point
    - 4+ years = 2 points
    - 8+ years = 3 points

# Lottery Selection Process

- Applicants will be placed into pools based on their priority points. Applicants will then be selected at random from the pool with the most priority points and continue through the pools of applicants in the order of decreasing priority points.
- The lottery will continue until all allotted leases are granted or the applicant pool has been exhausted.
- Winners will be offered leases in the order determined by the lottery.

**Example:** There are 5 leases and 10 applicants. Two have the max of 6 points, one has 5 points, one has 4 points, and six have 1 point. Max points will be selected from first. Then the individual with 5 points will be selected. Then the individual with 4 points will be selected. One applicant of the six with 1 point will be selected at random for the last available lease.

# Lottery and Subtidal Leasing Timeline

- April 2021. Finalize lottery process, lease locations and policies for subtidal mariculture.
- April 26, 2021. Advertise lottery for Subtidal Lease applicants; Lottery Applications will be accepted until May 14, 2021 by 4:30 p.m.
- May 14-28, 2021. Review Subtidal Lease lottery applications; priority points are calculated and awarded accordingly.
- June 1, 2021. CRD conducts the lottery drawing to select lessees and assign leases. Public is invited to participate.

# Ga. Code § 27-4-204 - Cage permits

- Section 27-4-204 –
- **(a)** The first time that a person obtains or renews a shellfish mariculture permit, he or she shall obtain a permit from the department establishing the maximum number of cages that may be deployed at any given time during that license year. **Such permits shall be issued in 25 cage increments. The permittee shall pay a fee of \$1.00 per cage for the permit, and the permit shall be for the same duration and shall be renewed at the same time as the shellfish mariculture permit.** Containers used for the mariculture of clams shall be exempt from this subsection.
- **(b)** No cage permit may be amended to permit the use of more cages except at the time of permit renewal. The permittee, or his or her agent or employee if the permittee is not actively harvesting, shall have the cage permit in his or her possession at all times while harvesting.
- It shall be unlawful for any permittee or a person designated by such permittee as provided in Code Section 27-4-202 to employ more cages than the number allowed by the cage permit at any time.
- **(c)** It shall be unlawful to set or place in the salt waters of this state any shellfish mariculture cage which does not have attached to it the identification assigned by the department to the permittee. The identification shall be assigned by the department to the permittee when such permittee is issued his or her shellfish mariculture permit. For subsequent years, the same identification shall be assigned to such permittee
- Added by 2019 Ga. Laws 217, § 1, eff. 3/1/2020.

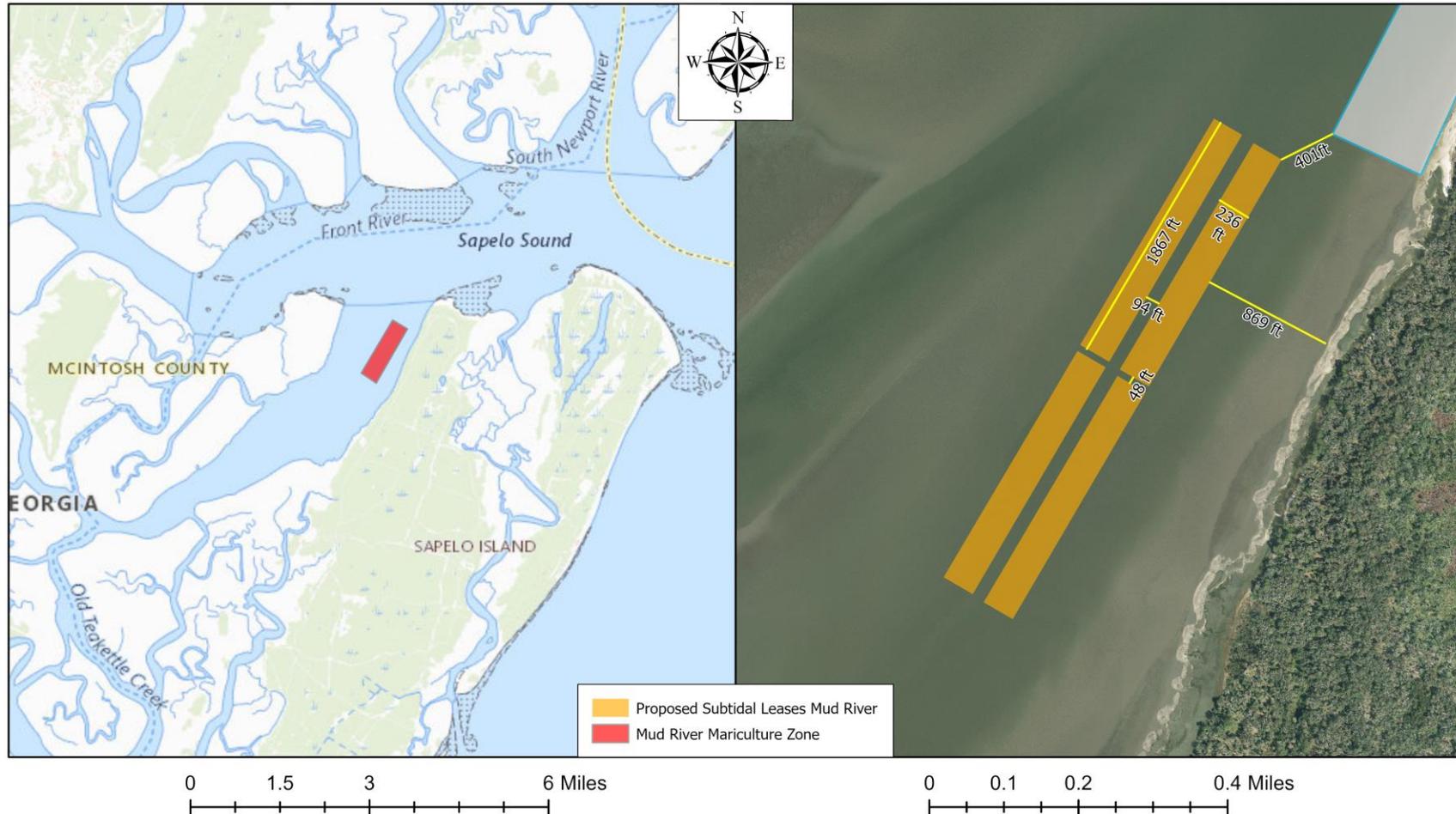
# Cage Policy and Fees

- The Department defines a cage as an enclosure device of any size that contains or may contain oysters for commercial grow out including but not limited to cages, bags, or baskets. All cages including cages placed within a cage that are placed in the waters of the state shall have attached to it a cage tag provided by the Department.
- A cage permit must be obtained from the Department at a cost of \$1 per cage per year.
- Cage permits shall be issued annually in increments of 25 as designated in the annual cage permit.
- Damaged tags will be replaced by the Department at no cost if the damaged tag is returned to the Department. Lost tags may be replaced at a cost of \$1 per tag.
- Cage tags shall be attached in a manner so that the tag is easily identified. Clam mariculture gear is exempt from the cage permit requirement.

# Tags



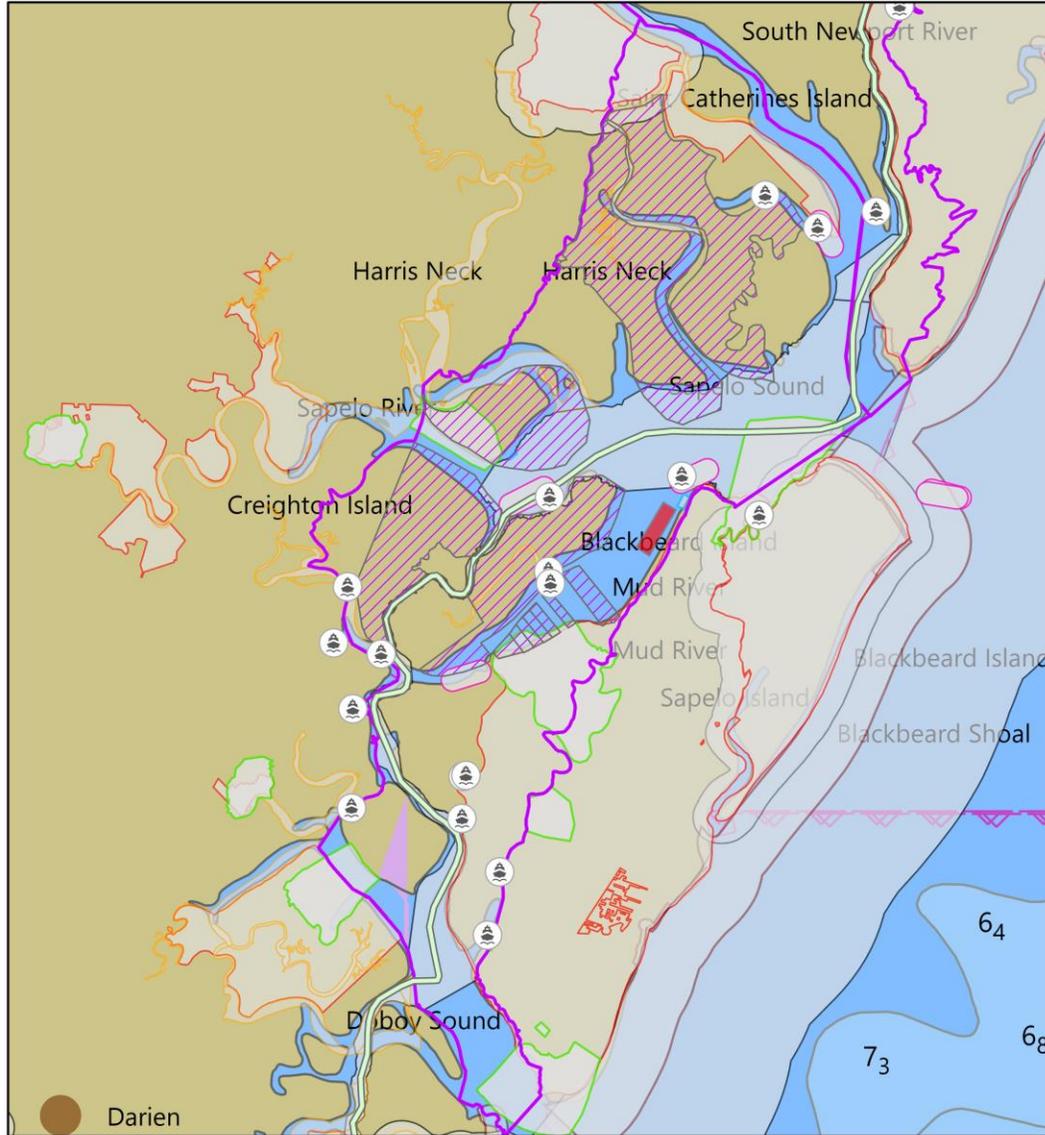
# Proposed Subtidal Harvest Area Configurations



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Service Layer Credits: USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed May, 2020. NOAA ENC Online Map Server

# McIntosh Exclusionary Areas for Subtidal Leases

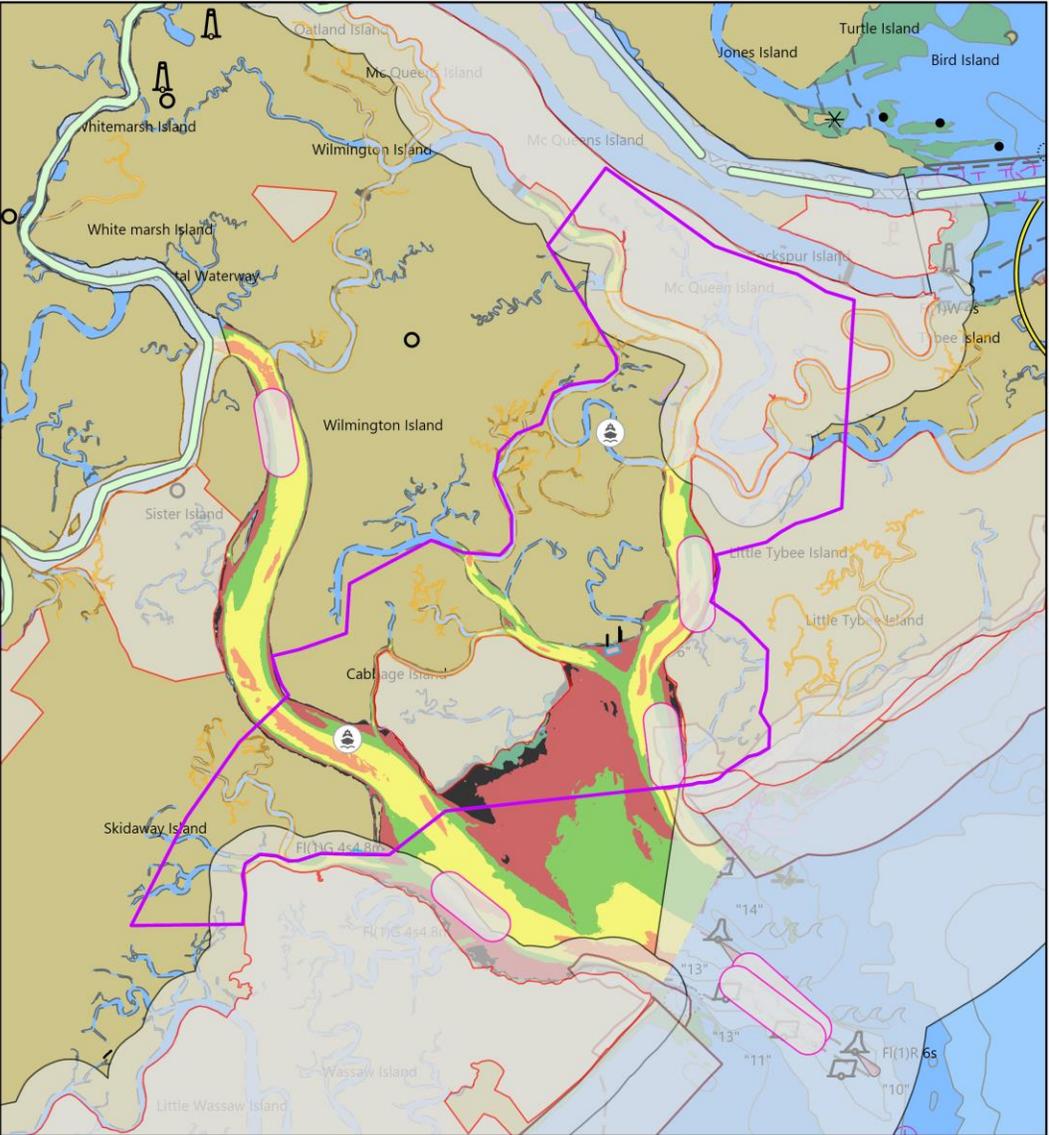


- Proposed Mud River Mariculture Zone
- Shellfish Growing Areas
- Shellfish Leases
- ICW
- Federal Exclusionary Zones
- USFW Critical Habitat
- LTER Boundaries
- Artificial Reefs
- Trawl Research
- Shrimp Bait Zones
- Conservation Lands (Heritage, etc.)
- ⚓ Known Anchorage Sites

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# Chatham Exclusory Areas for Subtidal Leases



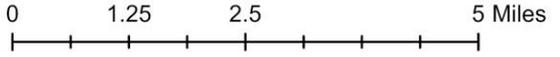
- Shellfish Growing Areas
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**Wassaw Bathymetry**

- ≤ 0
- ≤ 2
- ≤ 5
- ≤ 10
- ≤ 23

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# Questions and Comments