



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO IMPORT SHELLFISH

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article, Title 4. Fish and Fisheries and regulations governing the importation of shellfish from outside of Maryland, COMAR 08.02.08.01B, require that a person may not import or possess within the State shellfish taken from waters outside of the State for planting in the waters of the State, unless he or she first obtains a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. The Department shall issue a permit if presented with proof satisfactory to the Department that the import will not be harmful to Maryland shellfish.

Every person proposing to import live shellfish or shells from sources outside of the State of Maryland must complete all items contained in the **Application to Import Shellfish from Out-Of-State**. A separate permit application shall be necessary for each source or vendor. To allow for adequate evaluation and processing time, applications are requested a minimum of 30 days prior to the desired shipment date(s). Although you may submit the application and health report separately, as each becomes available, **please be advised that the Department will consider an application incomplete and will not be able to fully review the import request or issue a permit until the corresponding health report is submitted as required** (see below).

Applications to import live shellfish (excluding regionally sourced larvae\*) shall be accompanied by a certificate or report of shellfish health obtained by the applicant from the source's quality control or scientific officer, or from an independent laboratory to which a representative subsample of shellfish has been taken for parasite/pathogen analysis. This requirement may be waived at the Department's discretion if, the source has been previously approved for import of similar product within the same growing season by the Department, and has consistently demonstrated through prior testing that shellfish from that source will not be harmful to Maryland shellfish. **Health reports older than 60 days from the 1<sup>st</sup> date of import will not be accepted.**

\*Diagnostic testing may be required for oyster larvae sourced from regions with a known prevalence of shellfish disease(s) which currently are not also affecting Maryland oysters. In the case that testing is requested, permit approval is contingent upon confirmation that the lot of larvae proposed for transfer is free of the disease of concern.

Submit completed applications to [Peter.Grasso@maryland.gov](mailto:Peter.Grasso@maryland.gov), or:

DNR FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES  
ATTN: SHELLFISH IMPORT PERMIT  
580 TAYLOR AVENUE E-4  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401