

Maryland E-Reporting with FACTS™

New Shellfish Harvester and Dealer Pilot Programs Frequently Asked Questions

What are the flexibilities offered to me for using the FACTS Shellfish Electronic Reporting System?

- ➔ 1) Pilot participants can designate authorized representatives to take their harvest to dealers under their license. Authorized representatives must be commercially licensed in Maryland, allowed to harvest shellfish, and be participating in the Shellfish FACTS pilot program.
- 2) Pilot participants licensed to harvest shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay can start harvesting up to 1/2 hour before sunrise by electing to daily report using FACTS as part of their start hail for each trip. If the participant starts early, they must also end early (without increasing their standard number of harvest hours).
- ➔ If harvesting oysters and using a shaft tong, patent tong, diving apparatus, dredge boat or power dredge, participants must cease by 2:30 p.m. If harvesting oysters using a dredge boat propelled by means of an auxiliary yawl boat, cease at least 1/2 hour before sunset. If harvesting clams, cease at least 1/2 hour before sunset.

What does the early start flexibility mean?

- ➔ The participant can start harvesting 1/2 hour before sunrise if they are reporting in FACTS. If they start early, they must also end early (without increasing their standard number of harvest hours).

Does my authorized representative also have to be in FACTS?

Yes and they must have the FACTS shellfish pilot permit. A participant's authorized representative must have a Maryland license to harvest shellfish commercially.



Do I get to keep more bushels for being in the program?

No, the participant's bushel limits are the same as when they were reporting on paper.



Do I still need to use tags on my bushels?

Yes, tags must be used on bushels in the same manner they were when reporting on paper. This is a health department requirement.



Can dealers using electronic buy tickets enter a buy ticket for non-FACTS users?

Yes, dealers can enter a buy ticket electronically for both FACTS users and non-FACTS users who report on paper. They can also email the buy ticket receipt to the seller so that they have a copy.



**Questions or Feedback? Please call 410-260-8314 or
email fisheriesreporting.dnr@maryland.gov**



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