

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

FY15 Oyster Restoration

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY15 Oyster Restoration		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Bottom Depth. (answer yes to only one of the options)	
1. The bottom depth of the acreage to be restored is greater than 25 feet.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. The bottom depth of the acreage to be restored is less than 25 feet.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Type of shell to be used for bottom base. (answer yes to only one of the options)	
3. Whole clam shells will be used for the bed restoration.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Oyster shells will be used for the bed restoration.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Bottom is hard enough to currently support oysters and does not require any additional shell for stabilization.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. A combination of oyster (minimum 30%) and clam shell will be used for the bed restoration.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Bottom type. (current field observation is preferred data, otherwise use Maryland Bay Bottom Survey GIS data)	
7. Current information indicates that the bottom is soft (<10% cultch by volume) or the acreage to be restored is classified as "mud" or "sand" in the "Bay Bottom Survey" GIS layer.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Current information indicates that the bottom is hard (>10% cultch by volume) or the acreage to be restored is classified as "hard bottom" in the "Bay Bottom Survey" GIS layer.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Current information indicates that the bottom is hard with cultch (>20% cultch by volume) or the acreage to be restored is classified as "cultch", "sand with cultch", or "mud with cultch" in the "Bay Bottom Survey" GIS layer.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Is the area to be restored within an Oyster Repletion Area as identified by the "Bay Plantings" GIS layer?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Shellfish Water Quality Classification (Restricted waters are EXCLUDED from the EQIP Oyster Pilot-no harvesting allowed.) (answer yes to only one of the options)	
11. The lease is located in waters classified by MDE as "Conditionally Approved".	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. The lease is located in waters classified by MDE as "Approved".	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. The applicant has held an Unlimited Tidal Fishing (TFL) for less than 1 year.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. The applicant has held a TFL for between 1 and 3 years.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. The applicant has held a TFL for more than 3 years.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the applicant hold a Commercial Oyster Harvester License (OYH)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Has the applicant ever received a Tier II fishing violation from Maryland DNR?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

6. Has the applicant ever received a Tier III or IV fishing violation from Maryland DNR?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Has the applicant ever received a Tier V or VI fishing violation from Maryland DNR?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. In the last 3 years, has the applicant completed all previous Farm Bill contracts with out any terminations, cancellations, requests to cancel, or not had any contracts at all?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Has the applicant had a previous Farm Bill contract terminated within the last 3 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p>
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>   <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>   <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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