



**OYSTER RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP®**
— ORP —

Oyster Recovery Partnership

Request for Information and Qualifications (RFIQ)

Substrate Supply for Oyster Restoration

Issue Date: March 18, 2026

Response Due Date: April 3, 2026

Submit response to:

Jen Walters

Oyster Recovery Partnership

1805 A Virginia Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

jwalters@oysterrecovery.org

410-990-4970 ext. 1019

1. Purpose and Background

The Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) is requesting information and qualifications from entities capable of supplying oyster shell and alternative substrates to support oyster restoration activities in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

This solicitation is intended to gather information on substrate availability, vendor capabilities, and indicative pricing to support project planning and potential contracting. This is not a formal request for bids. ORP may enter into agreements based on responses received or may issue additional solicitations. Information gathered through this request will be utilized to plan ORP's 2026 restoration operations.

All materials and operations must comply with applicable requirements of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and relevant permitting agencies.

ORP conducts oyster restoration work under contract with various organizations. Any projects funded through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will require ORP to abide by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources pricing regulations for in-state shell purchases set forth in their annual [Public Notice](#).

2. Substrate Needs and Operations

ORP conducts large-scale oyster restoration in both sanctuary areas (closed to harvest) and public fishery areas. These efforts require substantial volumes of substrate annually. Typically, ORP has required 250,000 – 300,000 bushels of shell across all programs on an annual basis.

Substrate is used for:

- Sanctuary restoration (spat-on-shell production and planting)
- Fishery enhancement (direct planting to promote natural recruitment)

For the 2026 season, ORP is seeking information on the availability of:

- Up to 250,000 bushels of aged oyster shell - *Crassostrea virginica* or *Crassostrea gigas* (if permitted and approved)
- Up to 1,500 tons of alternative substrate, such as recycled crushed concrete (≤ 3 inches)

3. Operational Considerations

3.1 Sanctuary Restoration (Horn Point)

- Location: Horn Point Oyster Hatchery (HPOH), Cambridge, MD
- Substrate must be transported to this site
- Delivery may occur year-round

3.2 Fishery Enhancement Operations

- Substrate may be:
 - Transported to an ORP- or State-designated loading site, or
 - Loaded directly onto planting vessels at a vendor-provided site (if approved)

3.3 Loading Site Requirements (if applicable)

- Minimum 4 feet water depth at mean low tide
- Capacity to accommodate 60–100 ft vessels
- Ability to safely and efficiently load 2–6 vessels per day
- Equipment and space sufficient to ensure maneuverability and even vessel loading

3.4 Timeline

- Substrate will need to be available for any necessary inspections to occur **no later than Friday April 24, 2026**
- Planting and delivery schedules:
 - Fishery enhancement loading for plantings: Early May–June (approx. 2 months)
 - Sanctuary deliveries to HPOH: Year-round

3.5 Inspection and Access

- Substrate (especially out-of-state shell) must be available for inspection by ORP and/or State representatives prior to use
- Vendors must allow reasonable access to facilities for inspection prior to beginning planting or delivery operations and operational oversight throughout loading (if applicable)

4. Information Requested from Respondents (*See Attachment A*)

Respondents are asked to provide the following information:

4.1 Vendor Information

- Company name and contact information
- Primary contact

4.2 Substrate Details

- Type of substrate (material, species if applicable, size specifications)
- For shell: estimated aging duration
- Source/location of material

4.3 Availability

- Estimated total volume available
- Timing/window of availability

4.4 Pricing (Indicative)

4.4.1 Please provide pricing as applicable:

- Material cost (per bushel, ton, or other unit)
- Loading cost (if applicable)
- Transportation cost (if applicable)
- Total cost including loading and delivery (if available)

4.4.2 Respondents are encouraged to:

- Provide tiered pricing based on volume
- Identify any factors that may affect pricing (distance, logistics, etc.)

4.5 Logistics and Capabilities

- Delivery capability (yes/no, description)
- Loading capability (yes/no, description)
- Proposed loading site (if applicable), including:
 - Location
 - Water depth range
 - Description of facilities and equipment

4.6 Experience (Optional)

- Relevant experience supplying substrate or similar materials
 - May be provided in a supplemental cover letter

5. Process and Next Steps

5.1 This RFIQ is for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a commitment to purchase.

5.2 ORP may, at its discretion:

- Enter into agreements with one or more respondents
- Establish a list of qualified suppliers
- Request additional information or proposals
- Conduct site visits or inspections

5.3 Responses will be reviewed based on:

- Substrate suitability
- Availability and timing
- Logistics and operational feasibility
- Pricing and overall value

6. Submission Instructions

Responses should be submitted by April 3, 2026 via email to:

Jen Walters

jwalters@oysterrecovery.org

Responses may also be mailed or delivered to:

Oyster Recovery Partnership

ATTN: Jen Walters

1805 A Virginia Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Attachment A – Response Form

Vendor Information

Company: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Substrate Information

Substrate Type (and species if applicable): _____
If shell, aging duration: _____
Source: In-state (MD) Out-of-state Source location: _____

Availability

Estimated Volume Available: _____
Availability Dates: _____

Logistics

Delivery Capability: Yes No
Loading at Vendor Site: Yes No
If yes, provide site name and address: _____

Water Depth at Site: _____

Pricing

Material Cost: _____ (unit: _____)
Loading Cost: _____ (unit: _____)
Transport Cost: _____ (unit: _____)
Total Cost (if applicable): _____ (unit: _____)

I certify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Company: _____