

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries

Restoration Activities

Cultch Planting

In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the net appropriation for cultch planting is \$798,054, all of which is reoccurring. The division typically purchases shell throughout the year and marl in February, thus some of the expenditures for this fiscal year have not yet been incurred. As of January 26, 2021, the division had purchased 11,478 bushels of oyster shells at a total cost of \$28,828.21, including transportation. The division anticipates purchasing an additional estimated 76,000 bushels of shell at an estimated cost of \$203,081.96, bringing the total number of oyster shells purchased by the division to 87,863 bushels of shell at an estimated cost of \$231,910.16. To supplement purchased shell, the division is currently under contract to receive approximately 194,000 bushels of marine limestone marl for cultch planting at total cost of \$364,680. The combined estimated cost of cultch planting materials (shell and limestone) for FY 20-21 is \$596,590.16. The remaining appropriated funds will be used to support program operations, including material deployments, equipment replacement and repairs as well as other shellfish rehabilitation objectives.

Oyster Sanctuaries

In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the net appropriation for the Oyster Sanctuary program is \$500,000, all of which is reoccurring. The Oyster Sanctuary Program was also granted carry forward of \$273,988 from the previous FY to support a deployment contract which was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. \$90,387 has been spent from those carry forward funds, however the contract has since been terminated due to non-performance by the contractor. Approximately \$183,601 remains of those carry forward funds. Using 2020-2021 appropriated funds, the Oyster Sanctuary program will begin development of a new site, Cedar Island Oyster Sanctuary. The division has reinitiated its partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Federation, splitting material acquisition and deployment costs respectively. As of January 26, 2021, the division had identified a material source and is currently preparing to solicit bids for the purchase and delivery 10,000 tons of Class B crushed concrete, with an alternate option of adding up to 5,000 tons to the purchase depending on partner-funding for deployments. The anticipated total cost of 10,000 tons is approximately \$320,000 and the alternate bid may add up to an additional \$160,000.