



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2016

CONTACT: Marine Resources Division
251-861-2882

Alabama Oyster Community Meetings

The Alabama Marine Resources Division is hosting two meetings on **Wednesday, September 21, 2016**, at the **South Bay Coastal Response Center** in Coden (7385 Hwy 188, Coden, AL 36523).

Both of these meetings are **open to the public**.

Private Oyster Grounds Meeting:

The first of these meetings will be from **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm** and will focus on providing information relevant to community members engaging in **on bottom and off bottom oyster aquaculture activities**.

Public Oyster Grounds Meeting:

The second of these meetings will be from **3:00 pm – 5:00 pm** and will focus on updating the community about present activities related to Alabama's oyster fisheries, to receive public input, and for the Alabama Marine Resources Division (AMRD) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to present the **mandatory Shellfish Harvester Education Program**.

AMRD representatives will discuss prospective public oyster reef openings for the fall harvest, provide information about where and how oyster management stations will be operated, answer any questions pertaining to oyster management zones, and discuss oyster related projects.

Shellfish Harvester Education Program:

All commercial oyster catchers are required to obtain certification, through the Shellfish Harvester Education Program. The **AMRD and ADPH will present oyster harvesters with the information required by the nationwide Shellfish Education Program for certification**.

If any accommodations are needed, please contact Jason Herrmann (jason.herrmann@dcnr.alabama.gov) or Scott Bannon (scott.bannon@dcnr.alabama.gov) at 251-861-2882. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least two days prior to the scheduled meeting.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com.