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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	4 VAC 20-720-10
VAC Chapter title(s)	Pertaining to Restrictions on Oyster Harvest
Action title	Modifying oyster resource user fee transfer eligibility.
Final agency action date	December 6, 2022
Date this document prepared	November 15, 2022

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) is amending Chapter 4 VAC 20-720-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Restrictions on Oyster Harvest", to modify the transfer of eligibility to pay the oyster resource user fee as described in clause (ii) of subsection A of § 28.2-541 of the Code of Virginia, regarding transfers to non-relatives and regarding requests of documented medical hardships or active military leave. Allowing transfers for any person who has paid the oyster resource user fee to transfer eligibility to a non-family member if they have paid the fee for five consecutive calendar years will ease some regulatory restrictions.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

[Mandate] VMRC is authorized by § 28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia to promulgate regulations and guidelines necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 28.2, including marine fisheries regulations.

[Impetus] Participants in the oyster fishery and holders of oyster resource user fees that allow participation in the fishery are not able to transfer their eligibility to pay this user fee under current regulation to non-family members. Also, some individuals who have passed away or have become ill have not been able to meet current regulatory requirements for the transfer of this eligibility.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the chapter (4VAC20-720-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Restrictions on Oyster Harvest") passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by § 28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia, duly advertised according to statute, and recorded in the Commission's minute book, at meeting held in Hampton, Virginia, on December 6, 2022.