

Application for Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Financing Fund

The increased production of oysters and clams in the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays of Maryland are a key contributor to expanding the region's seafood industry. The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) is partnering with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help make affordable, subsidized loan financing available to commercial watermen and others wishing to start or expand shellfish aquaculture operations. The University of Maryland also contributes to this important effort by making training and business planning assistance available to current and prospective commercial shellfish growers.

Persons holding State submerged land or water column aquaculture leases (or who have applied for such leases) are eligible to apply. In addition, all applicants must have production and business plans that demonstrate the financial feasibility of the planned aquaculture operation. The following website includes several resources to help someone interested in shellfish aquaculture get started <u>http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/aquaculture/shellfish.aspx</u> or you may contact DNR directly for more information at aquaculture.dnr@maryland.gov.

All applications to the Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Financing Fund (including any required attachments) should be submitted as soon as completed as loans will be processed in the order they are received. Additional information about the shellfish aquaculture financing program is provided below. A project financing submission checklist is included at the end of the application form with a list of additional information required to complete the application.

Eligible expenses: Commercial aquaculture projects, with approved business plans, to raise oysters or clams in the waters of the Chesapeake or Coastal Bays. For this funding, the requested loan proceeds are to be used to purchase substrate (e.g., shell), seed (or larvae), or capital equipment. On-bottom and water column (i.e., cages or floats) aquaculture production projects are all potentially eligible to be funded. However, the purchase of motor vehicles, including boats and trucks, are not eligible expenses under this program. All borrowers need to indicate from where they plan to purchase shell or substrate.

Minimum/maximum loan amounts: \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Basic eligibility requirements: There are two basic requirements to be eligible to receive funding under this program: 1) An applicant must either hold a shellfish aquaculture lease from DNR currently or have applied for such a lease; and 2) An applicant must demonstrate that the proposed shellfish aquaculture production will begin within 12 months of lease approval. Priority will be given to applicants who have received less than \$100,000 in Shellfish Aquaculture funding previously from MARBIDCO.

Borrower equity: At least 10% of the loan amount (as a cash contribution used to implement the aquaculture project -- however, ownership of a commercial workboat could help to satisfy this requirement).

Loan interest rate: 5.25% (This is the maximum rate; the rate can be as low as 3.00% during the first one to three years of the term of the loan depending on the length of the interest-only period that is needed.)

| Loan terms: | Substrate and Seed – maximum of 5 years (1-3 years interest-only and 2 years P&I) |
|-------------|---|
| | Capital Equipment – maximum of 7 years (1-3 years interest-only and 4 years P&I) |
| | Blended Purchases – maximum of 6 years (1-3 years interest-only and 3 years P&I) |

Borrower credit history: A credit bureau score of at least 620 and no bankruptcy within the last seven years. For borrowers with credit scores of less than 620, a qualifying loan co-signer will be required.

| Loan repayment assistance: | |
|------------------------------|--|
| First-Time Borrowers: | 40% principal forgiveness (up to a maximum of \$100,000) |
| Existing Borrowers: | 25% principal forgiveness (\$100,001 to \$300,000) |

This program potentially offers a substantial loan subsidy to borrowers to help reduce the debt service expense for starting or expanding a commercial shellfish aquaculture operation. Loan terms will normally be for three to seven years, and all borrowers will be required to make loan repayments on a quarterly basis. During the first one to three years of the term of the loan agreement, only modest interest-only payments of 3.00% would be required; thereafter, regular amortizing loan payments would be due with 40% of the principal amount of the loan forgiven, for the **first** \$100,000 borrowed, for borrowers who are in good standing on making their payments and implementing their production plans. **Existing borrowers** who are in good standing on making their payments and implementing their production plans will receive 25% of the principal amount of the loan forgiven \$100,001 and \$300,000 borrowed. The interest rate during the full amortization period will be 5.25%. *NOTE: Borrowers who are not in good standing risk having the loan forgiveness rescinded*.

Collateral security: These loans do not require traditional collateral security. Only the personal guarantees of all borrowers will be required. *However, borrowers holding a DNR shellfish aquaculture lease may have the lease revoked if they are not in good standing on their loan repayment obligations to MARBIDCO.* In addition, if a shellfish crop insurance product becomes commercially available in the future, borrowers are encouraged to purchase appropriate coverage and make MARBIDCO a loss payable assignee for the amount of the loan obligation.

Project feasibility and financing request approval: The goal of this program is to help fund applications that have the best chance of success in terms of financial viability and getting shellfish to market. A Shellfish Aquaculture Financing Committee will evaluate the credit worthiness of the prospective borrower(s), as well as the viability of the proposed project production and business plan (including the financial projections) that are required to be submitted with the application for financial assistance. The Committee consists of knowledgeable representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension and MARBIDCO. Projects with insufficient production and business plans and future projections of positive cash flows will not be approved; however, these may be revised and re-submitted in the future.

Loan application fee: None.

Send a completed and signed original application form, including all the required attachments, to:

MARBIDCO Loan Programs Office 1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21 Annapolis, MD 21403 Attn: Brittany Rawlings

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

| Business/Individual Name | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Business Address | County | |
| City | State Zip Code | |
| Contact Person | Title | |
| Work Telephone | E-mail | |
| Home Telephone | Mobile Phone | |
| SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LOAN REQUEST For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | | umn or submerged land lease |
| For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | ge and whether the lease is a water col | |
| For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | ge and whether the lease is a water col | |
| For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | ge and whether the lease is a water col Term Requested | years |
| For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | ge and whether the lease is a water col Term Requested Amount \$ | years |
| For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | ge and whether the lease is a water col Term Requested Amount \$ \$ | years |
| For each lease, list the lease number, acrea | ge and whether the lease is a water col Term Requested Amount \$ | years |

will provide 10% equity in the form of cash):

| Source | Amount |
|--------|--------|
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| Total | \$ |

Production Assets:

(List major shellfish production assets that are currently owned by you including workboats, upwellers, etc.)

| Production Assets | Est. Value | Lien Holders (bank. etc.) | Amount Owed |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | \$ | | \$ |
| | \$ | | \$ |
| | \$ | | \$ |
| | \$ | | \$ |
| | \$ | | \$ |
| | \$ | | \$ |

BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Year & State Established/Incorporated ______ Corporation

Partnership

Proprietorship

Agricultural Cooperative

LLC

SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

In addition to briefly describing your project, please be sure to explain how the funds from this loan will aid the production of shellfish on your lease. Also, please include specific information about what will be purchased with these funds.

Where are you going to purchase shell/substrate and larvae/seed from?

What will you pay for the shell or substrate? \$_____ per _____ (Delivery included: Y / N)

And, if applicable, when will it be moved to your lease?_____

EMPLOYMENT DATA RELATED TO THE AQUACULTURE BUSINESS

of full-time jobs current______# of NEW full-time jobs projected within 36 months ______

of part-time jobs current______ # of NEW part-time jobs projected within 36 months ______

PROJECT ADVISOR(S) (If Applicable)

| NameTitle | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------------|
| Institution/Firm | | | |
| Work Telephone | E-mail | | |
| SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT/OWNER | SHIP | | |
| 1-Name | | Title | |
| Social Security # | Date of Birth | | _% Ownership |
| Address | | City | |
| StateZip Code | Telephone | | |
| Tidal Fisheries License Number | Email | | |
| 2- Name | | Title | |
| Social Security # | Date of Birth | | _% Ownership |
| Address | | City | |
| StateZip Code | Telephone | | |
| Tidal Fisheries License Number | Email | | |
| 3- Name | | Title | |
| Social Security # | Date of Birth | | _% Ownership |
| Address | | _City | |
| StateZip Code | Telephone | | |
| Tidal Fisheries License Number | Email | | |
| 4- Name | | Title | |
| Social Security # | Date of Birth | | _% Ownership |
| Address | | City | |
| StateZip Code | Telephone | | |
| Tidal Fisheries License Number | Email | | |

(Please attach additional sheets if necessary)

LAND-BASED FACILITIES (if any)

| If Owned Size(acres) | _ Location | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--|--|
| If Leased Size(acres) | Location | | |
| Type and # of buildings/s | structures | | |

DECLARATIONS

If answering "yes" to any of these questions, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet and attach. (Note: Answering "yes" to any question is not necessarily disqualifying.)

| 1. Is the business or any of the top management personnel an endorser, guarantor or co-signer for obligations not listed on its/their financial statements? | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| 2. Is the business or any of the top management personnel a party to any claim or lawsuit? | Yes | No |
| 3. Has the business or any of the top management personnel ever declared bankruptcy? | Yes | No |
| 4. Does the business or any of the management personnel owe any taxes for prior years? | Yes | No |
| 5. Have any managers or owners received a felony conviction? | Yes | No |
| 6. Have any managers or owners received a natural resources violation? | Yes | No |

SECTION 4: SIGNATURES

EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT (15 U.S.C. 1691)

The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status or age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), because all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program, or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The Federal agency that administers compliance with this law concerning this creditor is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

AUTHORITY TO COLLECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

This information is provided pursuant to Public Law 93-579 (Privacy Act of 1974). Effect of Non-Disclosure: Omission of an item means your application might not receive full consideration.

I/We authorize the disclosure of all information submitted in connection with this application to the financial institution agreeing to participate in the project financing. I/We waive all claims against either MARBIDCO or the State of Maryland.

I/We realize that if I/We do not comply with the aforementioned Certification, my/our loan can be called, terminated, or repayments accelerated.

I/We authorize MARBIDCO to obtain any additional financial information concerning me/us from any source which MARBIDCO reasonably requires in order to determine whether to make the requested loan, including credit histories, credit reports, and credit scores.

CERTIFICATION

I/We certify all information in this application and the attachments is true and complete to the best of my/our knowledge and is submitted so that MARBIDCO and its Committee can decide whether to offer financial assistance.

| Signature | _Signature |
|--------------|--------------|
| Printed Name | Printed Name |
| Date | Date |
| Signature | _Signature |
| Printed Name | Printed Name |
| Date | Date |

SECTION 5: ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST

PLEASE REVIEW THIS CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE THE FOLLOWING INFORAMTION IS INCLUDED WITH YOUR SUBMISSION

- 1.
 Description and history of the applicant individual or company.
- 2. \Box A copy of the DNR Shellfish Aquaculture Lease (if it has been approved).
- 3. Production and business plan for the project to receive financing (including 5 years of financial projections).
- 4. Applicant *and* business operation tax return(s) for the preceding year (please include all schedules).
- 5. Completed Balance Sheet (attachment1) (if the applicant is an LLC or Corporation, provide personal balance sheets for all owners).
- 6. Completed Pro Forma Income Statement (attachment 2 6 pages).
- 7. Completed Debt Repayment Schedule (attachment 3).
- 8. \Box A signed original application and all attachments.

Note: MARBIDCO agrees to hold Recipient's Application and Financial Reports in confidence to the extent reasonably permitted by Title 4 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MARBIDCO shall not be obligated to maintain in confidence any information: 1) which was already known to MARBIDCO; or, 2) which is or comes into the public domain through no fault of MARBIDCO; or, 3) which is independently developed by MARBIDCO; or, 4) which comes to MARBIDCO from a third party which is not in violation of any obligation of confidentiality to Applicant or MARBIDCO.

How did you hear about this MARBIDCO financial program? Please check a box below:

Search Engine (Google, Bing, etc.) Social Media Recommended by a Friend Event table MARBIDCO Newsletter Advertisement, where: ______ **Referred by:** Maryland Dept. of Agriculture Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources County Agricultural or Econ. Development Office UMD Extension Commercial Bank or Farm Credit USDA (FSA, NRCS, or Rural Development) Other: ______

Balance Sheet

(Please fill out a separate balance sheet for each guarantor and the business, when applicable.) Balance Sheet Date: _____

<u>Assets</u>

<u>Liabilities</u>

| Current Assets | Current Liabilities |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cash | Accounts Payable |
| Accounts Receivable | Grandit Courds (on a sife) |
| Notes Receivable | |
| Savings Accounts | |
| Seed Oysters | |
| Bushels (or yds) of Shell | Notes Payable (specify): |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Current Assets | |
| | Other Liabilities |
| Commercial Workboat | Current Liabilities |
| Automobiles and Trucks | |
| Machinery & Equipment | Current Portion of Long Term Debt* |
| Shops & Supplies | |
| Other | |
| IRA/401K Retirement Accts | Mortgages (specify) |
| Waterfront Land | |
| Acres | |
| Farmland | |
| Acres | |
| Acres | Car & Workboat Loans (specify) |
| Forest Land | |
| Acres | |
| Acres | Other long-term Loans (specify) |
| Residence | |
| Other Real Estate (specify) | |
| | Non Current Liabilities |
| Non Current Assets | Total Liabilities |
| Total Assets | Total Liabilities |

*Current portion of long-term debt represents the total amount of long-term debt that must be paid within the next year.

Pro Forma Income Statement (Revenue and expense projections for the **Current Year**)

| Business Income and Expenses | Other/Personal Income and Expenses | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Income | Income | | |
| Sales of: | Salaries & Wages Interest & Dividends Rentals Pension/Social Security | | |
| Rental Income | Alimony/Child Support Other Income (specify) | | |
| Less Cost of Spat & Shell | Gross Other Income | | |
| Gross Business Income | | | |
| Expenses | Expenses | | |
| Advertising | Social Security Withholding Self-Employment Taxes Income Taxes (State & Federal) Alimony/Child Support Other Expenses (specify) Total Other Expenses Net Other Income | | |
| Total Business Expenses | | | |
| Net Business Income | | | |

Pro Forma Income Statement (Revenue and expense projections for **Year 1** of the project)

| Business Income and Expenses | Other/Personal Income and Expenses | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Income | Income | | |
| Sales of: Image: Sales of: Image: Sales of: | Salaries & Wages Interest & Dividends Rentals Pension/Social Security Alimony/Child Support Other Income (specify) | | |
| Less Cost of Spat & Shell | Gross Other Income | | |
| Gross Business Income Expenses | Expenses | | |
| Advertising | Social Security Withholding | | |
| Total Business Expenses | | | |
| Net Business Income | | | |

Pro Forma Income Statement (Revenue and expense projections for **Year 2** of the project)

| Business Income and Expenses | Other/Personal Income and Expenses | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Income | Income | | | |
| Sales of: | Salaries & WagesInterest & DividendsRentalsPension/Social SecurityAlimony/Child SupportOther Income (specify) | | | |
| Less Cost of Spat & Shell | Gross Other Income | | | |
| Gross Business Income | | | | |
| Expenses | Expenses | | | |
| Advertising | Social Security Withholding Self-Employment Taxes Income Taxes (State & Federal) Alimony/Child Support Other Expenses (specify) - Total Other Expenses Net Other Income | | | |
| Total Business Expenses | | | | |
| Net Business Income | | | | |

Pro Forma Income Statement (Revenue and expense projections for **Year 3** of the project)

| Business Income and Expenses | Other/Personal Income and Expenses |
|--|---|
| Income | Income |
| Sales of: Rental Income Fishing Income Other Income (specify) | Salaries & WagesInterest & DividendsRentalsPension/Social SecurityAlimony/Child SupportOther Income (specify) |
| Less Cost of Spat & Shell | Gross Other Income |
| Gross Business Income | |
| Expenses | Expenses |
| Advertising | Social Security Withholding Self-Employment Taxes Income Taxes (State & Federal) Alimony/Child Support Other Expenses (specify) - Total Other Expenses Net Other Income |
| Total Business Expenses | |
| Net Business Income | |

Pro Forma Income Statement (Revenue and expense projections for **Year 4** of the project)

| Business Income and Expenses | Other/Personal Income and Expenses | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Income | Income | | | |
| Sales of: Rental Income Fishing Income Other Income (specify) | Salaries & WagesInterest & DividendsRentalsPension/Social SecurityAlimony/Child SupportOther Income (specify) | | | |
| Less Cost of Spat & Shell | Gross Other Income | | | |
| Gross Business Income | | | | |
| Expenses | Expenses | | | |
| Advertising | Social Security Withholding Self-Employment Taxes Income Taxes (State & Federal) Alimony/Child Support Other Expenses (specify) Total Other Expenses Net Other Income | | | |
| Total Business Expenses | | | | |
| Net Business Income | | | | |

Pro Forma Income Statement (Revenue and expense projections for **Year 5** of the project)

| Business Income and Expenses | <u>Other/Personal Income and Expenses</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Income | Income |
| Sales of: | Salaries & WagesInterest & DividendsRentalsPension/Social SecurityAlimony/Child Support |
| Fishing Income | Other Income (specify) |
| Less Cost of Spat & Shell | Gross Other Income |
| Gross Business Income | |
| Expenses | Expenses |
| Advertising | Social Security Withholding |
| Total Business Expenses | |
| Net Business Income | |

Business Debt Repayment Schedule

Date: _____

| Lender and Loan Number | Original Amount | Date Incurred | Interest Rate | Payments Per Year | Amount of Periodic | Loan Balance |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | Payment | 20101100 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Annual Totals | | | | | | |

Personal Debt Repayment Schedule (Including Car Loans) Date: _____

| Lender and | Original | Date | Interest | Payments | Amount of | Loan |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Loan Number | Amount | Incurred | Rate | Per Year | Periodic | Balance |
| | | | | | Payment | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Annual Totals | | | | | | |

FAQ: How your Aquaculture NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Grants will be applied to your MARBIDCO Shellfish Aquaculture Loan:

The NRCS grants provide financial assistance to on-bottom shellfish aquaculture farmers. Those awarded a grant must complete the proposed project prior to receiving any grant funds. The Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Financing Fund through MARBIDCO can provide loan funds to these shellfish farmers for the same purposes and can be used to pay for the project prior to completion. Once the project is complete, MARBIDCO is assigned a borrower's grant funds in order to help repay a portion of the interest and principal due on the loan.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I allowed to "double-dip" on the loan principal forgiveness that MARBIDCO provides and the NRCS grant should I receive it?

No, you cannot receive a grant from MARBIDCO in the form of the loan principal forgiveness AND a grant from the NRCS for the same project activity that has been funded by both entities.

Who will receive my Grant check?

Ordinarily, MARBIDCO will take "an assignment" and receive the grant proceeds directly from the NRCS for the amount due to be repaid to MARBIDCO. You do not need to mail or forward the check to us

(unless MARBIDCO did not get the assignment recorded).

How will MARBIDCO apply my grant funds to my loan?

- 1. MARBIDCO will first apply the grant funds to any interest still due during the interestonly phase of your loan. This means you will no longer owe MARBIDCO payments during the interest-only period of your loan.
- 2. MARBIDCO will then apply the remainder of your grant funds as a principal payment (assuming there are no late fees accrued on the account).

How will MARBIDCO calculate my loan forgiveness if I have paid down the principal with grant funds?

The 40% or 25% principal forgiveness is calculated using the principal remaining after your USDA grant funds have been subtracted.

Example: The borrower has received a \$30,000 shellfish aquaculture loan to plant on his/her onbottom lease. After having made two quarterly interest-only payments, the borrower receives an EQIP grant in the amount of \$20,000 towards this on-bottom project. The entire grant is assigned to MARBIDCO, and funds are applied as follows:

| Total Loan Amount: | \$ 30,000.00 |
|---|-----------------|
| Total Interest Due During I/O Phase | \$ 2,700.00 |
| Interest Paid by Borrower to Date (-) | \$ 450.00 |
| Net Interest Due | \$ 2,250.00 |
| EQIP Grant Amount | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Interest to be Paid by Grant (-) | \$ 2,250.00 |
| Principal Paid Down by Grant | \$ 17,750.00 |
| Principal Remaining After Grant Applied | \$ 12,250.00 |
| 25% Principal Forgiveness (-) | \$ 3,062.50 |
| Net Principal Remaining * | \$ 9,187.50 |

*This amount will be used to determine the future amortizing loan payments after the interest-only period has ended.

What if I make additional principal payments during the interest-only period of my loan?

These voluntary principal repayments will not affect the 40% or 25% principal forgiveness.

Have more questions? Please call the MARBIDCO office at 410-267-6807.