Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Disaster Relief Loan Application

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MARBIDCO)
1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21, Annapolis, MD 21403
Phone: 410-267-6807
Website: https://www.marbidco.org; Email: oysterloans@marbidco.org

Program Description

Recognizing the current economic distress experienced by Maryland's oyster farmers due to a confluence of factors including market conditions, weather, and environmental calamity, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 558/House Bill 1599 to establish the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance (MSIFA) Fund within MARBIDCO. The General Assembly provided $2 million in the FY 2027 State Budget, and MARBIDCO is providing an additional $1 million of borrowed funds.

Loan Amount

This fund allows MARBIDCO to offer zero-interest loans to eligible Maryland oyster farmers to cover personal and business expenses related to oyster farming. All borrowers will receive a loan of $10,000 ***while funds are available.***

Eligibility

- Must be a Maryland resident and have an active shellfish aquaculture lease and be in good standing with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This includes being current on submitting reports. **DNR will verify if the applicant has a lease and is in good standing and current with all reporting requirements.**
- Did not receive a $10,000 Commercial Oyster Harvester Disaster Relief loan offered by MARBIDCO.
- Applicants are limited to one $10,000 loan per individual.

Loan Terms and Conditions

- Interest rate charged: 0.00%
- No collateral security is required (but see loan delinquency information below)
- Repayment begins February 1, 2027.
- Equal quarterly principal payments over 10 quarters.

Loan Forgiveness

- A dollar amount equivalent to the final two quarterly payments will be forgiven for good repayment performance. This means that if a borrower makes the first 80% of the required loan repayments ON TIME or early, the final 20% will not be required to be repaid.
- Borrowers who are more than 90 days late making their quarterly payments will lose their eligibility for loan forgiveness and will owe the entire balance due, plus any late fees and default interest. No exceptions.

Loan Delinquency

- MARBIDCO will notify DNR if a borrower who holds a Tidal Fish License (TFL) is more than 90 days late making his or her quarterly loan payment.
- Once notified, DNR may not approve a transfer of the TFL or authorization until MARBIDCO notifies DNR that the borrower has become compliant.

Application Deadline

- MARBIDCO will accept applications through **September 30, 2026**, while funds are available.

Application Submission

Electronic submission is preferred at oysterloans@marbidco.org by close of day, **September 30, 2026,** or postmarked by that date to:
MARBIDCO, Oyster Relief Loans
1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

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Application Instructions

Please complete all applicable fields. All questions must be answered unless otherwise noted. If you need assistance completing this application, please contact MARBIDCO.

Accessibility: If you need this application in an alternative format or need an accommodation to complete it, please contact MARBIDCO.

Applicant Information

Full Legal Name: ____

Mailing Address: ____

City: __________________________

State: ________

ZIP Code: _________

County: __________________________

Email Address: ____

Phone Number: __________________________

Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _________ **SSN (last 4 digits only):** _______

Maryland DNR TFL License Number: __________________________

Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) License Number (if applicable): _________

Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Information

For each lease, list the lease number, acreage, and whether the lease is a water column or submerged land lease.

Lease Number	Acreage	Water Column or Submerged

How many years have you been a shellfish/oyster farmer? ____________

Is your lease under your legal name or the name of a business of which you are an authorized signatory (provide the name of the business and your title)?

____

Loan Eligibility

Do you have an active shellfish lease with the DNR?
Response (check one): ☐Yes ☐ No

Is your lease in Good Standing with DNR, ***including submission of all reports?***
Response (check one): ☐Yes ☐No

Did you receive a $10,000 loan under the Commercial Oyster Harvester Disaster Relief Loan Program offered by MARBIDCO?
Response (check one): ☐Yes ☐No

Loan Amount Information

Emergency Relief Loans are available for $10,000 per eligible applicant while funds last.

Loan requests are limited to a single $10,000 loan per individual applicant. (Multiple loans will not be awarded to individuals.)

If you received a $10,000 Commercial Oyster Harvester Disaster Relief Loan from MARBIDCO, you are not eligible to apply.

If you are a member of a business entity that owns a lease, each member should apply individually.

Impact Statement

My oyster farming operation during the 2025 season was impacted by: (Mark all that apply)

☐ a. Market Conditions
☐ b. Weather
☐ c. Potomac River Sewage Spill
☐ d. Salmonella scare

Provide more details on how it was impacted below:

2025 Sales Comparison

Compared to the previous season, your sales were:

☐a. Same as or better than last season
☐b. 90%–99% of last season
☐c. 80%–89% of last season
☐d. 70%–79% of last season
☐e. 60%–69% of last season
☐f. 50%–59% of last season
☐g. 49% or less of last season

Price Comparison

The price received for oysters during the 2025 season was:

☐a. Much greater than the 2024 season
☐b. Somewhat greater than the 2024 season
☐c. Comparable to the 2024 season
☐d. Somewhat less than the 2024 season
☐e. A lot less than the 2024 season

2026 Outlook

Compared to the 2025 season, do you expect your 2026 oyster farming season to be:

☐Much better than 2025

☐Somewhat better than 2025

☐About the same as 2025

☐Somewhat worse than 2025

☐Much worse than 2025

☐Unsure at this time

Declarations

Does the applicant currently owe any State of Maryland taxes for prior years?

Response (check one): ☐Yes ☐No

If yes, please provide an explanation on a **separate attached sheet**.

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Certification

The applicant certifies compliance with the Maryland Public Ethics Law. The applicant affirms that to the best of their knowledge, no State official or employee—nor any qualifying relative (spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister) of a State official or employee—is employed by or has a financial interest in the applicant's business. Furthermore, no State official or employee has a financial interest in the proceeds of this loan or a financial interest in an entity that is negotiating or has entered a contract with the governmental unit.

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

MARBIDCO does not discriminate in its lending practices. The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) and the laws of the State of Maryland strictly prohibit creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, 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 the federal law concerning this creditor is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580

AUTHORITY TO COLLECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

This notice is provided pursuant to § 4-501 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Code. The personal information requested on this application is intended to be used in processing your disaster relief loan request. Failure to provide the information requested may result in your application not being processed or receiving full consideration. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct this form.

MARBIDCO is a public agency and is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Please be advised that information contained in this form may be made available on the Internet via the agency's website and is subject to inspection or copying, in whole or in part, by the public and other governmental agencies, unless the information is explicitly protected from disclosure by federal or State law.

Certification

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Maryland that the information provided in this application, including all statements, representations, and accompanying documents, is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand and acknowledge that submitting false, misleading, or intentionally incomplete information is a violation of State law. I agree that any such misrepresentation may result in the immediate denial of this application, the immediate acceleration and demand for repayment of any loan funds already disbursed, and referral to the appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution for fraud and/or perjury.

Applicant Signature: ____

Printed Name: ____

Date (MM/DD/YYYY):___________

Electronic signatures, including PDF or emailed signatures, are considered original.