Dominic Guadagnoli
Shellfish and Water Quality Program Manager
Coastal Resources Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Current Georgia Shellfish Industry

- 22 Commercial Shellfish Harvest Areas.
  - 17 State Harvest Areas
  - 5 Private Harvest Areas

- 6 Subtidal Harvest Areas
  - 3 Chatham County
  - 3 McIntosh County

- 16 Intertidal Harvest Areas produce wild oysters or farm raised clams.

- Georgia shellfish code ratified in 2020 permits the use of subtidal floating mariculture gear which should significantly increase the value of oysters.
Recent Leasing Activity

- 5 new intertidal harvest areas leased
  - Three in McIntosh County, 2 in Bryan County
  - 190 total estimated usable acres
- 2 Mariculture Zones Established
  - McIntosh County Mariculture Zone
    - 3 10-acre subtidal harvest areas leased
    - Potential for 2-3 more leases in the zone
  - Chatham County Mariculture Zone
    - 3 7.5-acre subtidal harvest areas leased
- Shellfish Policy Manual released by CRD to educate potential farmers on the laws, rules, and regulations regarding commercial shellfish operations
  - https://coastalgadnr.org/commercialshellfishharvest
- New Commercial Shellfish Interest Survey
  - https://coastalgadnr.org/shellfishleasing
New Leasing Dashboard
https://coastalgadnr.org/shellfishleasing

Georgia Shellfish Leasing Dashboard

Lease Inventory
- Custom
- Vacant Intertidal Mariculture Lease
- Vacant Subtidal Mariculture Lease
- Occupied Harvest Area

Mariculture Zones

Area Under Assessment

Vacant Leases

Mud River K | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 18

Mud River J5 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 5

Mud River J3 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 7

Mud River J5 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 4

Mud River J5 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 4

Mud River H8 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 4

Mud River H6 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 4

Mud River H4 | Intertidal
Mariculture | Usable Acres: 4

For more information about commercial shellfish rules and regulations, please click here.