What is the MD Seafood Cooperative?

A company that is owned and operated by active shellfish producers/harvesters throughout the State of Maryland.

The cooperative will produce, purchase, handle, market and distribute shellfish from its own managed leased areas as well as shellfish produced on private leases by its member-owners.
Why was the Cooperative formed?

To create new economic opportunities for oyster producers and to expand the Maryland oyster industry.

In addition to supporting current shellfish producers and farms, the Cooperative will support watermen who are interested in getting into aquaculture, but lack the resources and lease to do so.

Source: Maryland DNR
Who can participate in the Cooperative?

- Any current Maryland aquaculture leaseholder and waterman can participate
- You do not have to have your own lease
Why should I become a Member-Owner?

Generate additional income

Gain access to business services
- Marketing and distribution services to get your product to market at a higher value
- Business and operations services including:
  - Discounted seed and shell
  - Office, administration, and coordinating field support
  - Other aquaculture related services including an equipment pool
How does the Cooperative work?

The MDSC will be getting its own leased bottom and growing oysters. Revenue generated through the sale of the oysters sold through the Cooperative will support MDSC’s operations and services as well as replant the MDSC’s leased areas that were harvested.

The Cooperative will also purchase oysters from its members who have their own leases and want to sell a portion of their oysters through the cooperative.
Who owns and manages the Cooperative?

The MDSC is collectively owned by its members who jointly determine the company’s vision and how it will operate.

Each member is issued one share of stock and has one vote.

A founding Board of Directors is overseeing the Cooperative’s formation and is setting up and overseeing operations and services.

- President - Greg Kemp (Talbot County)
- Vice President - Terry Witt (Anne Arundel County)
- Treasurer - Bill Kilinski (Charles County)
- Secretary - Alex Buckler (Calvert County)
- Executive at Large - Matt Kayhoe (Queen Anne County)

The Oyster Recovery Partnership is currently acting as the cooperative’s manager through January 2019.
How do I become a member?

Interested individuals would need to submit a membership application to the Cooperative

Once approved, you would pay a non-refundable annual membership fee of $500

Email inquiries to mdseafoodcoop@gmail.com
Questions?