

## COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH LEASE (PRIVATE LEASE)

*The Applicant should take the following steps to acquire a state lease.*

- Step 1 - Contact Department of Natural Resources (for charts showing approved growing areas, regulations, and areas already under lease) and Marine Extension (for methods and suggestions for harvest).
- Step 2 - Select area for development and contact landholder. The County Tax Commissioner can provide information about landowners. If area for development is outside an approved growing area, contact Department of Natural Resources.
- Step 3 - Contact the Department of Agriculture for related permits and regulations for sale of shellfish (dependent upon your plans for wholesale or retail sale, canning, shucking, etc.).
- Step 4 - Provide to the Department of Natural Resources:
1. A copy of the lease, signed and notarized. Lease should include a verbal description of the lease area written in terms easily transferable to the environmental setting (e.g. , West bank of the Duplin River between the mouth the river emptying into Doboy Sound and the northern most boundary of highland known as Little Sapelo). Lease should also include effective dates and species to be harvested.
  2. Nautical charts showing the area leased.
  3. A verbal description of how you plan to develop the shellfish resources within the lease - **BE SPECIFIC**.
  4. Copies of all permits issued by the Department of Agriculture, commercial fishing licenses, and commercial boat license.
  5. Names of employees authorized to harvest shellfish on your lease and names of vessels if applicable.
  6. Any other information you consider necessary or requested in Step 1.

*The Department of Natural Resources will take the following steps:*

- Step 5 - Department of Natural Resources will evaluate the materials provided and and if all materials are in order, a master collecting permit will be issued. If harvest rights are in question, contact will be made to the Attorney General's Office for a decision on issuance of permits. This process may Take considerable time.

NOTE: Laws require replenishment of the resources harvested even on private leases. Contact the Department of Natural Resources for further information and a copy of requirements of master collecting permittees.