

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release
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DNREC to Conduct Water-Quality Dye Test in Murderkill River and Delaware Bay

Dover, Del. – The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s Delaware Shellfish Program and Kent County Levy Court will conduct a week-long water quality study starting June 10 in the Murderkill River and Delaware Bay to evaluate the bay’s oyster beds.

To conduct the study, application of a red dye, Rhodamine WT, will be released at the Kent County Wastewater Treatment Plant near Frederica so that DNREC can measure water flow and dispersion in the waters where shellfish are harvested. The dye is not considered harmful to the public or the environment.

The dye applications are planned near late-evening low tide on Tuesday, June 11 and will continue until around noon the next day, weather contingent. As a result of the dye applications, portions of the Delaware Bay, Murderkill River and St. Jones River may turn reddish in color, but should disperse within 48 hours.

For more information on DNREC’s Delaware Shellfish Program, visit: de.gov/shellfish or contact Joanna Wilson, DNREC Public Affairs at 302-739-9902.

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