MSU PEARL Hosts a Workshop on Developing Oyster Hatcheries in the State of Maryland in Partnership with the Calvert County Department of Economic Development

Morgan State University Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL) and Calvert County Department of Economic Development hosted a workshop in early December, on the development of oyster hatcheries in the State of Maryland. The attendees included representatives from the industry who discussed the need for commercial hatcheries, the challenges they face in developing commercial hatcheries, and what they need in order to start hatcheries. The workshop also had representatives from government agencies. They discussed how their agencies could interact with commercial hatcheries or what role the agency would play concerning commercial shellfish hatcheries. They also discussed the resources and opportunities available to the industry from their agencies.

Challenges to the industry include site location, financing and trained personnel. The workshop allowed industry members and government agencies to discuss potential solutions to such challenges. Similarly, hatchery diversity and the use of public state hatcheries were discussed. PEARL will incorporate the topics discussed in this meeting into their aquaculture program.

This workshop was funded by a grant PEARL received from the Maryland State Department of Economic Development to increase economic development and job creation of a sustainable oyster aquaculture industry.

Morgan State University is one of the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Morgan State is a coeducational institution, located in a residential section of northeast Baltimore, Maryland. The campus covers an area of more than 143 acres. The University offers a comprehensive range of academic programs through the doctorate.

MSU PEARL is located near the Patuxent River (part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed) in Saint Leonard, Maryland. The mission of the PEARL is to provide society with the knowledge to solve its environmental challenges through research, education and economic development. MSU PEARL applies interdisciplinary approaches to studying the connections between complex ecological systems.
The Calvert County Department of Economic Development monitors economic trends and works to execute business programs that complement Calvert County. The department’s goal is to attract and retain strong, healthy and dynamic companies of all sizes and industries.

As the state's primary economic development agency, the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department also promotes the state's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism.