

**9225. RESOLUTION 05-19 AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF A PROJECT COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO REVITALIZE THE OYSTER INDUSTRY IN THE DELAWARE BAY.** The Executive Director presented the following Resolution.

WHEREAS, the Oyster Industry Revitalization Task Force (“OIRTF”) has submitted to The Delaware River and Bay Authority (the “Authority”) a request to act as a Cooperating Agency for a three (3) year study (“Study”) of oyster production along the Delaware Bay in the States of Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Study is a joint initiative involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the New Jersey Oyster Industry, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Division of Fish and Wildlife in Delaware and New Jersey and the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has also received support for the Study from the Delaware Shellfish Advisory Council, the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council and various legislators in Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Authority passed Resolution 04-10 at its March 16, 2004 Commissioners meeting authorizing a Letter of Request to the USACE to begin conducting an oyster revitalization investigation in the Delaware Bay; and

WHEREAS, the USACE has completed a preliminary Ecosystem Restoration Report and has requested the Authority, as the Study’s Cooperating Agency, to enter into a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to revitalize the Oyster Industry in the Delaware Bay; and

WHEREAS, the PCA will obligate the Authority for up to \$50,000.00 a year for three (3) years (80% of the funding may be in-kind services); and

WHEREAS, the OIRTF estimates that the revitalization of the oyster industry in the Delaware Bay will result in a \$45 million dollar economic impact to the Regional Economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, is hereby authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions of a Project Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers to revitalize the oyster industry in the Delaware Bay and, with the advice and consent of counsel, to have such an Agreement executed by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Executive Director.

On motion by Commissioner Dorn and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, Resolution 05-19 was approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.