

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

January 23, 2025

Summary of Actions and Motions

Commissioners in Attendance: Vice-Chair Robert T. Brown, Rachel Dean, Russell Dize, Rachel Fazenbaker, Sonny Gwin, Chair Steve Lay, Brandon Malec, Jeff Pharis, Bubby Powley, Bill Rice, Bill Scerbo, Bill Sieling, David M. Sutherland.

Commissioners Absent and Not Represented: Brian Nesspor.

Staff Participating: Lynn Fegley, Paul Genovese, Jacob Holtz, Lieutenant Kevin Kelly, Carrie Kennedy, Michael Luisi, John Mullican, Tony Prochaska, Major Melissa Scarborough, Jim Uphoff, Sarah Widman.

Other Participants and Public Comment: Matt Scales with the Department of Agriculture's Seafood Marketing Program, Yen-Der Cheng with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Jeffrey Roberts and Mary Owens with Brandt Information Systems (time restraints kept Brandt from presenting).

Actions:

- Cynthia Goshorn, a long time Fishing and Boating Services staff member and wife of Deputy Secretary Dave Goshorn, passed away on Jan. 20, 2025. Please find a place in your heart for Dave, his family, and our staff as we process this loss.
- The department requests comment from the commission on fisheries-related items it is currently scoping and proposing. Please review your handouts and send your comments to Jacob Holtz (jacob.holtz@maryland.gov). Additionally, the items reviewed during the meeting will be posted on [the department website](#) requesting public comment, please share with your constituents.
- Chair Lay requests commissioners to review and prepare to discuss the scoping item titled "*Commercial Reporting — Electronic Reporting for Commercial Harvest*" at the next commission meeting. Additionally, please share with your constituents. The scoping items are found in [your handouts](#).
- Legislative-Related - Review your handouts for all unit-related bills, bills can be followed on <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>. Updates will be forwarded from Sarah Widman / Paul Genovese. Commissioners with questions on any of the departmental bills should contact Sarah Widman (sarah.widman@maryland.gov, 410-972-7709).
- Please review the [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter Meeting \(Feb. 4-5, 2025\) information](#) for agenda items. Spiny dogfish, horseshoe crab, and striped bass are the species in which actions may be taken.
- Fishing and Boating Services is looking into developing a joint striped bass committee to help with Addendum III guidance. Contact Mike Luisi (michael.luisi@maryland.gov, 410-758-6547) if you are interested or if you have a recommendation. The deadline to submit names is January 31. The work of the committee would include approximately 6-8 in person meetings finishing in May of this year.
- The MAFMC will hold a virtual meeting February 11-12, all meeting information including agenda and how to connect are found through the [MAFMC website](#). The main topic for the commissioners' awareness is the

council's work surrounding sector separation and data collection for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish.

- In the interest of time, Chris Judy did not discuss two topics (shell market price update and the Oyster Advisory Commission 2025 meeting schedule). Please look at the end of [this meeting's handouts](#) found online to review the topics. Please submit comments or questions to Chris Judy (chris.judy@maryland.gov).
- A new chair of the Statewide Oyster Committee is needed, a chair is required for the committee to conduct its business (this is not the department's committee to lead). The department will supply an administrator. Robert T. Brown offered to run the committee if no one else would volunteer.
 - Simon Dean has volunteered to be a candidate for chair of the committee, an election on the chair can take place at the committee's next meeting.
- Per request, the presentation by Michael Luisi on striped bass quota calculations is found online. All meeting presentations are bundled and [found on your website](#).
- Blue Crab
 - The department is looking for more participants for its [Cooperative Data Collection Program](#), particularly in the Upper Bay and Tangier Sound. Contact Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@maryland.gov) if you or someone you know is interested. Crabbers are compensated \$100-200 per trip to collect data on their catch, which can be used to identify trends in catch composition and crab distribution throughout Maryland. **Please consider participating and share this opportunity with other crabbers in your region.**
 - The department is also looking for more participants for its container sampling program. Biologists sample catch at dealer locations and the data are used to determine appropriate bushel conversions for the various alternative containers now being used in the fishery (e.g., KIBB crate, lug, barrel). **If you are a dealer, please consider participating and share this opportunity with other dealers in Maryland who may be interested.** Contact Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@maryland.gov).
 - The blue crab stock assessment is due Spring of 2026.
- Commissioner Dean again requests an agenda item at a future meeting to discuss whether or not to remove the prohibition on harvesting razor clam from prohibited (polluted) waters.

Motions:

- *Commission approves October 17, 2024 meeting actions and motions.* Motion by Bill Rice, seconded by David Sutherland. Vote: No objections. Approved.

Awareness:

- Commissioner Lay made a comment that the commercial yellow perch fishery reductions are unfair as compared to the recreational yellow perch fishery (lack of reductions).
- Major Melissa Scarborough (melissa.scarborough@maryland.gov) is the NRP's Field Operations Bureau lead, please contact Melissa if you need assistance.
- Matt Scales with Maryland Seafood Marketing is available at matthew.scales1@maryland.gov and 443-510-0937. Matt is currently looking for candidates for his Seafood Marketing Commission.
- Matt Scales encourages individuals to sign up to become a member of Maryland's Best at <https://marylandsbest.maryland.gov/become-a-marylands-best-producer/>.
- Commissioners should contact Yen-Der Cheng (yen-der.cheng@maryland.gov or 410-537-3363) with the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding questions surrounding his presentation to the commission municipal discharge permitting.
- Maryland Outdoors, the state's new licensing system, was not presented during this meeting as scheduled. Once the system has gone live it is hoped to have a thorough presentation at a future meeting.

- Lieutenant Kevin Kelly is the NRP's new liaison for the commission. Lt. Kelly (kevin.kelly@maryland.gov) encourages commissioners to reach out to their local areas if they have questions regarding their [region/area](#).
- The department is currently recruiting officers with the hope of adding 18 new hires, these would be laterals and new officers (individuals already certified in law enforcement), requiring less training than a cadet.
- The spiny dogfish fishery on the coast has been doing very well. A request for a quota transfer was answered by North Carolina in the amount of 500,000 lb. New York also offered to transfer some poundage of their quota but Carolina was chosen due to the full amount offered.
- A science webinar open to the public will be held online March 6. Topics will include a summary of FACTS charter reporting by Angela Guiliano and a catch and release mortality study of striped bass in the Patuxent River by T. Reid Nelson.
- A Chesapeake Bay Program science workshop will be held on February 13-14 on the status of the department's surveys. The public may connect in listen-only mode. The connection information will be distributed once available.
- Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee - Richard Young, a long time member of the committee has sold his license and retired from the industry. Please contact Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@maryland.gov) if you or you know someone from Richard's area that may be interested in his seat on the committee.

Meeting Recording:

- <https://archive.org/details/meeting-of-the-tidal-fisheries-advisory-commission-2025-01-23-14-10-est-recording>

Next Scheduled Meeting Date:

- April 20, 2025 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Quarter 1 (Jan 1 - Mar 31)			
Violation	# Citations	# Warnings	Total
Fisheries Regs	57	282	339
Fisheries Law	90	500	590
Fishing w/o License	61	284	345
Striped Bass	3	6	9
Crabbing	0	23	23
Oyster	15	25	40
Shark	0	0	0
Trout	33	242	275
Aquaculture	4	1	5
Commercial	25	66	91
Quarter 2 (April 1 - Jun 30)			
Violation	# Citations	# Warnings	Total
Fisheries Regs			
Fisheries Law			
Fishing w/o License			
Striped Bass			
Crabbing			
Oyster			
Shark			
Trout			
Aquaculture			
Commercial			
Quarter 3 (July 1 - Sep 30)			
Violation	# Citations	# Warnings	Total
Fisheries Regs			
Fisheries Law			
Fishing w/o License			
Striped Bass			
Crabbing			
Oyster			
Shark			
Trout			
Aquaculture			
Commercial			
Quarter 4 (Oct 1 - Dec 31)			
Violation	# Citations	# Warnings	Total
Fisheries Regs			
Fisheries Law			
Fishing w/o License			
Striped Bass			
Crabbing			
Oyster			
Shark			
Trout			
Aquaculture			
Commercial			

FABS 2025 Legislation Summary - Fisheries

HB 40 - Natural Resources - Fishing Licenses and Stamps - Alterations (CF SB 258)

Altering the fees for resident consolidated senior sport fishing licenses, anglers licenses, and trout stamps; and repealing the exemption from the requirement to obtain a trout stamp under certain circumstances for a holder of a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license. (effective June 1, 2025)

HB 56 - Procurement – State Department of Education – Local Food Purchasing Program (CF SB 177)

Requiring the State Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of General Services and the Department of Agriculture, to establish a program to procure, when funding is available, local food for local school systems with preference to providers that are certified local farms or certified Chesapeake invasive species providers; altering the percentage price preference adopted by the Board of Public Works for locally grown food from 5% to 10%; etc.

HB 397 Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation - Oyster Shucking House Loan Program (CF SB 363)

Altering a certain loan program to authorize the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation to provide loans in an amount up to \$25,000 for certain seasonal full-time jobs; and reducing, from 5 years to 3 years, the number of years that a person must have been a licensed seafood dealer in order to be eligible to receive financing under the loan program.

HB 446 - Natural Resources - Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program (CF SB 186)

Establishing the Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources to curb the spread of the invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; requiring the Department to expand the use of practices determined to be effective under the Program; and requiring the Department to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, on its findings and recommendations based on the Pilot Program.

HB 494 - Recreational Equality for Service Members Act (CF SB 282)

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for "veteran"; altering the application of certain provisions of law governing public health and the regulation of health occupations to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces; altering the circumstances under which licenses for fishing in tidal waters do not lapse; etc.

HB 506 - Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act (CF SB 428)

Establishing the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program; establishing the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program Fund to support actions associated with the Program's purpose; altering the definition of "healthy soils" for purposes of the Maryland Healthy Soils Program; exempting certain holders of certain fishing licenses from the requirement to obtain a food establishment license from the Maryland Department of Health; establishing the Water Quality Monitoring Program; etc.

HB 719 - Natural Resources - State Boat Act - Alterations

Repealing certain advertising and public hearing requirements for proposed regulations implementing the State Boat Act; increasing certain funding thresholds for certain projects financed by the Waterway Improvement Fund; and altering the fees for manufacturer and dealer licenses, certificates of number, Maryland use stickers, and the issuance of certificates of title, transfer of title, or duplicate or corrected certificates of title. (effective 10/1/25)

HB 893 - Tidal Fish Licenses – Oyster Authorizations - Administrative Penalties (CF SB 76)

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to suspend for up to 5 years for a first violation, rather than revoke, a person's oyster authorization for knowingly committing certain violations; providing for the reinstatement for certain persons of an oyster authorization and an entitlement to engage or work in the oyster fishery; altering a certain offense related to the use of prohibited gear; and repealing the 90-day time period within which a certain administrative hearing must be held.

HB 1322 - Natural Resources - Vessels - Carbon Monoxide Warning Labels (Matthew's Law) (CF SB 1028)

Prohibiting a person from operating a gasoline-powered vessel manufactured after July 31, 2007, on the waters of the State unless the vessel has carbon monoxide warning labels affixed in conspicuous locations in the vicinity of both the transom and the helm of the vessel.

SB 103 - Boating Accidents - Reporting Requirement - Property Damage

Specifying that property damage that results from an accident that involves any vessel subject to the State Boat Act while on the waters of the State includes damage to navigational aid markers, lights, or identifiers for purposes of a certain reporting requirement.

SB 123 Boating Accidents - Duty to Remain at the Scene, Render Assistance, and Provide Information - Penalties

Requiring the operator of a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty to return to and remain at stop the vessel as close as possible to the scene of the collision, accident, or casualty until the operator has rendered certain assistance and provided certain information; establishing criminal penalties for the operator of a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or

other casualty who does not take certain actions; and generally relating to the operator of a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty.

Fishing and Boating Services Regulatory Scoping April 2025

Please review the following possible regulatory changes. The Department is looking for your advice on how to proceed with scoping (i.e., open houses, web feedback only, etc.). The Department's normal process is to scope each topic on the Department's website, through GovDelivery Communications, and on social media (Facebook and Twitter).

This format is consistent with the legislation that became effective July 1, 2019, that requires us to provide information that answers questions (who, what, where, when, and why) to help stakeholders/small businesses understand and comply with a regulatory idea.

A google comment form will be created for each topic and be available for the comment period.

Topic Being Scoped	Page Number(s)
Gear — Housekeeping	2
Spiny Dogfish — Gill Nets	3-4
Striped Bass — Gill Nets	5

GEAR — Housekeeping

What is being considered?

The Department needs to clarify that an individual may only attempt to catch fish when using legal fishing gear. The regulation already says that you can only catch fish with certain gear, but it should say that you can only use that gear to catch or attempt to catch fish.

Why is this change necessary?

It was recently discovered that the regulation is not completely clear.

Who will this affect?

Anyone using recreational fishing gear.

When would this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) if this concept moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

No.

SPINY DOGFISH — Gill Nets

What is being considered?

The Department needs to implement area-based gear requirements in the spiny dogfish gill net fishery to reduce bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon.

Harvesters that possess a Maryland Spiny Dogfish Permit and use roundfish gill nets (i.e., not tie-down gill nets) with a mesh size equal to or greater than 5.25 inches (13.3 centimeters) and less than 10 inches (25.4 centimeters) will be required to remove nets from the water by 8:00 p.m. each day and may not set them prior to 5:00 a.m. the following day. The overnight restriction would be in place from November 1 through March 31 each year.

Why is this change necessary?

This action is necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum VII to the Spiny Dogfish Interstate Fishery Management Plan. Addendum VII has gear restrictions for the Delaware and Maryland Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Areas.

In August 2024, NOAA Fisheries published a proposed rule (Federal Register notice 89 FR 65576; August 12, 2024) to approve and implement Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6, as recommended by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils. The Councils developed Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6 in response to a 2021 Biological Opinion and 2022 Action Plan that called for reducing bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon in spiny dogfish gill net fisheries. Atlantic sturgeon harvest has been under a coastwide moratorium in federal and state waters since 1998. The ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sturgeon maintains the moratorium through at least 2038, and while the 2024 stock assessment update showed signs of improvement, the stock remains depleted coastwide. The proposed rule was approved in December 2024 by NOAA Fisheries and will implement area-based gear requirements in the spiny dogfish gill net fishery to reduce bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon for harvesters that possess a federal spiny dogfish permit.

Harvesters who hold a Maryland Spiny Dogfish Permit, do not possess a federal spiny dogfish permit, and only fish in state waters are not captured by the federal action. Because the specific areas included for additional management span state and federal waters, action is needed to implement corresponding measures for state-only permit holders to maintain consistency between the federal and interstate fishery management plans. ASMFC developed Addendum VII to ensure consistency with the the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6 by applying the overnight soak restrictions for harvesters who have state spiny dogfish permits in Maryland but do not possess a federal spiny dogfish permit. Consistency with state and federal waters is important for this fishery as it operates in both areas.

Who will this affect?

Anyone who:

1. Holds a Maryland Spiny Dogfish Permit,
2. Does not hold a federal spiny dogfish permit, and

3. Harvests spiny dogfish using roundfish gill nets with the described mesh size in Maryland waters of the Atlantic Ocean (0-3 miles from shore).

Definition

Roundfish gill net means a gill net that is constructed with floats on the float line and that has no tie-down twine between the float line and the lead line.

When would this be effective?

The Addendum's measures will be effective May 1, 2025 in federal waters for federal spiny dogfish permit holders, but the Department is following our normal [procedures](#) for creating a regulation in state waters (0-3 miles from shore). The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined.

Additional Information

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission [Press Release](#) approving Addendum VII
- [Addendum VII](#) to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

This was discussed at the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and New England Fishery Management Council boards, with the Spiny Dogfish Committee, and at public meetings. The addendum was discussed at the ASMFC Board meeting in October 2024 and public hearings were held. The Maryland public hearing was held December 18, 2024. ASMFC approved Addendum VII at their board meeting in February 2025.

STRIPED BASS — Gill Nets

What is being considered?

The Department would like to re-add the ability for individuals who are licensed and permitted in the Chesapeake Bay Individual Transferrable Quota commercial striped bass fishery to set attended drift gill nets in the Chesapeake Bay for striped bass on Saturdays and Sundays during the striped bass gill net season.

Why is this change necessary?

The Department previously allowed this activity in December only from 2018-2020 by public notice, then expanded the allowance to the entire gill net season by regulation in 2021. The provision that allowed gill nets to be used on Saturdays and Sundays during the open gill net season in the Chesapeake Bay Individual Transferrable Quota commercial striped bass fishery was inadvertently removed from regulation when the Department eliminated the Chesapeake Bay Common Pool commercial striped bass fishery at the end of 2024. The Department originally allowed this activity in order to provide additional flexibility for commercial harvesters to conduct their fishing activities. It did not result in additional harvest of striped bass, as permittees in the Individual Transferrable Quota fishery are assigned a set number of pounds they are allowed to harvest. Providing additional flexibility allows these harvesters to time their activities to market and weather conditions.

Who will this affect?

Commercial striped bass permittees in the Chesapeake Bay Individual Transferrable Quota striped bass fishery who use gill nets.

When would this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) if this concept moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

This was previously adopted in regulation in 2021. That process included discussing the topic with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, as well as scoping the topic with the public and taking 30 days of comment during the regulatory proposal period.

Fishing and Boating Services Regulatory Update

Dates Covered: 1/11/2025 – 4/8/2025

Public Notices Issued

View Public Notices at https://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/Pub_Notices.aspx

Topic/Species	Title	Date Posted on Website
Blue Crabs	2025 Sponge Crab Importation Dates	3/21/25
Blue Crabs	Commercial Mature Female Hard Crab Catch Limits—April through June 2025	3/21/25
Cobia	2025 Recreational Bluefish Fishery — Effective 2/10/2025	2/6/25
Shellfish (Oysters & Clams)	Opening of Joes Lumps and Wicomico Lumps Oyster Bars (Charles County) Effective 2/3/2025	1/21/25
Shellfish (Oysters & Clams)	Closure of Portion of Wicomico River (Charles County) Effective 2/3/2025	1/21/25
Shellfish Aquaculture	Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease - Maryland Seafood Cooperative, Inc. #563, Dorchester County	3/6/25
Shellfish Aquaculture	Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease - Joseph C. Hayden, Jr. & Ashley H. Hayden #573, Dorchester County	3/6/25
Shellfish Aquaculture	Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease -Robert Lumpkins & Robert M. Lumpkins #537, St. Mary's County	2/25/25
Shellfish Aquaculture	Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease - Angela L. Abey & William E. Abey #559, Dorchester County	2/19/25
Shellfish Aquaculture	Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease - Ann S. Abey & Paul S. Abey #555, Dorchester County	2/19/25
Striped Bass	2025 Atlantic Coast Recreational and Charter Boat Striped Bass Fishery — Effective 1/17/2025	1/14/25
Striped Bass	2025 Chesapeake Bay Recreational and Charter Boat Striped Bass Summer and Fall Fishery Size Limits — Effective 1/17/2025	1/14/25
Striped Bass	2025 Chesapeake Bay Commercial Striped Bass Permanent Permit Transfers and Transfers of Shares — Effective 1/17/2025	1/14/25
Striped Bass	2025 Atlantic Ocean Commercial Striped Bass Transfer Rules — Effective 1/17/2025	1/14/25
Striped Bass	2025 Chesapeake Bay Commercial Striped Bass Temporary Permit Transfers and Transfers of Allocation — Effective 1/17/2025	1/14/25
Yellow Perch	2024-2025 Commercial Yellow Perch - Closure of Upper Bay - Effective 3/13/2025	3/11/25

Effective Regulations and Regulations Following the APA Process

View Maryland Register at <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/MDRegister.aspx>

View Regulatory Actions at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx>

Topic	COMAR	MD Register & Comment Begins	Comment Period Ends	Potential Effective Date (bold actual effective date)	Description
Fishing in Nontidal Waters - Trout	08.02.11.01	11/16/24	12/16/24	1/20/25	The purpose of this action is to make changes to the Put-and-Take trout stocking program. The changes include: modifying the areas managed as Put-and-Take areas, modifying the areas managed as Closure 1 areas, and eliminating the Closure 2 designation.
Shellfish – General & Threatened and Endangered Species	08.02.08.13 08.02.12.01, .03	12/13/24	1/13/25	2/17/25	The purpose of this action is to: Protect all species of freshwater mussels in the order Unionoida by declaring them as in need of conservation and prohibiting their possession and sale. The action also corrects the spelling of conversation
Gear – Hooks in Tidal Waters	08.02.25.03	1/10/25	2/10/25	3/17/25	<p>The purpose of this action is to modify hook restrictions in tidal waters, specifically the requirement to use a circle hook while live-lining.</p> <p>The proposed action establishes an exemption to the requirement that a circle hook be used while live-lining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When an angler is using a finfish species listed in the Department's bait regulations codified at COMAR 08.02.20.02. -When an angler is using a finfish, except spot and white perch, which measures 4 inches or less in length. <p>Circle hooks are still required if using spot or white perch for bait.</p>

Topic	COMAR	MD Register & Comment Begins	Comment Period Ends	Potential Effective Date (bold actual effective date)	Description
Shellfish Aquaculture & Leasing	08.02.23.04	1/10/25	2/10/25	3/17/25	<p>The purpose of this action is to establish harvest hours for shellfish aquaculture.</p> <p>-October through May - Sunrise to sunset. (no change from previous times)</p> <p>-June and September - Sunrise to the time the <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> Control Plan (COMAR 10.15.07.06) requires the oysters to be delivered to a dealer. (no change from previous times)</p> <p>-July and August - 30 minutes before sunrise to the time the <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> Control Plan (COMAR 10.15.07.06) requires the oysters to be delivered to a dealer. (previously began at sunrise)</p>
Horseshoe Crabs	08.02.10.01	1/10/25	2/10/25	3/17/25	The purpose of this action is to allow individuals to catch and land horseshoe crabs on Sundays.
Blue Crabs – Crab Pot Lines Housekeeping	08.02.03.07	1/10/25	2/10/25	3/17/25	<p>The purpose of this action is to correct the coordinates for two points in Fishing Bay that were misidentified in a previous proposal.</p> <p>This is a very minor change. This action adjusts a small portion of the crab pot line in Fishing Bay by approximately 20 yards to realign with the oyster power dredge line.</p>
Update on Penalty Schedule	08.02.13.03 .05, .08	4/18/25	5/19/25	6/23/25	The proposed action updates the Department's recreational, commercial, and charter penalty schedules. These are annual updates made in conjunction with the SFAC/TFAC Joint Penalty Workgroup

Topic	COMAR	MD Register & Comment Begins	Comment Period Ends	Potential Effective Date (bold actual effective date)	Description
Seafood Dealers	08.02.08.09.12	4/18/25	5/19/25	6/23/25	<p>The proposed action creates a no-cost declaration of intent for shellfish dealers who purchase oysters or clams for human consumption to facilitate current reporting and tax payment requirements</p> <p>The current state of dealer reporting and shellfish tax payments made through the existing buy ticket system results in the receipt of less than 100% of reports and taxes owed by dealers.</p> <p>This will reduce the reporting burden on dealers who are not purchasing oysters and clams for resale and increase the Department's ability to ensure reporting and tax compliance from those dealers who are.</p>
Commercial License	08.02.01.05	5/2/25	6/2/25	7/7/25	<p>NR §4-701 allows a licensee to convert (downgrade) their unlimited tidal fish license (UTFL) into its individual component authorizations and requires the Department to adjust all authorizations accordingly.</p> <p>The number and type of authorizations involved in a downgrade of a UTFL provide the basis for changes to the license authorization target levels.</p> <p>The proposed action decreases the UTFL number by 16 and increases the number for FGR, FIN, CB3, CLM, OYH, ODB, and CCTL by 16 each.</p>

Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing Suspension and Revocation List

View List at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/regulations/penalty.aspx>

Last updated 4/1/2025 — List is provided in a separate document.

Recreational Fishing Suspension and Revocation List

View List at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/regulations/penalty.aspx>

Last updated 4/1/2025 — List is provided in a separate document.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Price Paid for Purchasing, Hauling, and Planting Fresh Oyster Shell — Effective
April 11, 2025

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the maximum price the Department will pay to purchase fresh oyster shell from oysters harvested and sold within Maryland and the maximum price the Department will pay to haul and plant fresh shell harvested and sold either in Maryland or another state.

- Shell:
 - \$4.75 per bushel if Department staff load and truck the shell.
 - \$5.25 per bushel if the shell owner loads into DNR trucks or onto planting vessels.
 - \$5.75 per bushel if the shell owner loads and trucks the shell to DNR designated location.
- Hauling and planting: \$2.50 per bushel

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This notice applies to all individuals who sell fresh oyster shell and transport and plant fresh shell as part of the Department's restoration and replenishment programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice is effective at 12:01 a.m. April 11, 2025.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.11G

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.11](#) requires the Department to set the maximum price the Department will pay for a bushel of fresh shells from oysters harvested and sold within Maryland as the fair market price via a public notice. The Department reviews the maximum shell purchase price and the transport/plant price annually prior to the start of each planting season and set these prices at that time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fishing and Boating Services at 410-260-8302

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources

Meeting of the Invasive Catfish Advisory Committee

April 9, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance: Dr. Allison Colden, Dr. Kenny Rose, Dr. Noah Bressman, Capt. Dave Bell, Ben Mumford, Vice Chairman James Bowling, Chairman Billy Rice, Mitch Bode, Bill Paulshock, Tim Mortus, David Sikorski, Steve Lay, Robert T. Brown, Roger Trageser.

DNR Staff in Attendance: Branson Williams, Joe Love, Tony Prochaska, John Mullican.

Additional Attendees: Pat Geer – VMRC, Tim Wheeler, Liam Hanley.

Action Items:

- The department will meet to discuss consideration of commercial low-frequency electrofishing for blue catfish and report back to the Invasive Catfish Advisory Committee members at the next meeting.
- Steve Lay requested to have a discussion about opening a gill net fishery for blue catfish in Maryland at the next meeting.

Motions:

- No motions were made at this meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: July 9, 2025