

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR GEAR — Haul Seines

1) The department intends to establish notification procedures for commercially fishing with haul seines on the weekend.

Natural Resources Article, §4-713, Annotated Code of Maryland prohibits the use of haul seines on weekends, but allows some exceptions as long as the department creates a procedure that requires the licensee to notify the department before harvesting. A licensee may haul seine for carp on the weekend in Baltimore County or Harford County and they may haul seine for gizzard shad, carp, or catfish on the weekend in Kent County if they notify the department.

The department intends to create a regulation that requires harvesters to call the Natural Resources Police communications center at least one day prior to the activity taking place. This is the same process for notification that is required in other fisheries. By establishing this notification procedure, Natural Resources Police officers will be aware of the activity before it is legally conducted.

2) Housekeeping Change

The department needs to remove an antiquated requirement that a haul seine first be sealed by the department prior to its use. This requirement was removed from statute (Annotated Code of Maryland) in 2016, but was inadvertently never removed from regulation.