

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR LICENSING — Boat Decals

The department would like to authorize a boat owner to provide proof of purchase for a certain period of time to allow for a delay in shipping of fishing or crabbing boat decals. This change will be better for customers and help enforcement.

The department issues two types of special license decals that exempt all persons aboard from the requirement of possessing an individual license to fish or crab recreationally. These decals must be permanently affixed to a boat to be effective. An individual who purchases a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing decal or recreational crabbing boat decal does not receive a decal immediately if they purchase it from a location other than a Department of Natural Resources licensing service center. The department processes the request and mails the decal to the individual within ten days. The transaction is listed on the individual's license. The department would like to clarify the regulation to allow a licensee to provide proof of purchase for up to ten days in lieu of the decal being affixed to the boat. The individual who purchased the license decal must be present on the boat and be in possession of their license that shows the date the decal was purchased. If the purchaser is not on the boat, does not have the proof of purchase in possession, or more than ten days have passed, then the individuals on board must be licensed properly if they are engaging in fishing or crabbing activities.