

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR POUND NETS

The Department of Natural Resources would like to allow harvesters to share pound nets.

The department has been contacted by pound net fishermen about the possibility of allowing harvesters to share pound nets. Currently this is prohibited by regulation (Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.05.01A).

After a review of current laws we have concluded that by modifying the regulation, harvesters would be able to share pound nets by having the “co-user” listed in COMPASS at the time of registration and posted at the pound net site. A statement would be added to regulation that says the pound net applicant can denote "co-users" for the purpose of catching/carrying away fish from the net. Listing “co-users” will be done at the time of registration. The applicant will still be responsible for the net and all of the associated requirements. This will ensure that the department has one point of contact for the net and NRP will be able to know who is supposed to be using that net.