

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION PROTECTION ZONES

The department intends to update the delineations of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Protection Zones.

Updates to the zones are required by Natural Resources Article, §4-1006.1, Annotated Code of Maryland. Updates will be made to current SAV protection zones and new SAV protection zones will be created based on survey results completed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. As required by Natural Resources Article, §4-1006.1, Annotated Code of Maryland, no net loss or gain of protected area will occur and using a hydraulic clam dredge, bottom dredge or shinnecock rake in a submerged aquatic vegetation protection zone remains prohibited.

Expansion:

- Areas in protection zones located in St. Mary's River (St. Mary's) could be expanded

Areas to be added as submerged aquatic vegetation protection zones include:

- Portions of the Chester River (Kent and Queen Anne's)
- Portions of Eastern Bay (Queen Anne's and Talbot)
- Portions of Patuxent River near Broomes Island and Drum Pt. (Calvert)

Potential areas previously classified as submerged aquatic vegetation protection zones that may be removed and therefore opened to shellfish harvest include:

- Calvert Bay and Creek (St. Mary's)
- Areas surrounding Tilghman Island (Talbot)
- Areas surrounding Deal Island (Somerset)

Please see maps for areas being proposed for change.