



*Martin O'Malley, Governor*  
*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*  
*John R. Griffin, Secretary*  
*Eric Schwaab, Deputy Secretary*

### **Tri-Annual Fisheries Service Regulatory Scoping Public Meeting**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service will hold a Regulatory Scoping Public Meeting on September 15, 2009 at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis, MD 21401. All interested parties are invited to attend and give their views. Sign language interpreters and other appropriate accommodations will be provided upon request.

Tri-Annual Public Fisheries Regulatory Scoping Meetings are held to discuss possible changes to fishing rules. The public has the opportunity to comment at these meetings prior to the ideas becoming proposed regulations. Not all ideas scoped will become a proposed regulation. Draft regulatory ideas are posted on the Fisheries' Service website and comments are taken by email, fax, or mail by a specified date and at the Public Scoping Meeting.

If you are unable to attend this regulatory scoping meeting you may submit electronic comments on these regulatory ideas by going to the Fisheries Draft Regulations Website, [www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/draftregulations.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/draftregulations.html), mailing comments to Fisheries Regulations, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Ave., B-2, Annapolis, MD 21401, or by faxing them to 410-260-8310.

Once the Department proposes a regulation (based on ideas scoped at public meetings), there will be a public comment period on that proposal. Visit the Department's website to view current proposed regulations.

On September 15, the Department will be scoping regulatory ideas on the following topics.

#### **Housekeeping Draft Regulations** (minor corrections to regulation):

- Correct the terrapin regulation to match current law relating to the terrapin moratorium

#### **Regulatory Ideas**

- Correct commercial license targets as required by law and lower targets to remove excess licenses

#### **Draft Regulations** (draft regulations which have specific public feedback due dates):

*- **Separate Scoping meeting for: Aquaculture – creation of public shellfish fishery areas and new sanctuaries and administrative rules and fees for leasing as required by Senate Bill 271 -- These provisions are still under review and will be scoped later this year at a separate scoping meeting.***

- Point assignment for commercial fishery violations – new commercial three-tiered point system based on House Bill 1355 (feedback due by Sept. 17)

- Snapper/Grouper fishery complex designation as “In Need of Conservation” – places snapper and grouper species “in need of conservation” and creates regulations to manage the species. Regulations will be consistent with Virginia and South Atlantic states as part of a coast-wide state effort (feedback due by Sept. 17)

- Crabs – removing Limited Crab License latent effort by offering latent effort LCC license holders the option of freezing their license or being limited to male only harvest and adjusting the license number target; housekeeping correction on use of female peelers as bait (feedback due by Oct. 13)