

Tri-Annual Fisheries Service Regulatory Scoping Public Meeting

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service will hold a Regulatory Scoping Public Meeting on October 30, 2008 at 6pm 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.

The meeting is intended to inform the public of any regulations which the Fisheries Service may propose over the next several months and to get public feedback on those draft regulations. This meeting is not part of the official regulatory proposal process as required under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), State Government Article, §10-101 subseq., Annotated Code of Maryland. The meeting is part of a pre-regulatory informational process to gain a better understanding of the public's opinion. This process includes a tri-annual meeting to discuss upcoming proposals and web posting of unofficial drafts and explanations of upcoming regulatory proposals. The Department will take public feedback on these web posted draft regulations, which are not official proposed text. Draft regulations will be posted on <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/draftregulations.html>.

Possible Upcoming Regulations (Subject to Change):

Blue Crabs

-Crab pot line coordinates and housekeeping changes (2009 season changes will be discussed at separate public meetings)

Gear definitions

Oysters – Housekeeping cite change

Striped Bass

-housekeeping

-spring season changes approved by ASMFC

-commercial changes for 2009

Snapping Turtle

-commercial changes for 2009

Sharks

-Changes to the recreational and commercial fisheries required by ASMFC

Leasing – Coastal Bays

-Changes based on advisory commission report

Conch- size and season

Public feedback on draft regulations may be submitted electronically through the webpage, sent by fax to 410-260-8310 or by postal mail to Fisheries Service, ATTN: Sarah Widman, Tawes State Office Building B-2, 580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401.