MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

FISHING AND BOATING SERVICE UNIT
HYDROGRAPHIC OPERATIONS DIVISION ICEBREAKING OPERATIONS 2025 - 2026

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services will have three vessels available during the 2025 - 2026 ice season. The icebreaking schedule listed below is the basic guideline to start the season noting that changes to the schedule may occur based on the severity of ice incurred this season. A heavy ice season may restrict our ability to reach every area on a regular basis due to each vessel's icebreaking capabilities, USCG restrictions, weather conditions, tidal levels and the possible need to relocate vessels to areas of greater need.

Requests for service should be directed to Ken Choi of Hydrographic Operations at 410-643-6521 or by cell phone 443-775-0981. You can e-mail the office Kenneith.Choi@maryland.gov for specific instructions or emergencies. Information will be sent to the individual captains through our office. We are encouraging all commercial watermen to move their vessels to areas near our Icebreakers or NRP patrol boat stations prior to freezing conditions.

M/V EDDIE SOMERS - Captain Shawn Ridgley: 94' Buoy Tender, 1500 HP / (18") of icebreaking capability. Areas of responsibility will be Crisfield harbor; Small boat harbor; the east entrance in Smith Is.; Tylerton; Ewell; Deale Is. (Upper Thorofare); Nanticoke Harbor and Tedious Cr. to Lt. #1. The Somers will also assist the USCG with emergency fuel deliveries in the Wicomico and Nanticoke Rivers as necessary. Primary responsibility is providing an open channel to Smith Is.

M/V J.C. WIDENER - Captain Jeff Lill: 73' Buoy Tender 525 HP / (6-8") of icebreaking capability. Areas of responsibility will include Annapolis Harbor; Back Creek; South River; Spa Creek to Truxton Park; Magothy River to Deep Cr. #1; Severn River to the Rt. 50/301 bridge and West River to # 6 Councilors Pt.

M/V A.V. SANDUSKY- Captain Mike Simonsen: 80' Buoy Tender, 700 HP / (8") of icebreaking capability. Areas of responsibility will include Kent Narrows; Rock Hall; Chester River to Cedar Pt.; Miles River to St. Michaels; Eastern Bay and Tilghman Cr.