

GENERAL – Definition of Class A Vessel (Housekeeping)

What is being considered?

The Department is considering modifying its regulations to reflect the change in terminology regarding what were previously known as Class A vessels. Instead of using the term “Class A” the Department needs to change the descriptions to “a vessel less than 16 feet in length”. No actual rules regarding the operation of vessels are being considered in this change.

Why is this change being considered?

The Department has a number of regulations which refer to Class A vessels, which was terminology used by the United States Coast Guard to refer to a vessel less than 16 feet in length. The United States Coast Guard no longer uses that terminology, so the Department needs to revise the language in its regulations to reflect the new terminology. The Department is pursuing this change now because there were additional references in the Natural Resources Article of the Maryland Annotated Code that first needed to be corrected. During the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 719](#), which addressed those references. That bill will be effective on October 1, 2025.

Who will this affect?

No one. This is a housekeeping issue to update terminology.

When will this be effective?

The Department anticipates that this change could be effective in the winter of 2025-2026. The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) if this topic moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested individuals?

The idea was scoped with the Boat Act Advisory Committee at their meeting in May 2025.