

What is 2025 House Bill 893 and what does it do?

2025 [House Bill 893](#) changes the revocation provisions under Natural Resources Article, §4-1210, Annotated Code of Maryland. Originally adopted in 2012, this section of law provided for the revocation (permanent removal) of a licensee's oyster authorization based on certain criteria related to specific offenses. As amended by the General Assembly in 2025, the law will now provide for a 5-year suspension of an individual's oyster authorization and entitlement to engage in the fishery on a first offense under this section and a revocation of the individual's oyster authorization and entitlement to engage in the fishery in the case of a second or subsequent offense. The General Assembly also provided for the reinstatement of the entitlement to engage in the commercial oyster fishery for all individuals who had been revoked under this section, subject to certain limitations.

Who is allowed to re-enter the commercial oyster fishery under these new changes?

The reinstatement provisions under 2025 House Bill 893 only applies to individuals whose oyster authorizations and entitlement to engage in the commercial oyster fishery were revoked under Natural Resources Article, §4-1210, Annotated Code of Maryland. In order to re-enter the fishery, the revocation under Natural Resources § 4-1210 must have occurred at least five years prior to July 1, 2025 (the effective date of HB 893). Individuals who were revoked less than five years prior to July 1, 2025 may not re-enter the commercial oyster fishery until five years from the date of their original revocation.

For example, if an individual was revoked under Natural Resources § 4-1210 on July 1, 2018, that individual will be eligible to re-enter the commercial oyster fishery on July 1, 2025. If an individual was revoked under Natural Resources § 4-1210 on July 1, 2022, though, that individual is not eligible to re-enter the commercial oyster fishery until July 1, 2027 (five years from the date of the original revocation).

Individuals who have had any or all commercial fishing authorizations revoked under the points provisions authorized under Natural Resources Article, §4-701, Annotated Code of Maryland and enumerated at COMAR 08.02.13.02 and .03, are not eligible under 2025 House Bill 893 to re-enter the commercial oyster fishery. Additionally, if an individual was revoked out of any or all commercial fisheries by a District Court, separate from the Department's administrative penalty system, that individual is also not eligible to return to the commercial oyster fishery.

I'm still not sure if this applies to me – who can I talk to about my situation?

If you have questions about your specific situation and whether the provisions of HB 893 apply to you, please call the DNR Fisheries Penalties Hotline at 410-260-8274. When leaving a message, please make sure to include your name and a good number on which DNR can call you back.