

**Public Notice**  
**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Fishing and Boating Services**  
**Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Gear Modification –**  
**St. Jeromes Crossroads, LLC #552, St. Mary's County**

The Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), pursuant to Natural Resources Article, §4-11A-09(g), Annotated Code of Maryland, is giving notice of a proposed gear modification application for an existing shellfish aquaculture water column lease, SM 794, held by St. Jeromes Crossroads, LLC in the Chesapeake Bay near Dameron, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The existing 13.3-acre lease is located approximately 3,900' south of the inlet to Carroll Pond, and is enclosed by a line beginning at corner 1, at or near Lat. 38° 10' 3.0" N., Long. 76° 20' 31.6" W., then running 313° 28' (True), approximately 370 meters to corner 2 at or near Lat. 38° 10' 11.2" N., Long. 76° 20' 42.6" W., then running 36° 45' (True), approximately 132 meters to corner 3, at or near Lat. 38° 10' 14.7" N., Long. 76° 20' 39.4" W., then running 129° 15' (True), approximately 371 meters to corner 4, at or near Lat. 38° 10' 7.1" N., Long. 76° 20' 27.6" W., then running 217° 6' (True), approximately 159 meters to the point of beginning.

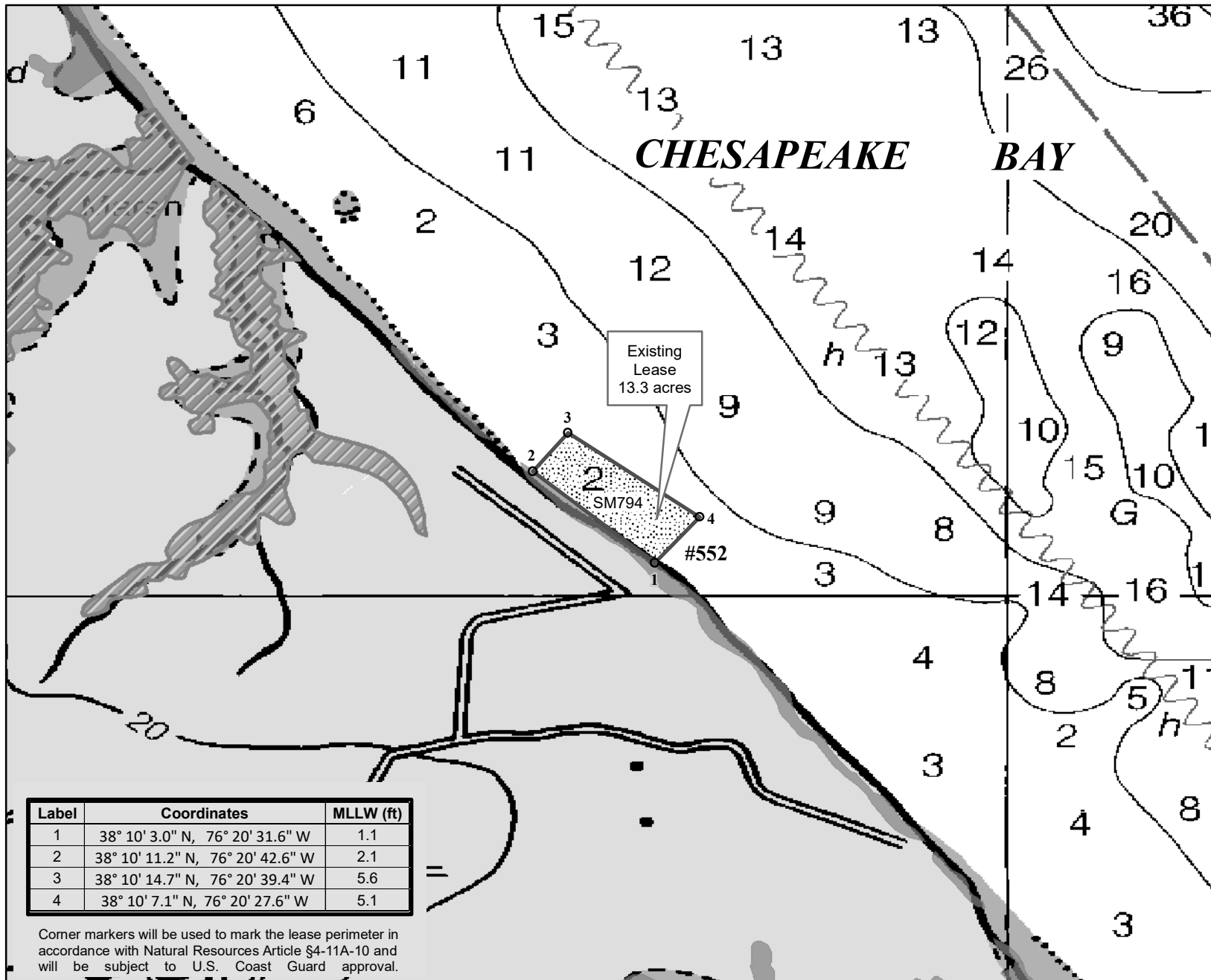
The leaseholder intends to continue use of currently approved rectangular floating cages, which may also be sunk to the bottom as needed, and proposes the addition of up to 2,400 cylindrical hanging basket-style containers suspended in rows by a system of adjustable-height horizontal longlines running parallel to shore. Each row of baskets would consist of several 300-foot sections of line affixed at the ends to either a pier (subject to separate approval and construction) or a 6 to 9-inch diameter piling. Smaller, 3-inch diameter posts would be spaced approximately every 10 feet along each longline section to support the horizontal lines; the position (depth) of the baskets within the water column will vary as the lines are raised or lowered along the pilings and posts. Both gear types are proposed to be deployed concurrently within the lease. The applicant plans to continue culturing Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), and to harvest using methods approved by the Department. Lease corners will continue be marked in accordance with Code of Maryland Regulation. A map of the lease area is available on the Fishing and Boating Services Public Notice web page, [dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/Pub\\_Notices.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/Pub_Notices.aspx).

The Department will hold a public informational meeting upon written request from a member of the public. In addition, any person who has a specific right, duty, privilege, or interest that is different from that held by the general public and may be adversely affected by the proposed gear modification may file a Petition of Protest with the Department. Petitions that meet the requirements of Natural Resources Article §4-11A-09(g) shall be forwarded to the Office of Administrative Hearings for adjudication. Comments, written requests for a public informational meeting, and/or Petitions of Protest, must pertain only to the proposed gear modification, rather than the existing lease footprint or currently authorized lease activities, and must be received by the Department of Natural Resources Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division 580 Taylor Avenue E-4 Annapolis, MD 21401 by August 19, 2024. For questions about the project or the public notice, please contact the DNR Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division at [aquaculturepubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:aquaculturepubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov) or 410-260-8252.

**Josh Kurtz, Secretary**  
**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

# Proposed Shellfish Water Column Lease Gear Modification NAV Chart Map

St. Jeromes Crossroads, LLC #552 - Chesapeake Bay, St. Mary's County, Maryland



Lease Area shown over NOAA Raster Navigational Charts.

- Proposed Gear Modification Area
- Land-Based Sanctuaries and Refuges (state, federal, private, etc)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (VIMS)
- Structures (Piers, Marinas, etc)
- Wetlands of Special State Concern (MD-DNR)
- Active Shellfish Lease
- Proposed Shellfish Lease
- Tidal Wetlands (NWI Wetlands) (excludes E1 type)



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



Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Center for Geospatial Products and Services  
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410-260-8985 or 1-877-620-8DNR x8985  
dnr.maryland.gov  
DNR May 2024

0 1,150 2,300 4,600 6,900 9,200 Feet