

Public Notice
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Gear Modification –
Lee R. Beauchamp & Matthew R. Holloway #595, Worcester 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, WO 570, held by Lee R. Beauchamp and Matthew R. Holloway in Chincoteague Bay, Worcester County, Maryland. The existing 1.1-acre lease is located approximately 1,500 feet northeast of channel marker "1", and is enclosed by a line beginning at corner 1, at or near Lat. 38° 9' 8.4" N., Long. 75° 16' 31.2" W., then running 271° 34' (True), approximately 92 meters to corner 2, at or near Lat. 38° 9' 8.5" N., Long. 75° 16' 35.0" W., then running 357° 46' (True), approximately 46 meters to corner 3, at or near Lat. 38° 9' 10.0" N., Long. 75° 16' 35.1" W., then running 88° 46' (True), approximately 96 meters to corner 4, at or near Lat. 38° 9' 10.1" N., Long. 75° 16' 31.2" W., then running 181° 20' (True), approximately 51 meters to the point of beginning.

The leaseholders propose to cease the use of currently approved cages on bottom, and instead deploy two types of floating cage gear arranged in rows approximately 160 feet in length that are marked at each end with low drag buoys. The applicants propose to cultivate and harvest both Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and Atlantic bay scallops (*Argopecten irradians*) using methods approved by the Department. Lease corners will continue to be marked in accordance with Code of Maryland Regulation 08.02.23.03. A map of the existing lease area is available on the Fishing and Boating Services Public Notice web page, 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 July 28th, 2025. For questions about the project or the public notice, please contact the DNR Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division at 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

Lee R. Beauchamp & Matthew R. Holloway #595 - Chincoteague Bay, Worcester County, Maryland

