

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Commercial Cobia Season — Effective 11/12/2020

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the re-opening of the commercial cobia season in Maryland waters following the closure of the commercial fishery in Federal waters. Notwithstanding Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.02.05.17B(3), the commercial cobia season in Maryland waters will re-open at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, November 12, 2020. The season will remain open unless closed by a future public notice.

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

This action is necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Cobia. Current regulation closes the commercial cobia season in state waters when federal waters close. Even though there is still quota available, due to a delay in federal rulemaking the federal season was closed on November 6, 2020. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has communicated that states are not currently required to close their waters to harvest. Therefore, the department must issue a public notice in order to re-open the commercial cobia season in state waters.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This applies to all individuals who catch cobia commercially in Maryland state waters.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.05.17

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Secretary of Natural Resources