

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Partial Opening of Upper Chesapeake Bay to Oyster Harvest — Effective 10/1/2021

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces that oyster harvest areas in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries north of the northernmost span of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge are open to all oyster harvest except as provided in the closure area below. This notice supersedes all notices effective prior to October 1, 2021 affecting oyster harvest areas north of the northernmost span of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge. This notice does not open any areas which are leased for aquaculture, closed to oyster harvest by the Maryland Department of Environment or are designated as a submerged aquatic vegetation protection zone, harvest reserve area, or oyster sanctuary.

CLOSURE AREA

The Chester River is closed to all oyster harvest:

1. Upstream of the Lower Chester River Sanctuary, defined by a line from Panhandle Point defined by Lat. 39°0.936' N, Long. 76°13.444' W; then running 188° True to Long Point defined by Lat. 38°58.798' N, Long. 76°13.825' W; and
2. North of the northernmost span of the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) Bridge and south of a line from a point on the shore at Long Point defined by Lat. 38°58.798' N, Long. 76°13.825' W; then running 272° True to a point on shore at Ferry Point defined by Lat. 38°58.819' N, Long. 76°14.626' W.

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE

The purpose of the partial opening is to allow the harvest of market size oysters from areas that have largely been closed for the last two years. The continued closure of the Chester River is necessary due to low abundance of oysters, low natural spat set, and potential impacts of persistently low salinity levels.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This notice applies to all individuals who catch oysters recreationally or commercially.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice is effective at 12:01 a.m. October 1, 2021. A portion of the closure area may be opened in a future notice.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.11G

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fishing and Boating Services at 410-260-8302

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Secretary of Natural Resources