

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**The Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Fishing and Boating Services**  
*Opening of Upper Chesapeake Bay to Oyster Harvest — Effective 11/29/2021*

**WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES**

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces that all oyster harvest areas in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries north of the northernmost spans of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge and the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) Bridge are open to oyster harvest. This notice supersedes all notices effective prior to November 29, 2021 affecting oyster harvest areas north of the northernmost spans of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge and the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) 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.

**PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE**

All oyster harvest areas in the described area except for those in the Chester River were previously opened. The purpose of this opening is to allow the harvest of market-sized oysters from numerous planted areas in the Chester River that have largely been closed for the last two years. This opening was requested by both the Kent County and Queen Anne's County oyster committees. Based on Department survey work, there are enough market-sized oysters to support this opening.

**WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS**

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This notice is effective at sunrise November 29, 2021.

**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