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 an application for a shellfish aquaculture water column lease by Richard Smith in the Choptank River, Dorchester County, Maryland, located north northeast of Cook Point Cove and approximately 1,900 feet east northeast of channel marker “2”. The area applied for contains 3.2 acres more or less and is enclosed by a line beginning at corner 1, at or near Lat. 38° 37' 33.6" N., Long. 76° 15' 46.9" W., then running 333° 52' (True), approximately 113 meters to corner 2, at or near Lat. 38° 37' 36.8" N., Long. 76° 15' 49.1" W., then running 64° 46' (True), approximately 116 meters to corner 3, at or near Lat. 38° 37' 38.5" N., Long. 76° 15' 44.7" W., then running 154° 43' (True), approximately 106 meters to corner 4, at or near Lat. 38° 37' 35.4" N., Long. 76° 15' 42.8" W., then running 240° 5' (True), approximately 115 meters to the point of beginning.

The applicant proposes to place cages on bottom up to a maximum of 15 inches high for the purpose of culturing Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), and to harvest using methods approved by the Department. A map of the proposed lease is attached.

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 lease 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 public informational meetings, and/or Petitions of Protest must be received by the Department of Natural Resources Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division 580 Taylor Avenue E-4 Annapolis, MD 21401 by November 19, 2018.

For questions about the project or the public notice please contact Rebecca Thur at the DNR Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division at rebecca.thur@maryland.gov or 410-260-8252.

Mark J. Belton  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Corner markers will be used to mark the lease perimeter in accordance with Natural Resources Article §4-11A-10 and will be subject to U.S. Coast Guard approval.