PUBLIC NOTICE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES APPLICATION FOR SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASE – ST. JEROMES CROSSROADS, LLC

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 St. Jeromes Crossroads, LLC in the Chesapeake Bay, St. Mary's County, Maryland, located just offshore of property owned by the applicant approximately midway between Carroll Pond and St. Clarence Creek. The area applied for contains 13.3 acres more or less and is enclosed by a line beginning at corner 1, at or near Lat. 38° 10' 3.0" N., Long. 76° 20' 31.6" W., then running 313° 28' (True), approximately 370 meters to corner 2 at or near Lat. 38° 10' 11.2" N., Long. 76° 20' 42.6" W., then running 36° 45' (True), approximately 132 meters to corner 3, at or near Lat. 38° 10' 14.7" N., Long. 76° 20' 39.4" W., then running 129° 15' (True), approximately 371 meters to corner 4, at or near Lat. 38° 10' 7.1" N., Long. 76° 20' 27.6" W., then running 217° 6' (True), approximately 159 meters to the point of beginning.

The applicant proposes to deploy a combination of floating cages and cages on bottom up to a maximum of 24 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 October 29, 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

