

Proposed Action on Regulations

For information concerning citizen participation in the regulation-making process, see inside front cover.

Symbol Key

- Roman type indicates existing text of regulation.
- *Italic type* indicates proposed new text.
- [Single brackets] indicate text proposed for deletion.

Promulgation of Regulations

An agency wishing to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations must first publish in the Maryland Register a notice of proposed action, a statement of purpose, a comparison to federal standards, an estimate of economic impact, an economic impact on small businesses, a notice giving the public an opportunity to comment on the proposal, and the text of the proposed regulations. The opportunity for public comment must be held open for at least 30 days after the proposal is published in the Maryland Register.

Following publication of the proposal in the Maryland Register, 45 days must pass before the agency may take final action on the proposal. When final action is taken, the agency must publish a notice in the Maryland Register. Final action takes effect 10 days after the notice is published, unless the agency specifies a later date. An agency may make changes in the text of a proposal. If the changes are not substantive, these changes are included in the notice of final action and published in the Maryland Register. If the changes are substantive, the agency must repropose the regulations, showing the changes that were made to the originally proposed text.

Proposed action on regulations may be withdrawn by the proposing agency any time before final action is taken. When an agency proposes action on regulations, but does not take final action within 1 year, the proposal is automatically withdrawn by operation of law, and a notice of withdrawal is published in the Maryland Register.

Title 08

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle 02 FISHERIES SERVICE

08.02.03 Blue Crabs

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§ 4-215 and 4-803, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[21-198-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulations **.01**, **.09**, and **.11** under **COMAR 08.02.03 Blue Crabs**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to modify the commercial trotline time restrictions in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries and clarify rules for the recreational use of certain gears.

The action modifies the commercial trotline time restrictions in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries for the months of April, October, November, and December, based on feedback from the Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee. The current harvest times for those months with trotline gear is from sunrise to 10 hours after sunrise. The advisory committee recommended shifting the harvest period back by 1/2 hour. The new harvest period proposed in this action is from a half-hour before sunrise to 9-1/2 hours after sunrise. It is not anticipated that this shift would change the total amount of harvest.

The action will also clarify the rules pertaining to the use of handlines and eel pots. With regards to handlines, the Department is clarifying that handlines are not intended to be buoyed. The Department is also clarifying that eel pots must be used only to harvest eels for bait and are not legal crabbing gear. Both of these changes are being proposed due to repeated inquiries from the public and the Department's desire to provide the clearest possible rules to the recreational crabbing community.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Blue Crab Trotline Time Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Ave., E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or complete the comment form at <https://dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx#bcra btrot>. Comments will be accepted through January 3, 2022. A virtual public hearing will be held on December 8, 2021, at 1 p.m., via Google Meet at <http://meet.google.com/bya-rupm-gve>. To join by phone, please dial: (US) +1 475-441-8366; PIN: 226 054 964#.

.01 Crabbing Gear.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Recreational Gear—Definitions.

(1)—(5) (text unchanged)

(6) "Handline" means [a] *an unbuoyed fishing line managed primarily by hand.*

(7)—(8) (text unchanged)

C. (text unchanged)

.09 Recreational Crabbing Licenses — Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries.

A. Recreational Crabbing License.

(1) Except as provided in §E of this regulation, an individual who catches or attempts to catch crabs for recreational purposes in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries shall pay the fee and obtain a recreational crabbing license in order to use the following gear to catch crabs:

(a)—(b) (text unchanged)

(c) Up to ten eel pots for catching the individual's own bait, which are:

- (i) Clearly labeled with the individual's name; [and]
- (ii) (text unchanged)
- (iii) *Used only for catching eels; and*

(d) (text unchanged)

(2)—(3) (text unchanged)

B.—F. (text unchanged)

.11 Season and Time for Catching Crabs.

A. Commercial.

(1) An individual licensed to catch crabs for sale may remove crabs from commercial gear in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries only during the following time periods:

(a) Trotlines:

(i) (text unchanged)

(ii) *Between 1/2 hour before sunrise and [10] 9-1/2 hours after sunrise during April, October, November, and December; and*

(iii) (text unchanged)

(b)—(c) (text unchanged)

(2)—(5) (text unchanged)

B.—C. (text unchanged)

JEANNIE HADDAWAY-RICCIO
Secretary of Natural Resources

**Title 20
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

Subtitle 51 ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS

Notice of Proposed Action

[21-194-P]

The Maryland Public Service Commission proposes to amend:

(1) Regulation **.02** under **COMAR 20.51.01 General Provisions**;

(2) Regulations **.01**, **.02**, **.07**, and **.08** under **COMAR 20.51.02 Administrative Provisions**; and

(3) Regulations **.01**, **.03**, and **.05** under **COMAR 20.51.03 Electricity Supplier License Requirements**.

This action was considered by the Maryland Public Service Commission at a scheduled rule-making (RM 70) meeting held on March 10, 2021, notice of which was given under General Provisions Article, §3-302, Annotated Code of Maryland.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to:

(1) Specify additional circumstances considered material changes requiring updated information in the case of supplier-consolidated billing;

(2) Require revision to supplier's updated bond for prepayments at earlier than 6 months, if required;

(3) Clarify actions required or allowed upon cessation of supplier-consolidated billing; and

(4) Adopt regulations governing the licensing of electricity suppliers authorized to perform supplier-consolidated billing by requiring:

(a) A separate electricity supplier license for those who provide supplier-consolidated billing;

(b) That an applicant for a license to provide supplier-consolidated billing certify that the applicant will comply with all

statutes and regulatory requirements applicable to utility and supplier billing and charges;

(c) That an applicant will maintain call center operations, a complaint resolution process, an ongoing quality assurance program that documents the accuracy of customer bills; and

(d) Additional proof of financial integrity.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. The implementation of supplier-consolidated billing will have a cost impact to customers in Maryland for the electric investor-owned utilities to upgrade their IT systems to enable supplier-consolidated billing. These costs will either be recovered from the retail electricity suppliers or Maryland electric customers. If costs are recovered from retail electricity suppliers, then the cost of the program would not be borne entirely by rate payers since the supplier may choose not to pass the full cost of the program onto customers in order to provide more competitive rates. If costs are recovered directly from customers, then there will be approximately \$20.14 million in costs plus unknown costs for a return and customer education.

While there will be costs for retail electricity suppliers to participate in supplier-consolidated billing, this will be the choice of each retail electricity supplier. Additionally, a supplier may or may not recover programming costs from customers since the supplier's rates must be set competitively to attract customers. Therefore, their costs are not included within the analysis. The economic impact provided is for the entire supplier-consolidated billing program and is not for any one part of the supplier-consolidated billing regulation.

II. Types of Economic Impact.	Revenue (R+/R-)	Magnitude
	Expenditure (E+/E-)	
A. On issuing agency:	NONE	
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	
	Benefit (+) Cost (-)	Magnitude
D. On regulated industries or trade groups:	(-)	\$20,140,000
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:	NONE	

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A. The issuing agency will review and approve applications submitted by suppliers to receive licenses to provide supplier-consolidated billing. The issuing agency may be required to handle customer complaints, enforcement actions, and other market monitoring efforts, but this is not anticipated to increase costs.

B. There is no anticipated action necessary for another State agency for the implementation and operations of supplier-consolidated billing.