

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Proposed action on regulations may be withdrawn by the proposing agency any time before final action is taken.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an agency proposes action on regulations, but does not take final action within 1 year, the proposal is automatically withdrawn by operation of law, and a notice of withdrawal is published in the Maryland Register.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

08.02.01 General

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §4-407, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-051-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .13 under COMAR 08.02.01 General.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to remove two Fishery Management Public Fishing Areas (FMAs) from COMAR. The Department formally transferred ownership of Bynum Run Pond and Forest Hill Lake FMAs to the Harford County Government on December 17, 2025. As a result of the transfer, the Department no longer manages the areas. Therefore, the proposed action removes both areas from the list of Fishery Management Public Fishing Areas described in COMAR 08.02.01.13.

When the properties were transferred, the determination of public access hours and associated lawful uses were also transferred to the county. However, covenants in the existing deeds for both areas require the county to maintain public and fishing access. The covenants require that the lands be used for public fishing and recreation. The Department included additional language in the deed of conveyance stating that the Department shall have access to inspect the operation and maintenance, as well as the ability to enforce the covenants.

The areas were transferred to the county because Harford County Parks and Recreation has successfully managed the upkeep of both Bynum Run Park and Forest Hill Lake for roughly 3 decades. Community members frequently use the parks, which are considered integral public spaces. Given ongoing and future management by the

Harford County Government, the Department viewed the formal transfer of ownership as a logical step. Since both areas will continue to be managed as public fishing areas with Department oversight over fisheries resources, there will be no effect on the public.

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 FMA Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov or complete the comment form at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/regulations/changes.aspx#bynum>. Comments will be accepted through June 29, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.13 Fishery Management Areas.

A.—B. (text unchanged)

C. Fishery Management Public Fishing Areas.

(1) The following areas are Fishery Management Public Fishing Areas:

(a)—(b) (text unchanged)

[(c) Bynum Run Pond — Harford County;]

[(d)] (c) (text unchanged)

[(e) Forest Hill Lake — Harford County;]

[(f)] (d)—[(p)] (n) (text unchanged)

(2)—(5) (text unchanged)

D.—E. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources