and ice cover, meaning that it is likely they would be able to survive a Maryland winter and expand throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed if given the opportunity. On the human health side, swamp eels are a common source of human gnathostomiasis (a parasitic infection) and have been observed to contain a high parasite load including nematodes, acanthocephalans, and digenean parasites. Although impacts to invaded areas outside of Maryland have been relatively minimal, swamp eels can attain large size (up to 1 meter in length) and prey on a variety of organisms, and it is possible that impacts have been underreported. The risk analysis that was run on the entire family determined that there is a high risk of invasiveness due to environmental and climate matching, indicating most of Maryland is suitable for establishment by these species.

Waterwheel

It is necessary to list waterwheel as a species which a person may not import, transport, purchase, possess, propagate, sell, or release into State waters based on the results of the Department's risk assessment. Waterwheel is a carnivorous, perennial, free-floating, rootless aquatic herbaceous plant, with a simple or sparsely branched stem possessing successive whorls of bristled, prey-catching leaves. It is native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia, has been grown by carnivorous plant enthusiasts in outdoor ponds since the 1980s and was introduced/reported from the wild in the U.S. as early as 1999. Waterwheel has been found in Virginia and has shown highly invasive tendencies there. This species' primary method of reproduction is vegetative, with individual plants growing continuously in the right conditions and doubling in mass in as little as 12 days. It forms dormant buds called "turions" that sink to the bottom of the waterbody to overwinter, with new plants growing from these structures in the spring. Whole plants, plant fragments, or turions may be transported by birds, flowing water, or boats and other contaminated recreation equipment. If it becomes established, it may have a significant impact on invertebrate and zooplankton communities, with individual plants containing as many as 200 traps that have a capture efficiency of up to 40 percent. As such, waterwheel may compete with native aquatic carnivorous plants, and could reduce populations of rare aquatic invertebrates through predation, especially in sensitive aquatic habitats. Additionally, thick growth of waterwheel could shade out native aquatic macrophytes and may even clog waterways used for fishing, boating, and irrigation. If this species expands beyond its currently limited U.S. populations and continues to find the same levels of success, then it could prove itself to be a damaging aquatic invader. Listing it in the most restrictive category of nuisance species will hopefully deter this outcome.

Other Housekeeping Changes

It is necessary to make technical changes based on updated science on currently-listed species. Specifically, this action updates the scientific name of Alabama bass from "Micropterus hensalli" to "Micropterus henshalli"; removes the scientific name "Notropis lutrensis" from the listing for red shiner; updates the scientific name of rusty crayfish from "Orconectes rusticus" to "Faxonius rusticus"; updates the scientific name of virile crayfish from "Orconectes virilis" to "Faxonius virilis"; and includes "Trapa bispinosa" as a species of water chestnut. These changes reflect corrected spelling and update how these species are categorized.

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 Regulations for Nuisance Species List , Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to fishereispubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov or complete the comment form at https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx. Comments will be accepted through November 30, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.04 Classification of Nonnative Aquatic Organisms.

A. A person may not import, transport, purchase, possess, propagate, sell, or release into State waters the following nonnative aquatic organisms:

(1) Fish species:

(a) Alabama bass (Micropterus [hensalli] *henshalli*);

(b) (text unchanged)

[(c) Asian swamp eel (Monoterus albus);**]**

[(d)**]** *(c)*—**[**(e)**]** *(d)* (text unchanged)

[(f) Candiru (Vandellia cirrhosa);**]**

[(g)**]** *(e)* (text unchanged)

(f) Chinese pond mussel (Sinanodonta woodiana);

[(h)**]** *(g)*—**[**(l)**]** *(k)* (text unchanged)

[(m)**]** *(l)* Red shiner (**[**Notropis lutrensis,**]** Cyprinella lutrensis);

[(n)**]** *(m)*—**[**(o)**]** *(n)* (text unchanged)

[(p)**]** *(o)* Rusty crayfish (**[**Orconectes**]** *Faxonius* rusticus);

[(q)**]** *(p)*—**[**(r)**]** *(q)* (text unchanged)

(r) Swamp eel (Synbranchidae sp.);

(s)—(u) (text unchanged)

(2) Aquatic plant species:

(a) Giant salvinia (Salvinia molesta); **[**and**]**

(b) Green Caulerpa seaweed (Caulerpa taxifolia)**[**.**]** *; and*

(c) Waterwheel (Aldrovanda vesiculosa).

B. A person may not transport the following nonnative aquatic organisms:

(1) Fish species:

(a)—(g) (text unchanged)

(h) Virile crayfish (**[**Orconectes**]** *Faxonius* virilis); and

(2) Aquatic plant species:

(a)—(c) (text unchanged)

(d) Water chestnut (Trapa natans; *Trapa bispinosa*).

C.—D. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources

08.02.19 Nuisance and Prohibited Species

Authority: Natural Resources Article. §4-205.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-144-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to adopt new Regulation **.08** under **COMAR 08.02.19 Nuisance and Prohibited Species**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to establish regulations that allow the Department to conduct pilot projects for nuisance organisms. Natural Resources Article, §4-201.5, Annotated Code of Maryland, states that the Secretary may adopt regulations to conduct pilot projects to demonstrate and evaluate new approaches for the management and control of nuisance organisms. The proposed action establishes the rules for both the Department and participants.

The first pilot project that the Department intends to conduct is to allow a commercial licensee to sell invasive fish species (e.g., blue

catfish, flathead catfish, and Northern snakehead (Channa argus, commonly known as Chesapeake Channa in Maryland)) that are collected in a fish lift. Fish lift operations at the Conowingo Dam in the lower Susquehanna River have successfully removed thousands of Northern snakehead and flathead catfish from the Susquehanna River and upper Chesapeake Bay. With significant Department involvement, these fish are euthanized and given to fish processors to prepare for human consumption. However, this process depends upon tenuous federal funding and state resources. After the promulgation of these regulations, a pilot project will be conducted to determine the best path forward that ensures the long-term beneficial use of invasive fishes caught in fish lifts.

The proposed action allows the Department to carry out its mission to protect natural resources within the guidelines of the State's Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan and allows the Department to explore ways to minimize the burden of reducing the influence and biomass of aquatic invasive species to Department resources.

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 Pilot Program for Nuisance Species Regulations, Regulatory Staff, 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. Comments will be accepted through November 30, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.08 Pilot Program.

A. The Department may conduct pilot projects to demonstrate and evaluate new approaches for the management and control of nuisance organisms.

B. The Department may select and designate certain persons to participate in a pilot project.

C. An individual shall apply for a pilot program permit on a form provided by the Department.

D. A participant shall:

(1) Have a pilot program permit in order to participate in a pilot project;

(2) Comply with any conditions of the permit; and

(3) Be eliminated from the pilot project at the discretion of the Department.

E. The Department shall:

(1) Develop pilot projects in cooperation with the appropriate advisory bodies created under Natural Resources Article, Title 4, Annotated Code of Maryland;

(2) Prepare a written evaluation of the pilot project to be included in the annual Fisheries Management Plan report to the General Assembly; and

(3) Provide adequate notice of a pilot project through various media so that an interested individual has a reasonable opportunity to be informed.

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources

Title 09
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Subtitle 03 COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

09.03.14 Money Transmitters

Authority: Financial Institutions Article, §§2-105.1 *and 12-403*, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-186-P]

The Commissioner of Financial Regulation proposes to amend Regulations **.01**, **.16**, and **.17** under **COMAR 09.03.14 Money Transmitters**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to exclude payroll processors from the definition of money transmitter under certain circumstances pursuant to Ch. 20 (H.B. 0118), Acts of 2026. This action establishes the reporting procedure by adding:

(1) Definitions for certain undefined terms for what a "Qualified Payroll Services Provider" is; and

(2) An exclusion for a "Qualified Payroll Services Provider" from money transmission.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. The economic impact of the proposed action is expected to be low.

II. Types of Economic Impact.

Impacted Entity	Revenue (R+/R-) Expenditure (E+/E-)	Magnitude
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:		
Payroll Processors	(+)	Minimal
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:		
Employees and Workers	(-)	Minimal

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

D. The proposed action provides no additional benefit beyond what was established in the statute.

F. It is expected that the public will receive no additional cost beyond what was established by the statute.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

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