

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS — OUT-OF-STATE FINFISH SUPPLIERS

What is being considered?

The department would like to remove the requirement that an individual submit an application for an out-of-state finfish supplier permit at least 45 days in advance of needing the permit. A person will still have to complete an application prior to supplying finfish to someone in Maryland, but the specific timeframe will be removed.

Why is this change necessary?

Due to the implementation of an electronic application process, this requirement is no longer necessary. Department staff are now able to issue a permit within days after receiving an application, provided that all the required supporting documentation is supplied with the application. This change will simplify the process for out-of-State suppliers and Maryland constituents that have submitted pond stocking permit requests and will provide flexibility for new suppliers to quickly enter the market.

Who will this affect?

Anyone who wants to provide finfish from out-of-state to anyone in Maryland who plans to release the finfish into Maryland waters.

When will this be effective?

The department expects this change to be effective in the spring of 2020, however the exact date cannot be determined at this time. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

This idea is in the scoping process (October 25—November 10). During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a fishery problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed. After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

If the action is necessary and appropriate, the rules will be promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal is printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register.
- A 30 day public comment period begins on the day of publication.
- After review of the comments, the Department may adopt the changes.
- If the department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

Has this change been discussed with advisory commissions?

Yes. The change was scoped at the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting on October 22, 2019 and at the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting on October 24, 2019.