

PROPOSED ACTION ON REGULATIONS

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(b) In addition to the requirements in §§B(1) and (2) of this regulation, when using fish, crabs, or worms as bait, or processed bait, shall only use a:

(i) Circle hook; or

(ii) "J" hook with a gap of less than or equal to 1/2 inch between the point and the shank.]

[5)] (4) (text unchanged)

C.—D. (text unchanged)

E. Active Line Fishing Gear.

(1)—(4) (text unchanged)

(5) During the period March 1 through [March 31] *May 15*, no more than six lines, regardless of the number of people on board a vessel, may be used for recreationally angling from a boat when trolling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries.

[6) During the period April 1 through May 15, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries may not attempt to catch fish by trolling.]

F.—I. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources

08.02.08 Shellfish—General

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§4-743 and 4-11A-13, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-278-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .01 under **COMAR 08.02.08 Shellfish-General**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to update the definition of shellfish to reflect a change made by the Maryland General Assembly in the 2024 Legislative Session (2024 Md. Laws, Chap. 114). Specifically, the proposed action removes the list of species and their shells from the definition and replaces the list with the phrase "live bivalves and bivalve shells."

The regulation requires an individual to obtain a permit prior to importing shellfish. Updating the definition to mean live bivalves and bivalve shells ensures that any imported shellfish or shells, regardless of the species, are free of pathogens and will not endanger shellfish in Maryland. It also reduces confusion regarding when an import permit is required.

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 Shellfish-General (Definitions) 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#shelldef>. Comments will be accepted through February 23, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.01 Importation of Shellfish.

A. Definition.

(1) In this regulation, the *following term has the meaning stated* [term "shellfish" includes live oysters, seed oysters, oyster shells, live hard-shell clams, live soft-shell clams, and clam shells].

(2) *Term Defined.* "Shellfish" means live bivalves and bivalve shells.

B. Permit Required. A person may not import or possess within the State shellfish taken from waters outside the waters of the State for planting in the waters of the State, unless [he] *they* first obtains a permit from the Department. The Department shall issue a permit if presented with proof satisfactory to the Department that the shellfish will not be harmful to Maryland shellfish.

C. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

08.18.16 Nanticoke River

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and 8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-270-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .02 under **COMAR 08.18.16 Nanticoke River**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to combine two existing speed zones in Marshyhope Creek, a tributary of the Nanticoke River, into one continuous speed zone. Currently, there is a small seasonal (March 1 through June 15) minimum wake speed zone in the lower Marshyhope Creek adjacent to a larger year-round minimum wake speed zone in the upper Marshyhope Creek. The proposed action combines the areas and increases the speed limit for the entire area to 6 knots at all times. The proposed action addresses the need to clarify and simplify the speed zones on Marshyhope Creek.

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 Nanticoke River Boating 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 boatingpubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov, or complete the comment form at https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/regulations/changes_boating.aspx#dorchester. Comments will be accepted through February 23, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.02 Marshyhope Creek.

A. [Lower Marshyhope Creek encompasses the area] *Area. All of the waters upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 39.680' N., Long. 75° 47.815' W., then running 147° [True] to a point[,] at or near Lat. 38° 39.653' N., Long. 75° 47.793' W[,]*, then running 99° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 39.625' N., Long. 75° 47.570' W., then running 180° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38°