

08.02.05 Fish

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

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-058-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation **.16** under **COMAR 08.02.05 Fish**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to update the rules for red drum. Specifically, the proposed action increases the recreational catch and possession limit from one to three per person per day, decreases the recreational maximum size limit from 27 inches to 26 inches total length, and adds the ability for the Department to modify catch limits, size limits, and seasons for red drum to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum by issuing a public notice on the Department’s website.

All of the changes are necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum (FMP). The creel and size limits are specifically required by Addendum II to Amendment 2 to the FMP and adding the public notice provision would allow the Department to make changes in a timely manner if future actions are taken by ASMFC. A public notice would also be disseminated through various other media (social media, email lists, publishing in the Maryland Register, etc.) so that an affected individual has a reasonable opportunity to be informed.

In October 2025, the Sciaenids Management Board (Board) approved Addendum II to Amendment 2 to the FMP. The Addendum updates red drum management, with the goal of improving efficiency, flexibility, and timeliness in implementation of new regulations and providing assessment advice. In addition, the Addendum aligns red drum recreational regulations in Virginia, Maryland, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) given their shared water bodies. The Board agreed to the following recreational measures for Virginia, Maryland and the PRFC: three-fish bag limit and an 18-26 inch total length slot. These measures are meant to simplify management and enforcement in the shared waterbodies of the three jurisdictions.

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 Red Drum 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 google comment form at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/regulations/changes.aspx#reddrum>. Comments will be accepted through June 29, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.16 Red Drum.

A. Recreational Fishery.

(1) A person may not catch or possess red drum less than 18 inches in total length or greater than [27] 26 inches in total length.

(2) A person may not catch or possess more than [one] three red drum per day.

B. (text unchanged)

C. Public Notice.

(1) The Secretary may establish or modify catch limits, size limits, or seasons for red drum to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum by issuing a public notice on the Department’s website.

(2) The public notice shall state its effective hour and date and shall be published on the Department’s website at least 48 hours in advance of the effective hour and date.

(3) The Secretary shall make a reasonable effort to disseminate a public notice issued under this section through various other media so that an affected individual has a reasonable opportunity to be informed.

(4) A violation of the restrictions set by the Secretary in accordance with this section is a violation of this regulation.

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 03 WILDLIFE

08.03.10 General Wildlife Hunting Regulations

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§10-205 and 10-408, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-053-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation **.09** under **COMAR 08.03.10 General Wildlife Hunting Regulations**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to allow hunters with a Universal Disability Pass to use a straight-walled cartridge rifle in place of a muzzleloader when hunting from a vehicle during the designated deer muzzleloader season.

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 Brian Eyler, Wildlife and Heritage Services, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 14038 Blairs Valley Road, Clear Spring, MD 21722, or call 301-842-0332, or email to brian.eyler@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through June 29, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.09 Special Permit — Disabled Persons.

A.—D. (text unchanged)

E. A permittee may use a straight-walled cartridge rifle as defined by COMAR 08.03.01(B)(35) when hunting from a vehicle during the designated deer muzzleloader season.

[E]F. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources