

SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) PROTECTION ZONES

Housekeeping

What was proposed?

The Department has proposed revising the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Zones in order to correct two minor mistakes which have resulted in the proper areas not being identified. In Worcester County, the wrong longitude was identified in the area near Snug Harbor and Sinepuxent Bay. In Calvert County, the longitude of one of the coordinates near Drum Point must be corrected.

Why is this change necessary?

In the drafting and adoption of the 2023 updates to the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Zones, two coordinates were misidentified. The Department discovered these errors when creating the maps of these areas. In Worcester County, the wrong longitude was identified near Snug Harbor and Sinepuxent Bay. This resulted in an area that was entirely on land instead of in the water (see figures 1 and 2 in the Appendix below). In Calvert County, the longitude of one of the coordinates near Drum Point was misidentified, leading to areas on shore and in an adjacent creek being covered by an irregular shape (see figures 3 and 4 in the Appendix below). By correcting these two coordinates, the appropriate areas will be protected.

Who will this affect?

The proposed regulation will affect clammers who utilize these areas.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .12 under COMAR 08.02.01 General.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested individuals?

- This idea was scoped with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their meetings in July 2024.
- This idea was scoped with the general public July 29, 2024, through August 13, 2024.

Regulatory Process

The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) as this concept moves forward.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the Department determined that the action is necessary and appropriate. The rules are being 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.

When will this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in January of 2025, however the exact date cannot be determined at this time.

Appendix: Figures for Proposed SAV Changes

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Figure 1: Worcester County-Snug Harbor (Current)



Figure 2: Worcester County-Snug Harbor (Updated)



Figure 3: Calvert County Drum Point (Current)



Figure 4: Calvert County Drum Point (Updated)

