

## SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) PROTECTION ZONES

### What is being considered?

The Department needs to revise the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Zones. Zones are being revised using data from an annual aerial survey compiled by the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS). The following tables list the general areas being changed. Some maps appear on both the “Removed” and “Added” lists because the maps contain both areas that are being removed and areas that are being added. Please see the maps for a better idea of where the changes are located. The words in the “Map” column link to the individual map showing the area.

<b>AREAS BEING REMOVED FROM SAV ZONE DESIGNATION</b>		
County	Area	Map
Anne Arundel	Old Colony Cove	<a href="#">Anne Arundel Map</a>
Calvert	Nan Cove	<a href="#">Calvert Map 1</a>
	Grammers Cove	<a href="#">Calvert Map 2</a>
Dorchester	Trippe Bay	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 1</a>
	Chapel Creek	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 2</a>
	Bloodsworth Island	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 4</a>
Kent	Rock Hall Harbor	<a href="#">Kent Map 1</a>
	North of Eastern Neck Island	<a href="#">Kent Map 2</a>
Queen Anne’s	Crab Alley Bay	<a href="#">Queen Anne’s Map 2</a>
	Prospect Bay	<a href="#">Queen Anne’s Map 3</a>
Somerset	South Marsh Island	<a href="#">Somerset Map 1</a>
	Manokin River near Tangier Sound	<a href="#">Somerset Map 3</a>
	Manokin River - Fishing Creek and upstream	<a href="#">Somerset Map 4</a>
	Manokin River - Drum Point Cove and upstream (South shore)	<a href="#">Somerset Map 5</a>
	Big Annemessex	<a href="#">Somerset Map 6</a>
	Big Annemessex (South shore)	<a href="#">Somerset Map 7</a>
	Ape Hole Creek	<a href="#">Somerset Map 10</a>
St. Mary’s	St. Mary’s River	<a href="#">St. Mary’s Map 4</a>
	St. George Creek	<a href="#">St. Mary’s Map 5</a>
Talbot	Wye River	<a href="#">Talbot Map 1</a>

	Wade's Point	<a href="#">Talbot Map 2</a>
	Woodland Creek	<a href="#">Talbot Map 3</a>
	Miles River	<a href="#">Talbot Map 4</a>
	Poplar Island Narrows	<a href="#">Talbot Map 5</a>
	Broad Creek	<a href="#">Talbot Map 6</a>
	Dogwood Harbor, Front Creek	<a href="#">Talbot Map 7</a>
Worcester	Parker Bay, Mills Island Creek	<a href="#">Worcester Map 1</a>
	Johnson Bay, Brocktonorton Bay	<a href="#">Worcester Map 2</a>
	Chincoteague Bay	<a href="#">Worcester Map 3</a>
	Chincoteague Bay	<a href="#">Worcester Map 4</a>
	Sinepuxent Bay South of MD-611	<a href="#">Worcester Map 5</a>
	Sinepuxent Bay North of MD-611	<a href="#">Worcester Map 6</a>
	Grays Cove, Snug Harbor	<a href="#">Worcester Map 7</a>
	South of Ocean City Inlet	<a href="#">Worcester Map 8</a>

<b>AREAS BEING ADDED TO SAV ZONE DESIGNATION</b>		
County	Area	Map
Calvert	Nan Cove, Grapevine Cove, and Broome Island	<a href="#">Calvert Map 1</a>
	Grammers Cove	<a href="#">Calvert Map 2</a>
	Coster Cove (Patuxent River)	<a href="#">Calvert Map 3</a>
	Patuxent River between Drum Point and Ship Point	<a href="#">Calvert Map 4</a>
Dorchester	Trippe Bay, Hills Point Cove	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 1</a>
	Chapel Creek	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 2</a>
	Tar Bay	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 3</a>
	Bloodsworth Island	<a href="#">Dorchester Map 4</a>
Kent	Huntingfield Creek	<a href="#">Kent Map 1</a>
	North of Eastern Neck Island	<a href="#">Kent Map 2</a>
	Langford Creek/Deep Cove	<a href="#">Kent Map 3</a>
	Hail Creek	<a href="#">Kent Map 4</a>

Queen Anne's	Muddy Creek	<a href="#">Queen Anne's Map 1</a>
	Crab Alley Bay	<a href="#">Queen Anne's Map 2</a>
	Prospect Bay	<a href="#">Queen Anne's Map 3</a>
Somerset	South Marsh Island	<a href="#">Somerset Map 1</a>
	Smith Island	<a href="#">Somerset Map 2</a>
	Manokin River near Tangier Sound	<a href="#">Somerset Map 3</a>
	Manokin River - Fishing Creek and upstream (North shore)	<a href="#">Somerset Map 4</a>
	Manokin River - Drum Point Cove and upstream (South shore)	<a href="#">Somerset Map 5</a>
	Big Annemessex	<a href="#">Somerset Map 6</a>
	Big Annemessex (South shore)	<a href="#">Somerset Map 7</a>
	Janes Island	<a href="#">Somerset Map 8</a>
	Little Annemessex and Pocomoke River	<a href="#">Somerset Map 9</a>
	Ape Hole Creek and Gunby Creek	<a href="#">Somerset Map 10</a>
St. Mary's	St. Catherine Sound	<a href="#">St. Mary's Map 1</a>
	Breton Bay	<a href="#">St. Mary's Map 2</a>
	St. Clement Bay and Breton Bay	<a href="#">St. Mary's Map 3</a>
	St. Mary's River	<a href="#">St. Mary's Map 4</a>
	St. George Creek	<a href="#">St. Mary's Map 5</a>
	Calvert Bay, Jutland Creek	<a href="#">St. Mary's Map 6</a>
Talbot	Wye River	<a href="#">Talbot Map 1</a>
	Eastern Bay	<a href="#">Talbot Map 2</a>
	Woodland Creek	<a href="#">Talbot Map 3</a>
	Miles River	<a href="#">Talbot Map 4</a>
	Poplar Island Narrows	<a href="#">Talbot Map 5</a>
	Broad Creek	<a href="#">Talbot Map 6</a>
	Dogwood Harbor, Front Creek	<a href="#">Talbot Map 7</a>
Worcester	Parker Bay, Mills Island Creek	<a href="#">Worcester Map 1</a>
	Johnson Bay, Brocktonorton Bay	<a href="#">Worcester Map 2</a>

	Chincoteague Bay	<a href="#">Worcester Map 3</a>
	Chincoteague Bay	<a href="#">Worcester Map 4</a>
	Sinepuxent Bay South of MD-611	<a href="#">Worcester Map 5</a>
	Sinepuxent Bay North of MD-611	<a href="#">Worcester Map 6</a>
	Grays Cove, Snug Harbor	<a href="#">Worcester Map 7</a>
	South of Ocean City Inlet	<a href="#">Worcester Map 8</a>

**Why is this change necessary?**

Natural Resources Article, §4-1006.1, Annotated Code of Maryland requires the Department to create and update submerged aquatic vegetation protection zones every three years using data from the annual aerial survey compiled by the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) for the annual Bay-wide Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping Program.

**Who will this affect?**

Commercial clammers who utilize any of the affected areas.

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

This topic was discussed with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their April 2026 meetings. The Department is also planning a meeting with commercial clam harvesters to determine potential conflict areas and ways to mitigate those conflicts.

**Additional Information**

View the [current SAV Maps](#)

**Regulatory Process**

Fishing rules in Maryland may be created by either the General Assembly or the Department. When the Department creates a fishing rule, it is called a regulation. When the General Assembly creates a rule, it is called a statute. The Department often has to create a regulation to implement a statute. The regulatory process begins with scoping and the Department follows normal [procedures](#) as concepts move forward.

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.

**When could this be effective?**

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall or winter of 2026. However, the exact date cannot be determined at this time.