

Fisheries Regulatory Scoping April 2017

Please review the following possible regulatory changes. DNR is looking for your advice on how to proceed with scoping (i.e. open houses, web feedback only, etc.).

Commercial License Targets

Commercial license targets need to be adjusted based on unlimited tidal fish licenses (UTFL) that were downgraded during the 2016/2017 license year.

Solution: 10 individuals downgraded their UTFL. Therefore, the UTFL number will be decreased by 10 and other authorizations (FGR, FIN, CB3, CLM, OYH, ODB, and CTL) will be increased by 10 each.

Please Note: This number is correct as of April 1, but may change after all numbers have been reviewed. It will not be scoped on the Department's website until May.

Scoping Recommendation: Scope on the Department's website, GovDelivery Communications, Facebook and Twitter.

Pound Nets

Allow harvesters to share pound nets.

Discussion: The department has been contacted by pound net fishermen about the possibility of allowing harvesters to share pound nets. Currently this is prohibited by regulation (Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.05.01A).

After a review of current laws we have concluded that by modifying the regulation, harvesters would be able to share pound nets by having the "co-user" listed in COMPASS at the time of registration and posted at the pound net site. A statement would be added to regulation that says the pound net applicant can denote "co-users" for the purpose of catching/carrying away fish from the net. Listing "co-users" will be done at the time of registration. The applicant will still be responsible for the net and all of the associated requirements. This will ensure that the department has one point of contact for the net and NRP will be able to know who is supposed to be using that net.

Scoping Recommendation: Scope on the Department's website, GovDelivery Communications, Facebook and Twitter.