

PRE-DECISIONAL – Examples of Possible Cuts that total approximately \$2.4 million

Programs cut (In no priority order)	Impact
Commercial Harvest Data Entry and Mgt Program Elimination	Program elimination. Would require commercial fishermen and charter boat captains to provide their harvest data to DNR as a condition of their license in accordance with the conditions (i.e. electronic format, QA/QC, delivery timeframe) set forth by DNR. Fishermen will need to make a financial investment with an independent contractor to fulfill this requirement. Without this harvest and effort data, DNR will not be able to complete its assessments to assess the status of MD's fisheries and fulfillment of ASMFC compliance requirements.
Fisheries Management Plans Reduction	Reduce FMP program. Will reduce ability to review and update FMPs which provide DNR with the management framework and regulatory authority for managing MD's fisheries. Will delay DNR's ability to implement adaptive fisheries management.
Online License renewal Only	There will be no license renewal mailing. Online renewal only - If there is to be an option to walk into a license center than there will need to be a service charge.
Cuts in overall operations budget	Reductions in travel, fuel, meetings, computer and communication needs, etc
Chesapeake and Coastal Fisheries Monitoring Program Reduction	Reduction in Coastal program. Will require reduction or elimination of fish population monitoring programs. Examples of impacted monitoring programs could include: striped bass, menhaden, catfish, white perch, yellow perch, spot, croaker, Spanish mackerel, black sea bass, tautog, horseshoe crabs, and lobster. Reduced monitoring will impact our ability to assess changes in stock status and increase management uncertainty that could require reductions in harvest targets and loss opportunity to fishermen. Sport fishermen, charter boat captains and commercial fishermen will be impacted and there is a risk of putting MD out of compliance with ASMFC.
Commercial Apprenticeship Program Elimination	Elimination of program. Will no longer be able to conduct commercial apprenticeship program which is a MD statutory requirement that an individual is required to complete before obtaining a commercial license off of the waiting list as part of MD's limited entry program. Will need to revise law and may provide simple waitlist.
Public Oyster Fishery Program Reduction	Drastic reduction in program will result in a reduction in ability to conduct oyster bar habitat rehabilitation projects, oyster bar surveys and aquaculture lease surveys. Inability to manage commercial oyster fishery - fishery would be closed. There are approximately 250 active commercial oystermen who harvest about 150,000 bushels of oysters that have a dockside value of \$4.5 million.
Commercial and Recreational Penalties Program Elimination	Will need to rely upon NRP for citation info which will delay implementation of penalties. Will alter the effectiveness and timeliness of implementation. Fisheries Service made an investment in this program in response to recommendations of the Task Force on Fisheries Management that was established by the 2007 MD General Assembly.
Reduce Blue crab program	Will increase management uncertainty.
Close Piney Point Hatchery	Lose oyster production- primarily for aquaculture. Also lose oyster production for county bar plantings
Reduce NRP contribution	Due to possible reduction or elimination of other fisheries
Eliminate American Eel program	Out of Compliance with ASMFC.
Eliminate surveys on certain resident species	White perch, yellow perch, catfish limits will have to be adjusted to be very conservative because DNR will lack the ability to monitor the population

<p>Fisheries Marketing Program Elimination</p>	<p>The number of sport fishermen, charter boat captains and commercial fishermen has steadily declined over the past 25 years, and as a result the State of MD has lost the economic activity associated with these fishing industries. This program is designed to attract more fishing participants to sport and charter boat fishing opportunities and promote the high quality seafood in MD. It has been reported that only 2% of the seafood consumed in MD comes from MD's waters. This program has potential to have socio-economic benefits to MD. Currently the marketing surcharge only brings in 55,000 which is not sufficient to support a staff person. The surcharge revenue will be used for a few advertisements rather than new marketing initiatives currently underway.</p>
<p>Fisheries Habitat and Ecosystems Program Elimination</p>	<p>No longer able to monitor and assess impacts of land use on fisheries resources, reduce ability to provide comments to environmental review on MDE permits, and reduce ability to facilitate community level stewardship and advocacy for sustainable land use practices. The impacts of unsustainable land use is the most significant long term threat to MD's fisheries resources as the capacity of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, coastal bays and Atlantic Ocean to support fish populations continues to decline.</p>
<p>Communications and Outreach Program Reduction</p>	<p>Impact ability to provide timely responses to public, media and fishermen, and promotion of Fisheries programs in an effort to foster the use and stewardship of MD's fish resources. This program was enhanced based upon recommendations of the Task Force on Fisheries Management that was established by the MD General Assembly in 2007.</p>
<p>Anadromous Hatcheries Program Elimination</p>	<p>Elimination of Atlantic sturgeon hatchery propagation and research program, and reduce ability to produce and stock hatchery raised American and hickory shad, and assess impacts of stocking program on wild population. Atlantic sturgeon were listed as an endangered species by the Federal government in 2012. The elimination of this program will require DNR to sacrifice all Atlantic sturgeon currently held in captivity. If reinstated at a later date it will likely take another decade to collect and rear fish to maturity before a hatchery restoration program could be initiated.</p>
<p>Eliminate Fish and Wildlife Health, and Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Recovery Program</p>	<p>Will no longer be able to monitor and study fish health (i.e. mycobacteriosis disease in striped bass, etc.), and respond to marine mammal and sea turtle strandings. Will prevent early detection and monitoring of fish and wildlife health issues, and providing comprehensive responses to the public and media. Limitation of collection data on fishery interactions with rare, threatened and endangered species (i.e. marine mammals and sea turtles) puts MD at greater risk of having impacts to our fisheries that interact with listed species, and require increased monitoring (and associated costs) to monitor and manage interactions.</p>