



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary

Fishing License Penalty & Suspension Update February 2011

Commercial Points System

Since February 2010, 13 licensees were suspended. Of these, 8 were suspended from the oyster fishery, 1 was suspended from the finfish fishery, 1 was suspended from the crab fishery, and 3 were suspended from all commercial fishing activities. Only 5 of these suspensions resulted in an administrative hearing, the other 8 were given as part of a plea agreement with the Department.

Commercial Reporting Penalty System

Since the inception of the new reporting penalty system in 2010, a total of 43 licensees have been suspended for reporting violations for a period of time ranging from two days to two weeks. The majority of violators (approximately 150 in the fall of 2010 were eligible for suspension) have agreed to plea agreements or were given amnesty if reports were promptly turned in to Fisheries Service. Monthly violation numbers have dropped from an average of 1200 late reports monthly to less than 100 late reports monthly.

***Charter Boat/Fishing Guide Points System and Recreational Penalty System will be in effective by April 2011.**