

## **Fisheries Regulatory Update**

**Dates Covered: 1/20/15 to 4/20/15**

### **Public Notices Issued**

View Public Notices at <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/notices/notices.asp>

- Striped Bass — Commercial Common Pool Season Modification — gill net open 2/3/15 through 2/4/15; 300 lbs/permit/week and 1200 lbs/vessel/day.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Baileys Seafood, LLC & Craig E. Bailey  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture submerged land lease; St. Catherine's Sound, St. Mary's County.
- Blue Crab — Regulatory Public Hearing on the proposed blue crab regulations was held 2/12/15 at 6pm in the Wicomico Public Library, Room 4, 122 S. Division Street, Salisbury, MD.
- Yellow Perch — 2015 commercial yellow perch fishery on the Chester River will close 2/12/15 at 12:01 am.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Hollywood Oyster Company, LLC  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture water column lease; Patuxent River; St. Mary's County.
- Oysters — Talbot County Harvest Reserve Areas open 2/23/15 through 3/31/15; notice includes areas and limits.
- Invitation for Bids — Fisheries Service is soliciting bids for the MD Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Spawning Area Experimental Drift Gill Net Survey; notice includes requirements.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — MD Water Holdings, LLC  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture water column lease; Chesapeake Bay, St. Mary's County.
- Black Sea Bass — 2015 Recreational Fishery season, size, and limit.
- Striped Bass — Commercial ITQ Season Modification — gill net will be extended from 3/2/15 through 3/13/15; weekends excluded.
- Oysters — Anne Arundel County Harvest Reserve Area open 3/16/15 through 3/31/15; notice includes areas and limits.
- Oysters — Queen Anne's County Harvest Reserve Area open 3/9/15 through 3/31/15; notice includes areas and limits.
- Yellow Perch — Commercial fishery in the Upper Bay closes 3/21/15 at 12:01 a.m.
- Striped Bass — Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries Recreational and Charter Striped Bass Fishery Modifications — recreational size limits for striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Ricky Fitzhugh and Dorsey J. Shockley, Jr.  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture water column lease; Back Creek, Dorchester County.
- Blue Crab — Commercial mature female hard crab bushel limits for 2015. No closure periods for female harvest. Includes new boat limits.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Timothy M. Robinson and Susan M. Robinson  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture submerged land lease; Fishing Bay, Dorchester County.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Eric Wisner

Application for a shellfish aquaculture submerged land lease; Nanticoke River oyster sanctuary, Wicomico County.

- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Guy Spurry and Austin Spurry  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture submerged land lease; Broad Creek, Talbot County.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Alan K. Bradley and Lisa R. Bradley  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture submerged land lease; Nanticoke River oyster sanctuary, Wicomico County.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Phillips Foods, Inc.  
Application to amend an existing shellfish aquaculture water column lease; Tangier Sound, Dorchester County.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Eric Wisner  
Application for a shellfish aquaculture submerged land lease; Nanticoke River oyster sanctuary, Wicomico County.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Lease — Robert L. Lumpkins  
Application for two shellfish aquaculture submerged land leases; Tarkill Cove and St. Georges Creek; St. Mary's County.

### **Regulations that became Effective**

- American Lobster — Emergency — 08.02.08.10  
Submitted to AELR 12/17/14; Withdrawn – regulation not necessary.  
Season closure to implement required 10% reduction; removes v-notching requirements
- Penalty — 08.02.13.03, .05, .07, .08 — Effective 2/16/15  
Annual updates to the recreational and commercial penalty system.
- Shark — 08.02.22.03 — Effective 2/16/15  
Federal permit requirements.
- Commercial License Targets — 08.02.01.05 — Effective 2/16/15  
Updates to the commercial license targets
- License Free Fishing Areas — 08.02.01.07 — Effective 3/2/15  
Revised list of license free fishing areas
- Blue Crab — 08.02.03.03, .06, .07 and .14 — Effective 3/30/15  
Increases size for female peeler crabs in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries
- Striped Bass — 08.02.15.07 — Effective 3/30/15  
Changes quota from a specific number to a statement that the quota is set by ASMFC
- Fishery Management Areas — 08.02.01 — Effective 3/30/15  
Establishes rules for FMAs
- Snapper Grouper — 08.02.05.29 — Effective 3/30/15  
Changes the commercial harvest limits of tilefish
- Oysters — Emergency — 08.02.04.04 — Effective 3/30/15 through 4/14/15  
Extended commercial oyster season.
- Striped Bass — 08.02.15.04 — Effective 4/14/15 through 7/1/15  
Establishes additional permit declaration period
- Striped Bass — 08.02.15.08, .09, .10 — Effective 4/14/15 through 10/11/15  
Implement ASMFC recreational harvest reduction

### **Regulations that have been Proposed and are Following the APA Process**

View Maryland Register at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDRegister/mdregister.aspx>

View Proposed Regulations at

<http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/proposedregulations.asp>

- Shellfish Aquaculture — Proposed — 08.02.05.02 and 08.02.23.03, .04 and .07  
Maryland Register 1/23/14, Comment Period Ends 2/23/15, Scheduled Effective 4/27/15  
Updates the list of violations for which a person may be suspended or revoked; implements a demonstration lease program.
- Tidal and Sport Fisheries Advisory Commissions — Proposed — 08.01.01.06 and .07  
Maryland Register 4/17/15, Comment Period Ends 5/18/15, Scheduled Effective 6/22/15  
Updates unit name from ‘Tidewater Administration’ to ‘Fisheries Service’
- Spiny Dogfish — Proposed — 08.02.05.24  
Maryland Register 4/17/15, Comment Period Ends 5/18/15, Scheduled Effective 6/22/15  
Prohibits the removal of fins at sea; fins must remain attached naturally through landing
- Striped Bass — Emergency and Proposed — 08.02.15.08, .09 and .10  
Proposed — Maryland Register 5/1/15, Comment Period Ends 6/1/15, Scheduled Effective 7/6/15  
Emergency — Effective 4/14/15 through 10/11/15  
These changes are currently effective by emergency regulation. The Department is following up with a regulatory proposal for enforcement purposes (prepayable fine rather than must appear in court). Includes measures to reduce the recreational harvest of striped bass during the Chesapeake Bay spring trophy and early/summer/fall seasons.

### **Emergency Regulations in Effect**

- Striped Bass — 08.02.15.08, .09, .10 — Effective 4/14/15 through 10/11/15  
Implement ASMFC recreational harvest reduction.
- Striped Bass — 08.02.15.04 — Effective 4/14/15 through 7/1/15  
Establishes additional permit declaration period