(b) (text unchanged)
(2)—(3) (text unchanged)
D.—E. (text unchanged)

MARK J. BELTON
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 02 FISHERIES SERVICE

08.02.04 Oysters

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§4-215 and 4-1009.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[15-207-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation **.13** under **COMAR 08.02.04 Oysters**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to remove certain Harvest Reserve Areas (HRAs) from regulation and allow these areas to revert back to open harvest bottom. HRAs are not sanctuaries. No sanctuaries are being opened by this action.

The county oyster committees have requested that the Department remove several HRAs from regulation. HRAs were developed in consultation with the oyster industry and are commercial areas that are harvested on a rotational basis. The areas were held in reserve, closed for a certain portion of time, to provide ecological benefits while increasing the number of harvestable oysters. The oyster committees have determined that the reserve areas are not functioning as originally designed and would like them open to oystering at all times during the oyster season.

The proposed action removes ten harvest reserve areas. The areas are being removed because they haven't been planted with seed oysters recently and they are no longer being managed as active reserve areas. Evans Reserve and Bramleigh Creek are not being removed because these areas are still being actively planted with seed oysters and used as reserves. Once the areas are removed, oyster harvesting will occur under all the standard harvesting laws and regulations.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. The proposed action has an economic impact on the Department.

II. Types of Economic Impact.	Revenue (R+/R-) Expenditure (E+/E-)	Magnitude
A. On issuing agency:		
(1) Cost of buoys	(E-)	$4,500 to $18,900 per year
(2) Notices in newspapers	(E-)	$1,500 per year
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	
D. On regulated industries or trade groups:	NONE	
E. On other industries or trade groups:		
Notices in newspapers	(R-)	$1,500
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:	NONE	

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A(1). Each time an HRA is opened the Department is required to place buoys to delineate the area. Cost savings are expected to occur because buoys will no longer be needed on the reserves that are eliminated. This savings is estimated at approximately $4,500 to $18,900 per year depending on the number of buoys per reserve needed.

A(2). Notices of reserve openings will no longer need to be placed in the newspaper for the areas that are being removed. The notices for opening those areas cost approximately $1,500 per year.

E. Notices of reserve openings will no longer need to be placed in the newspaper for the areas that are being removed. The notices for opening those areas cost approximately $1,500 per year; therefore, the newspapers will have a loss of income.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Harvest Reserve Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, B-2, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov, or fax to 410-260-8310. Comments will be accepted through September 8, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.13 Harvest Reserve Area—Definition and Listing.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Harvest Reserve Areas.

[(1) Chester River.

(a) Blunt Oyster Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area enclosed by a line beginning at or near Natural Oyster Bar 7-3 corner 7-3-1, defined by Lat. 38°58.643' N, Long. 76°12.382' W; then running approximately 331° True to a point at or near corner 7-3-2, defined by Lat. 38°58.960' N, Long. 76°12.602' W; then running approximately 45° True to a point at or near corner 7-3-3, defined by Lat. 38°59.557' N, Long. 76°11.830' W; then running approximately 97° True to a point at or near corner 7-3-4, defined by Lat. 38°59.515' N, Long. 76°11.385' W; then running approximately 222° True to the point of beginning.

(b) Coppers Hill Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area of the Chester River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 39°02.702' N, Long. 76°11.911' W; then running approximately 285° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°02.724' N,

Long. 76°12.018' W; then running approximately 28° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°02.911' N, Long. 76°11.890' W; then running approximately 118° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°02.883' N, Long. 76°11.821' W; then running approximately 201° True to the point of beginning.

(c) Devils Playground Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area of the Chester River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°59.950' N, Long.76°11.929' W; then running approximately 302° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°00.079' N, Long.76°12.194' W; then running approximately 21° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°00.356' N, Long.76°12.056' W; then running approximately 89° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°00.362' N, Long.76°11.542' W; then running approximately 201° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°00.036' N, Long.76°11.703' W; then running approximately 244° True to the point of beginning.

(d) Horse Race Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area of the Chester River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 39°01.222' N, Long.76°11.157' W; then running approximately 333° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°01.628' N, Long.76°11.421' W; then running approximately 65° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°01.814' N, Long.76°10.912' W; then running approximately 159° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°01.233' N, Long.76°10.631' W; then running approximately 268° True to the point of beginning.

(2) Choptank River.

(a) Howell Point Oyster Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area, excluding Howell Point Oyster Sanctuary as defined in Regulation .15 of this chapter, enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°37.070' N, Long. 76°06.790' W; then running approximately 270° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°37.070' N, Long. 76°07.370' W; then running approximately 10° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°37.440' N, Long. 76°07.290' W; then running approximately 78° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°37.500' N, Long. 76°06.940' W; then running approximately 165° True to the point of beginning.

(b) La Trappe Creek. The reserve consists of all of the area of La Trappe Creek upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east side of the mouth of La Trappe Creek, defined by Lat. 38°37.613' N, Long. 76°06.938' W; then running approximately 288° True to a point at or near the southern tip of Martin Point, defined by Lat. 38°37.713' N, Long. 76°07.325' W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the south entrance of an unnamed cove on the east side of La Trappe Creek, defined by Lat. 38°38.157' N, Long. 76°06.462' W; then running approximately 269° True to a point at or near the north entrance of an unnamed cove on the west side of La Trappe Creek, defined by Lat. 38°38.162' N, Long. 76°06.937' W.

(3) Eastern Bay — Cox Neck Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area of Crab Alley Bay enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°54.760' N, Long. 76°17.358' W; then running approximately 170° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°54.579' N, Long. 76°17.318' W; then running approximately 66° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°54.621' N, Long. 76°17.195' W; then running approximately 337° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°54.772' N, Long. 76°17.278' W; then running approximately 259° True to the point of beginning.]

[(4)] *(1)* (text unchanged)

[(5) Poplar Island Oyster Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°47.115' N, Long. 76°22.820' W; then running approximately 303° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°47.157' N, Long. 76°22.900' W; then running approximately 37° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°47.230' N, Long. 76°22.830' W; then running approximately 121° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°47.190' N, Long. 76°22.745' W; then running approximately 218° True to the point of beginning.

(6) South River — Brewer Reserve. The reserve consists of all of the area of the South River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°56.097' N, Long. 76°31.702' W; then running approximately 156° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°55.994' N, Long. 76°31.642' W; then running approximately 86° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°56.013' N, Long. 76°31.298' W; then running approximately 333° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°56.195' N, Long. 76°31.415' W; then running approximately 246° True to the point of beginning.]

[(7)] *(2)* (text unchanged)

[(8) Upper Bay — Nine Foot Knoll Reserve. The reserve consists of all of Natural Oyster Bar 2-8 enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 39°08.889' N, Long. 76°22.230' W; then running approximately 100° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°08.763' N, Long. 76°21.346' W; then running approximately 199° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°08.353' N, Long. 76°21.526' W; then running approximately 289° True to a point defined by Lat. 39°08.544' N, Long. 76°22.232' W; then running approximately 0° True to the point of beginning.]

MARK J. BELTON
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 03 WILDLIFE

08.03.03 Open Seasons, Bag Limits for Game Birds and Game Animals

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§ 10-205 and 10-415, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[15-205-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation **.06** under **COMAR 08.03.03 Open Seasons, Bag Limits for Game Birds and Game Animals**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to revise the deer management zones in Frederick County to conform to the proposed revisions to zones 1 and 2 in COMAR 08.03.04.05D that designate what firearms may be used to hunt deer in Frederick County.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Peter Jayne, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 68, Wye Mills, MD 21679, or call 410-827-8612, or email to peter.jayne@maryland.gov, or fax to 410-827-5186. Comments will be accepted through September 8, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.06 Deer Hunting—General.

A. Regional Management.

(1)—(2) (text unchanged)