

(3) Maintain and meet any standards for corner marker structures as described by the Department on its website;

(4) Permanently and individually mark all equipment or manmade material used on the lease with the lease number and name of the leaseholder; and

(5) Be responsible and liable for equipment, gear, or aquaculture-related material that has been found adrift or unattended outside the boundaries of the lease area.

H. Operators.

(1) The Department shall issue an operator card to the lessee at the time of lease approval.

(2) When one or more individuals are engaged in demonstration activities on the leased area, an individual authorized by the lessee shall be present and in possession of the operator card.

(3) Any individual engaged in demonstration activities on a leased area shall comply with the terms and conditions of the lease agreement for that area.

I. Reporting. A leaseholder shall submit to the Department an annual report as required by the Department not later than December 31.

J. Surrender of a Lease. A lease may be surrendered by providing written notice to the Department.

JOSEPH P. GILL
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 02 FISHERIES SERVICE

08.02.05 Fish

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §4-2A-03, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action
[15-055-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .29 under **COMAR 08.02.05 Fish**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to amend the snapper grouper complex to change the commercial harvest limits of tilefish. Maryland's regulations limiting harvest of species within the Snapper Grouper complex were adopted to address coast wide stock concerns. Regulations were based on those of state and federal partner agencies that manage snapper grouper species. Our partner agencies specify limits of tilefish in pounds of whole fish and pounds of fish that have been gutted to ensure consistency in landings data. Partner agencies also limit the amount of blueline tilefish that may be harvested. The proposed action modifies the commercial harvest limits of tilefish to be consistent with our partner agencies.

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 may have a positive impact on the commercial industry.

II. Types of Economic Impact.	Revenue (R+/R-)	Magnitude
	Expenditure (E+/E-)	
A. On issuing agency:	NONE	
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	

Benefit (+)
Cost (-) Magnitude

D. On regulated industries or trade groups:		
(1) Commercial Harvesters	(+)	\$310 per trip
(2) Dealers/Processors	(+)	Indeterminable
E. On other industries or trade groups:		
	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:		
	NONE	

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

D(1). The proposed action raises the harvest limit for tilefish. Since more harvest is allowed, harvesters may have a positive economic impact. The actual impact will be determined by the presence of fish, fishing effort and the market. The whole fish weight, rather than gutted weight, is being used to calculate the impact because the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program reports fish in whole pounds. There were a total of 4200 pounds of tilefish harvested in 2013 which yielded an average of \$1.55 per pound. At that rate an extra 200 pounds per trip translates to \$310 more per trip.

D(2). If harvesters land more tilefish, dealers and processors may benefit economically because they will have more fish to sell. The actual amount is indeterminable because it depends on actual harvest and the market.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has a meaningful economic impact on small business. An analysis of this economic impact follows.

The increase in allowable harvest of tilefish may positively impact harvesters, dealers and processors.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Snapper Grouper Regulations, Regulatory Staff, 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 February 23, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.29 Snapper Grouper Complex.

A.—D. (text unchanged)

E. Commercial.

(1) The weight limits of this section are the total combined weight of all species defined as tilefish or grouper.

(2) Whole and gutted tilefish may not be landed in the same trip.

[(1)] (3) *Tilefish.* Except as provided in [§E(2)] §E(5) of this regulation, a commercial licensee may not harvest, possess, or land more than:

(a) [300] 500 pounds, whole weight, [regardless of the species,] of tilefish, [listed in §A(1) of this regulation] which may not include more than 300 pounds, whole weight, of blueline tilefish per trip; [and] or

(b) 455 pounds, gutted weight, of tilefish, which may not include more than 273 pounds, gutted weight, of blueline tilefish per trip.

[(b)] (4) *Grouper*. A commercial licensee may not harvest, possess, or land more than 175 pounds[, regardless of the species,] of grouper [listed in §A(2) of this regulation] *per trip*.

[(2)] (5) (text unchanged)

F. (text unchanged)

JOSEPH P. GILL
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 02 FISHERIES SERVICE

08.02.15 Striped Bass

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

Notice of Proposed Action

[15-052-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .07 under **COMAR 08.02.15 Striped Bass**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to remove the numerical quota for the Atlantic Ocean striped bass fishery from regulation and add language to establish the quota for that fishery as the quota set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The quota is set based on striped bass abundance and fishing mortality. The change is being made so that when ASMFC changes the quota, the Department does not need to change the regulation to ensure the fishery is managed to the correct number. This is how the Department manages the Chesapeake Bay fishery.

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 Atlantic Ocean Commercial Striped Bass 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 February 23, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.07 Commercial Fishery.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Atlantic Ocean, its Coastal Bays and Their Tributaries.

(1) Quota. The annual target harvest for the commercial fishery is [126,396 pounds] *the quota set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*.

(2)—(7) (text unchanged)

C.—F. (text unchanged)

JOSEPH P. GILL
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 19 FOREST CONSERVATION

08.19.03 Model Forest Conservation Ordinance

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§5-1601—5-1613, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[15-069-P]

The Department of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .01 under **COMAR 08.19.03 Model Forest Conservation Ordinance**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to revise the fee-in-lieu amounts stated in the Model Ordinance to reflect rate of inflation as required by statute.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. This amendment will require those complying with local government's forest conservation ordinances and cannot plant trees to pay an additional half cent to one cent per square foot of required mitigation prior to obtaining permits.

II. Types of Economic Impact.

A. On issuing agency:

Revenue (R+/R-)

Expenditure

(E+/E-)

Magnitude

B. On other State agencies:

NONE

NONE

C. On local governments:

NONE

Benefit (+)

Cost (-)

Magnitude

D. On regulated industries or trade groups:

(-)

Negligible

E. On other industries or trade groups:

(-)

Negligible

F. Direct and indirect effects on public:

NONE

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

D. Rate increase too small to calculate impact

E. Rate increase too small to calculate 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 Marian Honeczy, Supervisor, Urban and Community Forestry, Maryland Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-1, or call 410-260-8511, or email to marian.honeczy@maryland.gov, or fax to 410-260-8595. Comments will be accepted through February 23, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.