

ATLANTIC SURFCLAM — Housekeeping

What is being considered?

The department would like to make the rules for Atlantic surfclams consistent with federal waters.

This requires:

- 1) Updating the name — surfclam is one word, not two; and
- 2) Requiring individuals to follow the federal rules.

Why is this change necessary?

Atlantic surfclams are harvested from federal waters and landed in Maryland. The rules should be consistent with federal waters. Instead of making a regulation change each time the federal rule changes, the new regulation will reference the federal code. Having clear consistent rules will make it easier for harvesters and enforcement.

Who will this affect?

Anyone who harvests Atlantic surfclams.

When will this be effective?

The department expects the changes to be effective by the spring of 2021; however, the exact date cannot be determined. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

Has this change been discussed with advisory commissions?

This idea was scoped with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission at their meetings in July 2020. Commissioners did not have questions or comments and recommended proceeding with scoping.