

GENERAL — Fishery Management Areas

What is being considered?

The department is considering the establishment of a Fish Propagation Area on the North Branch of the Potomac River. The area covered by this designation would begin at the upstream end of the upper Catch and Release Management Area and continue upstream to the outfall of Jennings-Randolph Reservoir.

Why is this change necessary?

This change is necessary to provide resource protection in an area where fish spawning occurs. Natural reproduction supports a large percentage of the trout population in the area and should be protected to maximize recruitment. Establishing the Fish Propagation Area in regulation will improve enforcement.

Who will this affect?

Nobody who already follows currently posted signage will be affected. The area under consideration is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and closed to public access.

When will this be effective?

The department expects this change to be effective in the fall of 2022, 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 Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their April 2022 meetings. Commissioners recommended moving forward with scoping.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .13 under COMAR 08.02.01 General.