

**REGIONAL CONDITIONS TO THE 2021 NATIONWIDE PERMITS FOR THE
STATE OF MARYLAND**

I. Regional Conditions Applicable to Specific Nationwide Permits within the State of Maryland:

A. Nationwide Permit 48 Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities:

1. This Nationwide Permit (NWP) **does not** authorize work where:
 - a. Work or activities are proposed to extend into anchorage areas; customary boating channels; navigation fairways; marked, lighted, or charted channels; or State or Federal Navigation Channels.
 - b. Work or activities are proposed that adversely affect ingress to and egress from neighboring properties or other areas.
 - c. Predator control devices (i.e., mesh fences, mesh nets, mesh tents) are proposed to be suspended or erected vertically or obliquely in the water column, or used to surround or enclose shellfish/containment gear. This condition does not preclude the use of cages for shellfish containment.
2. The prospective permittee must submit a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) to the District Engineer using the Joint State/Federal Application for a Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Lease and Federal Permit (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Commercial-Shellfish-Lease-Application.pdf> and <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Shellfish-Lease-Application-Instructions.pdf>) when:
 - a. The project does not have a valid authorization from the Corps in effect as of March 15, 2021. Note: A PCN is not required for “shell on bottom” projects approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) prior to July 1, 2009;
 - b. The activity involves any change in the mariculture type (bottom culture, floating structures, or structures suspended in the water column) from what was previously authorized by the Corps;
 - c. The activity is proposed within areas designated as anadromous fish spawning habitat in the Maryland Coastal Atlas (<https://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/coastalatlus/WAB2>).
3. For activities within areas designated as anadromous fish spawning habitat in the Maryland Coastal Atlas (<https://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/coastalatlus/WAB2>), the District Engineer will coordinate review of the PCN with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) – Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division.

4. In addition to the information required by NWP 48, General Conditions and Regional General Condition 32, the PCN must include the following information, also published, and provided on the District's web site (see *Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture*):
 - a. Legible project vicinity map (black line on white background), to scale, and depicting the footprint of the project area relative to prominent land/water geographic features, including approximate latitude/longitude coordinates of the project footprint.
 - b. Legible overview plans (black line on white background), to scale (100':1" or 50':1"), depicting the entire project footprint and adjacent waters overlaid on composite mapping of the 5 most recent years of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) data (derived from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) aerial surveys), and showing local water depths (bathymetry) of the project area, and other important ecological features of the site (e.g., native tidal marsh) that may be affected by project activities.
 - c. Detailed project description, with the following information:
 - i. Description of proposed activities, including site preparation and harvest activities (e.g., dredging, harrowing and dragging of bottom substrate, tonging), and a description of how structures and vertical and horizontal lines would be arranged throughout the project area, spacing of rows and spacing between structures;
 - ii. Types of mariculture gear to be used, including anchoring devices, maximum number of vertical and horizontal lines, and buoys;
 - iii. Acreage of project footprint affecting bottom and water column;
 - iv. Impacts (temporary and/or permanent) to aquatic areas required for access to the aquaculture facility/gear, and remedial measures proposed to restore temporarily affected aquatic areas;
 - v. Substrate type of bottom affected by proposed activities (particularly for on-bottom activities) (e.g., soft sand, hard sand, mud, shell.).
 - d. Statement explaining in detail how the proposed work will not interfere with general navigation in the area of the proposed work and will not hinder or adversely affect ingress to or egress from neighboring properties or other areas.

- e. Cross-sectional view of proposed aquaculture structures and all associated apparatus that represents the proposed operations of the activity (on-bottom, suspended, or floating).
5. The total number of vertical and horizontal lines must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

Note: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will forward the Joint Application to the Corps on behalf of the applicant, or the applicant may submit the application directly to the Corps. The Corps' review period shall commence with the receipt of a completed PCN at the Corps' District Office.

B. Nationwide Permit 52 Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects:

1. The PCN must include the estimated life span of the proposed pilot project and a description of maintenance and planned decommissioning activities that will require a Department of the Army permit.
2. For activities in all tidal waters, tidal wetlands, nontidal coastal plain streams within the State of Maryland, and all nontidal Piedmont streams in Harford and Cecil Counties, Maryland, the Corps of Engineers will coordinate review of the PCN and an essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment with the National Marine Fisheries Service – Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division.

C. Nationwide Permit 55 Seaweed Mariculture Activities:

1. For all activities, the Corps of Engineers will coordinate review of the Pre-Construction Notification and an EFH assessment with the National Marine Fisheries Service-Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division.
2. This Nationwide Permit (NWP) **does not** authorize work where:
 - a. Work or activities are proposed to extend into anchorage areas; customary boating channels; navigation fairways; marked, lighted, or charted channels; or State or Federal Navigation Channels.
 - b. Work or activities are proposed that adversely affect ingress to and egress from neighboring properties or other areas.
 - c. Predator control devices (i.e., mesh fences, mesh nets, mesh tents) are proposed to be suspended or erected vertically or obliquely in the water column or used to surround or enclose mariculture/containment gear.

3. In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of the general condition 32 and the activity-specific pre-construction notification requirements, the PCN must also include the following information:
 - a. A description of the quantity and dimensions of all proposed structure(s), including culture gear (lines, cages, pens, etc.), anchors, and site markers;
 - b. A location map including the longitude and latitude of site boundaries;
 - c. A schematic or drawing showing how the gear will be deployed on the site;
 - d. Bottom characteristics and benthic species present (e.g., shellfish, submerged aquatic vegetation) in the project area(s). (See: <https://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/coastalatlus/WAB2/>, <https://www.vims.edu/research/units/programs/sav/access/maps/index.php>, and <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap>).

D. Nationwide Permit 56 *Finfish Mariculture Activities*:

1. For all activities, the Corps of Engineers will coordinate review of the Pre-Construction Notification with the National Marine Fisheries Service – Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division.
2. This Nationwide Permit (NWP) **does not** authorize work where:
 - a. Work or activities are proposed to extend into anchorage areas; customary boating channels; navigation fairways; marked, lighted, or charted channels; or State or Federal Navigation Channels.
 - b. Work or activities are proposed that adversely affect ingress to and egress from neighboring properties or other areas.
 - c. Predator control devices (i.e., mesh fences, mesh nets, mesh tents) are proposed to be suspended or erected vertically or obliquely in the water column or used to surround or enclose mariculture/containment gear.
3. In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of the general condition 32 and the activity-specific pre-construction notification requirements, the PCN must also include the following information:
 - a. A description of the quantity and dimensions of all proposed structure(s), including culture gear (lines, cages, pens, etc.), anchors, and site markers;
 - b. A location map including latitude and longitude of the site boundaries;

- c. A schematic or drawing showing how the gear will be deployed on the site;
- d. Bottom characteristics and benthic species present (including submerged aquatic vegetation) in the project area(s). (See: <https://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/coastalatlus/WAB2/>, <https://www.vims.edu/research/units/programs/sav/access/maps/index.php> and <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap>).

II. Regional Conditions Applicable to Multiple 2021 Nationwide Permits within the State of Maryland

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following regional general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any specific NWP regional conditions identified above in Section I, the terms and conditions found in the issuance and reissuance of NWPs published in the *Federal Register* on January 13, 2021 (86 FR 2744), and any activity-specific verification conditions imposed by the District Engineer.

A. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition #2 Aquatic Life Movement:

1. This condition applies to NWPs 55 and 56: To ensure that authorized activities do not impact spawning habitat or a migratory pathway for anadromous fish, work is prohibited during February 15 to June 15 each year to protect sensitive life stages of anadromous fish in all tidal and nontidal coastal plain streams within the State of Maryland, and all piedmont streams in Harford and Cecil Counties, Maryland, unless specifically waived by the District Engineer in consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service – Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division.
2. All culverted road crossings of perennial and intermittent streams must meet the below culvert depression criteria or a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) is required to be submitted to the District Engineer for review. Extensions of existing culverts that are not depressed below the stream bottom do not require a PCN.
 - a. Culverts measuring greater than 36 inches in diameter must be depressed 12 inches below the stream bottom; or
 - b. Culverts measuring 36 inches or less in diameter must be depressed 6 inches below the stream bottom.
3. If depression of the culvert is not practicable in accordance with this depression criteria, the applicant must submit a Pre-Construction Notification, including a narrative documenting measures evaluated to minimize disruption of the movement of aquatic life, as well as specific documentation concerning site conditions and limitations on depressing the culvert, cost, and engineering factors that prohibit depressing the pipe/culvert. Options that need to be considered include the use of a bridge, bottomless pipe, partial depression, or other measures to provide for the movement of aquatic

organisms. The documentation must also include photographs documenting site conditions. Within anadromous fish use areas, the Corps shall provide a copy of the PCN, including the supporting documentation, to the National Marine Fisheries Service-Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division for any culvert which cannot be depressed as outlined in this Regional General Condition 2, *Aquatic Life Movements*. Anadromous fish use areas include tidal and nontidal coastal plain streams within the State of Maryland and all piedmont streams in Harford and Cecil County, Maryland. The applicant may find it helpful to contact National Marine Fisheries Service for recommendations about the measures to be taken to allow for fish passage.

B. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition #18 Endangered Species:

1. **For U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) ESA species:** All permittees must use the FWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office Project Review website (IPaC) (<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/EndSppWeb/ProjectReview/Index.html>) to determine if any Federally listed species or designated critical habitat may be present in the proposed project area. A complete application must contain one of the following:
 - a. If the FWS website shows that listed species or designated critical habitat may be present in the proposed project area, then, using the FWS website tool, the permittee must obtain and submit a FWS Official Species List tailored for the proposed project area with the PCN. An Official Species List is considered valid for 90 days.
 - b. If the FWS website shows that no listed species or designated critical habitat are determined to be present in the proposed project area, then, using the FWS website tool, the permittee must generate and submit with the PCN a report that includes an online self-certification letter and a map of the action area.
2. **Interactions with NMFS Federally Threatened or Endangered Species:** Any interaction between sturgeon, sea turtles, or any species listed now or in the future under Federal law as a threatened or endangered species (“listed species”) and the vessels associated with the project must be reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service – Protected Resource Division as follows:
 - a. If the animal appears alive and uninjured (i.e., breathing normally, no visible wounds, movement uninhibited), the permittee or its representative must report the incident to the NMFS Northeast Region Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding and Entanglement Hotline at (866) 755-6622 within 24 hours of returning from the trip on which they made the discovery;
 - b. If the animal requires assistance, the call to the hotline must be made immediately;

- c. If the animal appears to be injured (i.e. bleeding, gasping for air, etc.) or dead, the permittee or its representative must also immediately call the hotline so the appropriate rehabilitation or stranding network representative can be contacted. The applicant shall also notify the District Engineer of all communications and coordination with the NMFS within two calendar days. Additional information about any federally threatened or endangered species may be obtained online at: <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/section7/index.html>. An interaction is defined as an entanglement or capture of a listed species or a strike/direct contact between vessels or equipment used for the project and a listed species.
3. **Vessel Buffer:** When listed species are sighted, vessels must attempt to maintain a distance of 50 yards (150 feet) or greater between the animal and the vessel whenever possible. State and Federal regulations prohibit approaching a right whale within a 500-yard (1,500 foot) buffer zone. Any vessel finding itself within the 500-yard (1,500 foot) buffer zone created by a surfacing right whale must depart immediately at a safe, slow speed. If other listed species are detected, vessels will reduce their speeds to 10 knots or to the maximum extent practicable to ensure human safety. If listed species are sighted off of a moving dredge, intentional approaches within 100 yards (300 feet) of the animal must be avoided. Dredge vessels must reduce speeds to 4 knots or the lowest speed practicable to ensure human safety. Any interactions must be reported as described above in condition #2, *Interactions with NMFS Federally Threatened or Endangered Species*.
4. **Conditions for Pile Driving Activities Applicable Within Tidal Waters of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland:**
 - a. A Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) must be submitted to District Engineer if one of the following conditions cannot be met:
 - i. Plastic or concrete piles must be less than 12 inches when a cushioned impact hammer or vibratory hammer is utilized for installation.
 - ii. Timber piles must be 12 inches or less when a vibratory hammer is utilized for installation.
 - iii. Vinyl or timber sheet piles must be 24 inches or less in width, as measured from the outer edge of corrugation to the inner edge of corrugation, when a cushioned impact hammer or vibratory hammer is used.
 - iv. Pile driving activities are located within freshwater tributaries or within tidal or nontidal wetlands.
 - v. Piles of any size/type with any hammer method must be installed behind diversion structures or in the dry when the tide is out in the intertidal zone.

- vi. Piles of any size/type with any hammer method must be installed between November 30 and March 15.
 - b. Pile driving must be initiated with a soft start each day of pile driving, building up power slowly from a low energy start-up over a 20-minute period to allow fish and other wildlife to leave the area.
5. **Sediment Disturbing Activities Time-of-Year Restriction:** Within all tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries in Maryland with salinity levels < 6 parts per thousand, sediment disturbing activities, including pile driving activities, are prohibited during the period April 1 through June 30 for the protection of shortnose sturgeon during early life stages in these waters unless a waiver is received from the District Engineer (see attached Figure 1).
6. **Critical Habitat:** Any work proposed in designated or proposed critical habitat requires a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to the Corps. Current designated Critical Habitat within the State of Maryland includes:
- a. Potomac River from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay to the Little Falls Dam, including Brenton Bay and St. Clements Bay
 - b. Nanticoke River from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay to the Route 313 bridge, and
 - c. Marshyhope Creek from the confluence with the Nanticoke River to the Route 318 bridge.

C. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition #22 Designated Critical Resource Waters:

1. Within the State of Maryland, the designated National Estuarine Research Reserves applicable to NWP General Condition #22 are:
 - a. Jug Bay
 - b. Otter Point Creek
 - c. Monie Bay

D. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition #32 Pre-Construction Notification:

The following regional general conditions are incorporated as part of the terms and conditions of NWP General Condition 32, *Pre-Construction Notification*. These regional general conditions are applicable to all NWPs where a PCN is submitted to the District Engineer. This includes the following: (a) those NWPs that require a PCN, (b) those NWPs requiring notification to the District Engineer pursuant to NWP General Conditions 18 and 22, (c) those NWPs requiring notification to the District Engineer pursuant to a regional condition, and (d) any other pre-construction notifications to the District Engineer where an applicant has requested verification of an NWP authorization.

1. A PCN shall be submitted to the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers for proposed construction and modification of docks, piers, and other structures that will occur along and/or within 150 feet of the horizontal limits of a federally authorized channel within the Baltimore District Civil Works Boundary as identified by: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Nav-Maps/>. In addition, a PCN is required for the replacement of previously authorized, currently serviceable structures located along federally authorized channels that are destroyed by an act of nature or sudden event. As part of a PCN for any project adjacent to a federally authorized channel, the permittee must provide the latitude and longitude of the channelward most point of the proposed structure.
2. **Waters Containing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Beds:** A PCN is required for all activities proposed within 50 feet of mapped SAV or locations of SAV otherwise identified from actual on-site SAV surveys conducted during the growing season. When a PCN is required, the District Engineer will provide a copy of the complete PCN to the National Marine Fisheries Service-Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (NMFS) for all activities proposed within 50 feet of mapped SAV or locations of SAV otherwise identified from actual on-site SAV surveys conducted during the growing season. The PCN shall include plans depicting the entire project footprint and adjacent waters overlaid on composite mapping of the 5 most recent years of verified SAV data (derived from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) aerial surveys or locations of SAV otherwise identified from actual SAV surveys conducted during the growing season). The NMFS will have a 30-calendar day review and comment period from the date of their receipt of the EFH assessment. Additional avoidance and minimization measures, such as relocating a structure, or time-of-year restrictions may be required to reduce impacts to SAV habitat. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science aerial surveys may be obtained at: <https://www.vims.edu/research/units/programs/sav/access/maps/index.php> and <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap>.
3. All PCNs to the District Engineer shall be completed using the established Corps of Engineers permit application procedures for that locality (see <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PermitTypesandProcess.aspx>). All PCNs to the District Engineer shall include the following information, where applicable, in addition to the information specified in the nationwide permit conditions, including General Condition 32:
 - a. For projects along and/or within 150 feet of the horizontal limits of a federally authorized channel, the location and depth of any Federal navigation channel shall be shown in relation to the proposed project.
 - b. Copy of response from the FWS concerning any federally listed Threatened and Endangered Species that may be affected by the proposed activity. Completion of the required screening identified in Regional General

Conditions 18 and submission of the documents required by the PCN serves as compliance with this condition.

- c. Copy of response from the State Historic Preservation Officer concerning historic properties that may be affected by the proposed activity.
- d. Documentation from the appropriate state agency indicating whether the proposed project is located within a State Natural Heritage site (Maryland Department of Natural Resources), Outstanding National Resource Water (Maryland Department of the Environment), or National Estuarine Research Reserve (<https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/>). For further information, reference NWP General Condition 22.

E. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition A for Certain Activities in Navigable Waters:

1. The following minimum clearances are required for aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States. These clearances are related to the clearances over the navigable channel provided by existing fixed bridges, or the clearances which would be required by the United States Coast Guard for new fixed bridges, in the vicinity of the proposed aerial transmission line. These clearances are based on the low point of the line under conditions producing the greatest sag, taking into consideration temperature, load, wind, length of span, and type of supports as outlined in the National Electrical Safety Code:

Nominal System Voltage (kV)	Minimum additional clearance (ft.) above clearance required for bridges
115 and below	20
138	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750-765	45

- a. The PCN for aerial transmission lines over navigable waters must include the nominal system voltage and the additional clearance above low steel for bridges, if available, or above maximum high water elevation;
- b. Corps of Engineer regulation ER 1110-2-4401 prescribes minimum vertical clearances for power communication lines over Corps lake projects. In instances

where both this regional condition and ER 1110-2-4401 apply, the greater minimum clearance is required; and

- c. Clearances for communication lines, stream gaging cables, ferry cables, and other aerial crossings must be a minimum of ten feet above clearances required for bridges, unless specifically authorized otherwise by the District Engineer.
 - d. All proposed work shall comply with the most current version of the Baltimore District's setback guidance on the Baltimore District Regulatory website at: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Portals/63/docs/Regulatory/Pubs/spn11-17.pdf>.
2. Within 60 days of completing an activity that involves an aerial transmission line, submerged cable, or submerged pipeline across a navigable water of the United States (i.e., Section 10 waters), the permittee shall furnish the District Engineer and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Nautical Data Branch, N/CS26, Station 7317, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, with professional, certified as-built drawings, to scale, with control (i.e., latitude/longitude, state plane coordinates), depicting the alignment and minimum clearance of the aerial wires above the mean high water line at the time of survey or depicting the elevations and alignment of the buried cable or pipeline across the navigable waterway.
 3. Aids to Navigation: If the Corps or the U.S. Coast Guard determine that private aids to navigation are required to mark the project area, the permittee must prepare and provide for USCG approval, a Private Aids to Navigation Application (CG-2554). Approval from the Coast Guard for the Private Aid to Navigation must be received prior to commencement of the authorized work. The form can be found at: https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/AIS/CG_2554_Paton.pdf. Within 30 days of the date of receipt of the USCG approval, the permittee must provide a copy to the Corps.

F. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition B Poured Concrete into Forms:

1. Activities that involve the discharge of poured concrete must be contained within cells or watertight forms until the concrete is set.

G. Nationwide Permit Regional General Condition C Temporary Impacts to Streams:

1. Following completion of construction, temporarily affected stream beds shall have bottom contours restored using clean, native materials, where practicable.

H. Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency Determination Conditions:

1. An applicant is required to obtain an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification or waiver thereof for any NWP activity that may result in a discharge into waters of the United States.
2. An applicant is required to obtain an individual Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination from the State of Maryland for any NWP activity proposed in one of Maryland's Coastal Zone counties (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/md-coastal-zone.aspx>).

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. As required, the District Engineer shall coordinate a PCN with the following Federal and State agencies:

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

State Historic Preservation Officer
Maryland Historical Trust
Division of Historical & Cultural Programs
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
200 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Ste 460
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
<https://www.fisheries.noa.gov/contact/greater-atlantic-region-habitat-and-ecosystem-services-division>

NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Protected Resources Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Nmfs.gar.esa.section7@noaa.gov

Maryland Department of the Environment
Water Resources Administration
Wetlands and Waterways Program
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review, B-3
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401