



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

September 9, 2019

Captain Rob Newberry
Chairman, Delmarva Fisheries Association
120 Speer Road, Suite 1
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

Dear Chairman Newberry,

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed changes for the 2019-2020 oyster season. In your letter, you asked whether these measures would be temporary or permanent.

The proposed changes will only affect the 2019-2020 oyster season since the public notice the department issues will open and close the 2019-2020 season. After the season comes to a close, the department will re-run the stock assessment with 2018 and 2019 data. This will allow us to assess the impacts of the management options exercised in the 2019-2020 season and evaluate the results. This data will inform any decisions about management going forward starting in the 2020-2021 oyster season. During calendar year 2020, we also plan to develop a target abundance threshold through the Oyster Advisory Commission with input from stakeholders and to begin using a predictive model.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Secretary