

FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS — Catoctin Creek Delayed Harvest Area

What is being considered?

The department is considering moving the boundary of the Delayed Harvest Area on Catoctin Creek in Frederick County from the boundary of Catoctin Creek Park at the Sumantown Road Bridge upstream 200 feet.

Why is this change necessary?

There have been enforcement issues in this area because upstream of the boundary is open year-round to the harvest of trout, while the delayed harvest area beginning at the bridge is closed to the harvest of trout from October 1 through May 31. Also during that time period, a person may not use any natural or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent and capable of catching fish in the delayed harvest area. After stocking, trout often reside under the bridge. By moving the special management line upstream of the bridge, anglers on both sides of the bridge will be fishing the area under the same rules.

Who will this affect?

Recreational anglers who fish in Catoctin Creek in Frederick County.

When will this be effective?

This change could be effective in winter 2021-2022, however, at this time, the department cannot determine if the change will be adopted nor the exact date that it could be effective. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

Has this change been discussed with advisory commissions?

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, July 2021

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .01 under COMAR 08.02.11 Fishing in Nontidal Waters.