



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Kathy M. Kinsey
Deputy Secretary

August 26, 2011

Mr. John Griffin, Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Secretary Griffin:

Due to the potential impacts to water quality from Hurricane Irene, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has determined for the areas described below that these waters may be polluted so that shellfish produced or stored in these areas are a hazard to public health. Therefore, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article § 4-742 (1990 Volume), MDE hereby reclassifies the areas described below as restricted for the harvesting of shellfish **effective Sunday, August 28, 2011**. The extreme high tides and flooding predicted for this hurricane create an unacceptable risk of sanitary sewer upsets and extreme runoff from the land that could potentially contaminate shellfish harvesting waters.

Shellfish Harvesting Waters in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries and Maryland Coastal Bays.

This emergency closure is due to the potential for extreme high tides, storm run-off, and flooding anticipated bay-wide in Maryland from Hurricane Irene. The closure will remain in effect through Saturday September 3, 2011. This action is necessary to prevent any potential harmful affects from consumption of shellfish exposed to untreated sewage. Areas previously open to harvesting will reopen as of Sunday September 4, 2011 unless new information indicates additional or less time is needed for water quality to again comply with the standards for shellfish harvesting.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Summers
Secretary

CC: See attached list.

CC: Department of Natural Resources Radio Room
DNR Natural Resources Police Regional Offices
DNR Fisheries Service
DHMH Office of Food Protection & Consumer Services
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Virginia Department of Health
Maryland Float Aquaculture Growers/Operators
Maryland Waterman's Association
USFDA Regional Shellfish Specialist