



January 9, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Kurtz:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has determined by appropriate investigation in the area described below that these waters are polluted so that shellfish produced or stored in this area are a hazard to public health. Therefore, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article § 4-742, MDE hereby reclassifies the area described below as restricted for the harvesting of shellfish **effective January 26, 2026**. Please note that this reclassification does not change the Department of Natural Resources designation of the area described as an oyster sanctuary.

**Northwest Branch, Harris Creek, Talbot County (57B)**

All of the waters of Northwest Branch of Harris Creek north a line extending in a northeasterly direction from a point of land (38° 47' 36.7" North Latitude, 76° 16' 30.2" West Longitude) on the western shore of Harris Creek to a point of land (38° 47' 40.0" North Latitude, 76° 16' 18.6" West Longitude) on the opposite shore.

**Northeast Branch, Harris Creek, Talbot County (57B1)**

All of the waters of the Northeast Branch of Harris Creek north of a line extending in an easterly direction from a point of land (38° 48' 09.9" North Latitude, 76° 15' 58.5" West Longitude) on the western shore of the northeast branch of Harris Creek to a point of land (38° 48' 10.1" North Latitude, 76° 15' 51.4" West Longitude) on the opposite shore.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has determined by sampling of the water and appropriate investigation that the area described below complies with the standards for conditionally approved shellfish harvesting. Therefore, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article § 4-742, MDE hereby reclassifies the area described below to conditionally approved for the harvesting of shellfish **effective January 26, 2026**. Please note that this reclassification does not change the Department of Natural Resources designation of the area described as an oyster sanctuary.

Following rainfall events of one or more inches in a 24-hour period, MDE will close this area for the catching or storing of shellfish for a period of three days. The area will be open after three days unless another rainfall event occurs in the same area. The closure will be broadcast over the Maryland Natural Resources Police VHF radio band 14 at 5, 6, and 7 a.m. daily. The same information can be obtained by calling a MDE number (410-537-4450) and listening to a recording; it can also be found daily on the MDE website

(<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/shellfishadvisory.aspx>).

This specific area will fall under the designation of **Conditionally Approved Area 11**.

### **Harris Creek, Talbot County (57A)**

All of the waters of Harris Creek north of a line extending in a southeasterly direction from a point of land (38° 47' 13.5" North Latitude, 76° 16' 19.9" West Longitude) on the western shore of the of Harris Creek to a point of land (38° 47' 02.9" North Latitude 76° 16' 03.3" West Longitude) on the opposite shore, and south of a line extending in a northeasterly direction from a point of land (38° 47' 36.7" North Latitude, 76° 16' 30.2" West Longitude) on the western shore of the Northwestern Branch of Harris Creek to a point of land (38° 47' 40.0" North Latitude, 76° 16' 18.6" West Longitude) on the opposite shore and south of a line extending in a easterly direction from a point of land (38° 48' 09.9" North Latitude, 76° 15' 58.5" West Longitude) on the western shore of the Northeast Branch of Harris Creek to a point of land (38° 48' 10.1" North Latitude, 76° 15' 51.4" West Longitude) on the opposite shore.

A map of this area is attached.

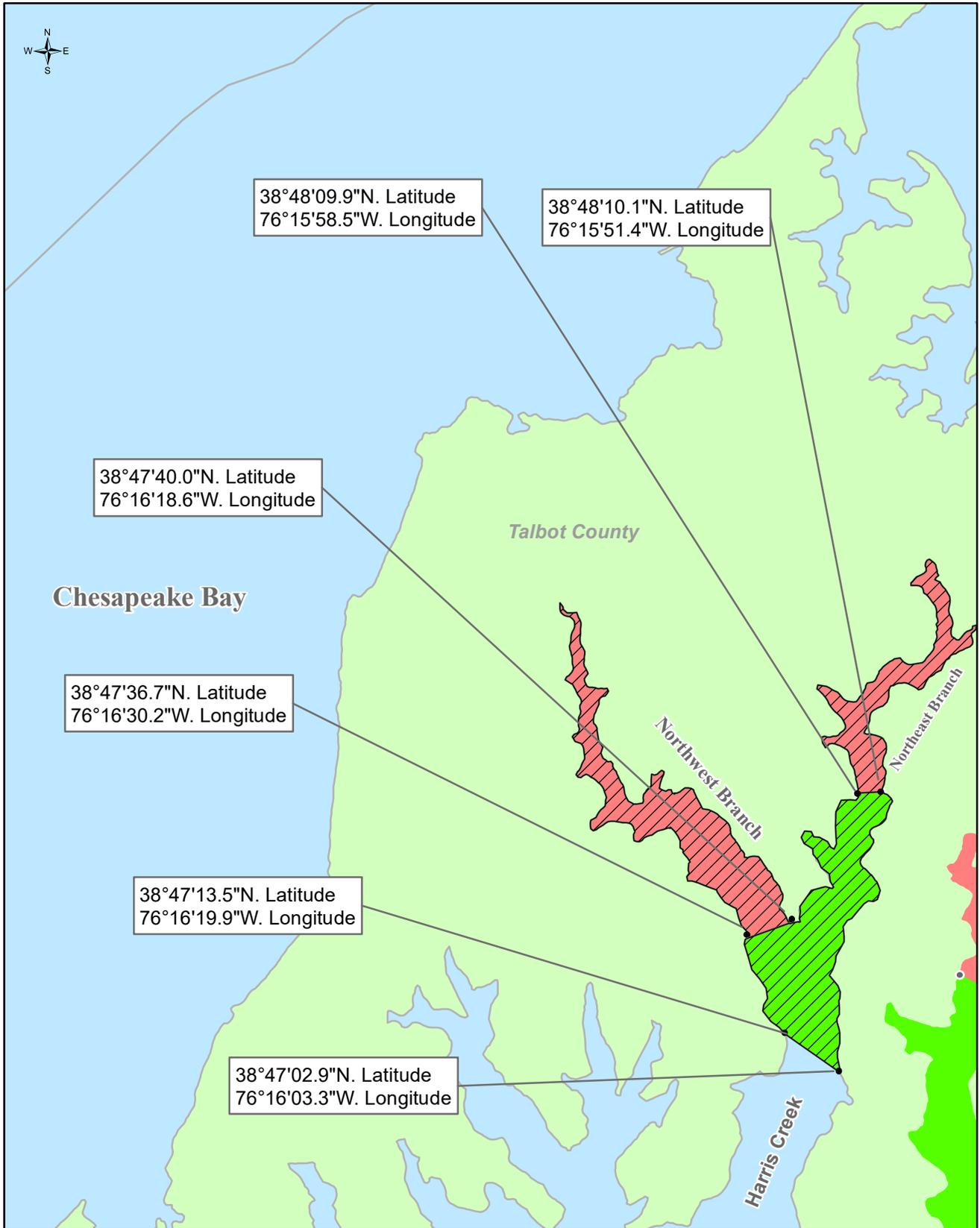
Sincerely,



D. Lee Currey, Director  
Water and Science Administration

Attachment

cc: (see attached list)



38°48'09.9"N. Latitude  
76°15'58.5"W. Longitude

38°48'10.1"N. Latitude  
76°15'51.4"W. Longitude

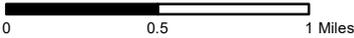
38°47'40.0"N. Latitude  
76°16'18.6"W. Longitude

38°47'36.7"N. Latitude  
76°16'30.2"W. Longitude

38°47'13.5"N. Latitude  
76°16'19.9"W. Longitude

38°47'02.9"N. Latitude  
76°16'03.3"W. Longitude

Northwest and Northeast Branch, Harris Creek, Talbot County  
Prohibited Shellfish Area Map 57B, 57C, 57A  
January 2026



- Restricted By This Letter
- Conditionally Approved By This Letter
- Remains Approved By This Letter
- Remains Conditionally Approved By This Letter
- Remains Restricted By This Letter



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lieutenant Governor  
Serena McIlwain, Secretary

## CC List

Mr. William Evans, MD Dept. of the Environment  
Ms. Kim Coulbourne, MDH, Division of Food Control  
Mr. Rusty McKay, Compliance Monitoring Division  
Ms. Allison O'Hanlon, Field Services Program  
Mr. Bill Sieling, Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association  
Dr. Cliff Mitchell, MDH, Community Health Administration  
Ms. Patricia Vauls, MDH  
Ms. Amy Hontz, MDH, Division of Food Control  
Dr. Maureen Edwards, MDH Environmental Health Coordination  
Dr. Brian Callam, Director, Dept. of Natural Resources  
Honorable Corey W. Pack, Chairman, Board of Talbot Co. Commissioners  
Major Scott Simmons, Maryland Natural Resources Police  
Ms. Lindsey Markert, Maryland Natural Resources Police  
Honorable James J. Moran, President, Board of Queen Anne's Co. Commissioners  
Ms. Jodi Baxter, Fisheries Service  
Mr. Ronald Owens, Executive Secretary, Potomac R. Fisheries Commission  
Ms. Ingrid Braun, Executive Secretary, Potomac R. Fisheries Commission  
Kelly Kunsch, Director, Environmental Health  
Mr. Brennan Greene, Director, Office of Environmental Health  
Mr. William Forlifer, Director, Environmental Health Division  
Mr. Roger Harrell, Health Officer  
Mr. Dale S Dean, Calvert County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Walter R. Witt, Jr., Anne Arundel County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Hollice John Edward Lowe, Baltimore County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Harry White, Kent County Oyster Committee  
Mr. William Troy Wilkins, Queen Anne's County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Herman J. Harrison, Talbot County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Daniel Ralph Webster, Somerset County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Cody Paul, Dorchester County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Alan Keith Bradley, Wicomico County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Francis W. Kilinski, Charles County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Robert Howes, Anne Arundel County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Brian Hite, St. Mary's County Oyster Committee  
Mr. Robert T. Brown, Sr., President, Maryland's Watermen's Association  
Mr. Moochie Gilmer, Director, Queen Anne's Co. Watermen's Association  
Mr. Philemon T. Hambleton, Jr.  
Ms. Pamela Getson  
Mr. Ryker Chase