



January 13, 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 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 February 2, 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 of one or more inches 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 an 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 18**.

Little Annessex River, Somerset County (9C)

All of the waters of the Little Annessex River south of a line extending in a southeasterly direction from a point of land (38° 01' 54.0" North Latitude, 75° 50' 49.5" West Longitude) on the western shore of the Little Annessex River to a point of land (38° 01' 49.2" North Latitude 75° 50' 23.4" West Longitude) on the opposite shore, and north of a line extending in a southeasterly direction from a point of land (38° 01' 54.0" North Latitude, 75° 50' 49.5" West Longitude) on the western shore of the Little Annessex to a point of land (38° 01' 41.5" North Latitude, 75° 50' 44.4" West Longitude) on the eastern shore of Acre Creek in the Little Annessex River and north of a line extending in a southeasterly direction from a point of land (38° 01' 32.7" North Latitude, 75° 50' 28.7" West Longitude) on the western shore of the Daugherty Creek Canal to a point of land (38° 01' 29.6" North Latitude, 75° 50' 23.6" West Longitude) on the opposite shore.

The following area will remain restricted to shellfish harvesting:

Little Annemessex River, Daugherty Creek Canal and Acre Creek, Somerset County (9A)

All the waters of the Little Annemessex River north of a line running in a northwesterly direction from Hammock Point (37° 57' 59.9" North Latitude, 75° 52' 00.2" West Longitude) to Long Point (37° 58' 11.3" North Latitude, 75° 52' 42.6" West Longitude); and all the waters north of a line running in a westerly direction from a point on the island north west of Long Point (37° 58' 19.2" North Latitude, 75° 52' 52.0" West Longitude) to a point on the opposite shore (37° 58' 24.0" North Latitude, 75° 53' 02.9" West Longitude); and all the waters east of a line running in a north easterly direction from a point (38° 01' 19.2" North Latitude, 75° 52' 08.0" West Longitude) to a point (38° 01' 21.2" North Latitude, 75° 52' 05.0" West Longitude) on the opposite shore; and all the waters south of a line running in a north westerly direction across Acre Creek from a point (38° 01' 41.5" North Latitude, 75° 50' 44.4" West Longitude) on the south shore of Acre Creek to a point (38° 01' 54.0" North Latitude, 75° 50' 49.5" West Longitude) on the north shore of Acre Creek, and all of the waters south of a line running in a northwesterly direction from a point of land (38° 01' 29.6" North Latitude, 75° 50' 23.6" West Longitude) on the eastern shore of Daugherty Creek Canal to a point of land (38° 01' 32.7" North Latitude, 75° 50' 28.7" West Longitude) on the opposite shore.

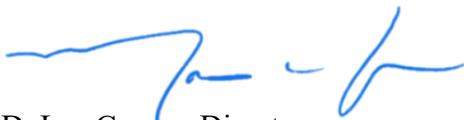
Please note that this area includes the prohibited closed safety zone for the Crisfield Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Effective Date: July 23, 1976

Continued Date: October 19, 1987, February 22, 2016, and February 2, 2026

A map of this area is attached.

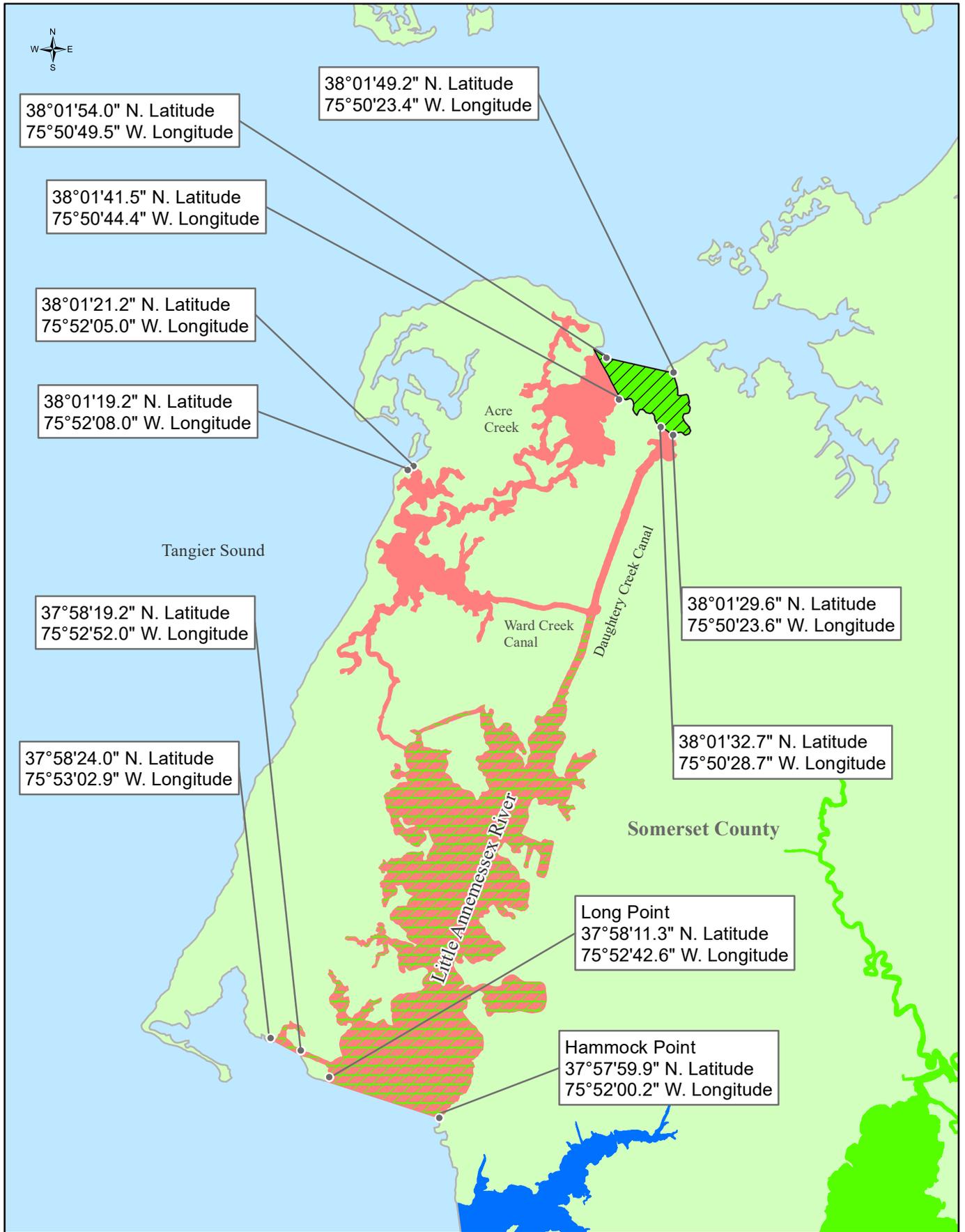
Sincerely,



D. Lee Currey, Director
Water and Science Administration

Attachment

cc: (see attached list)



0 0.5 1 Miles

Little Annessex River, Somerset County
 Prohibited Shellfish Area Map 9B
 February 2026

- █ Conditionally Approved By This Letter
- █ Remains Approved By This Letter
- █ Remains Conditionally Approved By This Letter
- █ Remains Restricted By This Letter
- █ Non-shellfish Area
- ↔ Closed Safety Zones



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

CC List

Mr. William Evans, MD Dept. of the Environment
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Mr. Dale S Dean, Calvert 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. Roland Bradshaw., Director, Tangier Sound Watermen's Association
Mr. Robert T. Brown, Sr., President, Maryland's Watermen's Association
Mr. Jeff Eutsler, Director, Worcester Co. Watermen's Association