

Comment Response Document
Regarding the Total Maximum Daily Loads of Fecal Coliform in the Restricted Shellfish Harvesting Area of Ellis Bay in the Lower Wicomico River in Wicomico County, Maryland

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public comment period of the proposed fecal coliform Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the restricted shellfish harvesting area of Ellis Bay. The comment period was from February 17, 2021 to March 18, 2021. MDE received one set of written comments.

Below is a list of the commenters, their affiliations, the date comments were submitted, and the number referenced to the comments. In the pages that follow, comments are summarized along with MDE’s responses.

List of Commenters

Author	Affiliation	Date	Comment Number
Mr. Hunter Pates	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	March 9, 2021	1

Comments and Responses

1. The commenter references the reasonable assurance section of the report stating, MDE may consider adding reasonable assurance language related to the load reductions required from Pet Waste. For example, Wicomico County’s MS4 permit and Stormwater Management County Code (Legislative Bill 2019-06) includes actions to address pet waste. Additionally, although Wicomico County may not have animal control laws that require the pickup of pet waste on public and private lands, perhaps MDE can speak to their “Scoop the Poop” program that provides education to citizens, or other relevant programs.

Response: The following text has been added to the Assurance of Implementation Section - Portions of Wicomico County have a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit regulating stormwater. As part of the permit, there is a requirement for an education program for pet waste removal (MDE 2018b). It is anticipated that the program would be developed County-wide. An example of an outreach program is MDE’s 2013 media campaign called, ‘Scoop the Poop’ This program included a social media campaign, tables set up at various festivals getting the information to the public and a website (MDE 2013). More information for this campaign, can be found at:
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/outreach/pages/scoop%20the%20poop.aspx>.