

***PUBLIC NOTICE of PROGRAM CHANGE DECISION***  
***Approval with Qualifications***

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**Subject:** Public Notice of NOAA Decision (Approval with Qualifications) for the Proposed Change to the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program, effective January 10, 2025

**Program Change #:** MD-2024-1

**Additional Information:** Update of Coastal Enforceable Policies approved with qualifications

**Background:** The State of Maryland is a participant in the national coastal zone management program established pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP), composed of a network of agencies and authorities that manage land and water uses in the coastal zone, received federal approval in 1978. The CZMA authorizes states with approved CZMPs to review federal actions within or outside the coastal zone that affect uses and resources in the coastal zone, including activities undertaken by federal agencies, federal licenses and permits, and federal financial assistance to state and local government entities for consistency with the policies of their federally approved coastal zone management programs.

As the underlying state statutes and regulations for coastal zone management programs change, states may submit those changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for concurrence that the state program and policies meet federal approval standards. In 2011, the state developed and NOAA approved a list of the policies used in the CZMA federal consistency review process. The policies are based on specified statutory and regulatory authorities. Since 2011, amendments have been made to some of those statutes and regulations. In instances where the amendments affect language relevant to a policy or a legal reference, the state has revised the policy or its reference to reflect the amendment.

**Decision Outcome:** On January 10, 2025, NOAA approved the proposed MD Program Change. All of these changes fall within existing state authority and do not substantially change permissible uses in the coastal zone. No new policies have been added to the Maryland CZMP. As of the date of the decision letter (1/10/25) the enforceable policies identified in the Table of Approved Changes (see “Program Change Materials”) shall be applicable in reviewing federal actions pursuant to the federal consistency requirements of the CZMA and its implementing regulations found at 15 CFR part 930.

**Program Change Materials**

A copy of this program change materials, this public notice, and the federal decision letter are available on the NOAA Coastal Zone Management Act Program Change website under File Number **MD-2024-1** at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>.

**Questions:** If you have any questions regarding this notice or the Program Change, please contact Laura Canton, Coastal Policy Coordinator, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, at (443) 223-3095 or [federalconsistency.review@maryland.gov](mailto:federalconsistency.review@maryland.gov).