

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the Department of Natural Resources has authority under §§ 8-703 and 8-704 of the Natural Resources Article to adopt and enforce regulations for those matters which are the subject of this Act; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify and reaffirm this authority of the Department of Natural Resources; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

8-725.2.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE USE OF VESSELS ON THE SEVERN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; AND

(2) IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 1990.

(B) THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE USE OF VESSELS ON THE SEVERN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT NECESSARILY BE LIMITED TO:

(1) AREAS DESIGNATED FOR SPECIFIED USES;

(2) NOISE LEVEL LIMITS OF VESSELS;

(3) MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS OF VESSELS; AND

(4) OTHER LIMITS THAT ADDRESS WATER SURFACE CAPACITY AND THE SAFE OPERATION OF VESSELS SO AS TO MAXIMIZE THE RECREATIONAL AND AESTHETIC VALUES OF THE SEVERN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, CONSISTENT WITH SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES; AND

(5) A STUDY OF SEAPLANE ACTIVITY ON THE SEVERN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

(C) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO CHANGE THE AUTHORITY PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO THE DEPARTMENT TO ADOPT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS SECTION.

8-725.3.

(A) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE ANY VESSEL ON THE SEVERN RIVER FROM APRIL 15 ~~TO~~ ~~OCTOBER~~ ~~15~~ ~~OF~~ ~~ANY~~ ~~YEAR~~ ~~IN~~ ~~EXCESS~~ ~~OF~~ ~~25~~ ~~KNOTS~~ ~~40~~