



Summary of Proposed Amendments to Water Quality Standards

This document is for informational purposes only. For the official proposed amendments the reader should consult the May 12, 2017 issue of the [Maryland Register](#).

1. COMAR 26.08.02.03-3A.(1): Updating the recreational water quality criteria as required by BEACH Act. The proposed criteria are shown in italics below.

(a)

		<i>Geometric Mean</i>	<i>Statistical Threshold Value</i>
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Enterococci (fresh or marine) - culturable</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>130</i>
	<i>E. coli (fresh)- culturable</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>410</i>

All magnitudes in Table 1 are expressed as counts per 100 milliliters

(b) The geometric mean of samples taken over a 90 day period shall not exceed the steady state geometric mean values for the given indicator.

(c) 10 percent of samples taken over a 90 day period shall not exceed the statistical threshold value. (d) When a sanitary survey and an epidemiological study approved by the Department disclose no significant health hazard, the criteria in Table 1 do not apply.

2. COMAR 26.08.09.01B.: Updates BEACH regulations to describe the use of a Beach Action Value (BAV). The new proposed regulations are shown below in italics.

(7) "Beach Action Value" (BAV) means the value the approving authority uses to issue beach notifications and is defined as follows:

(a) BAV is 235 colony forming units (cfu) using E. coli indicator at freshwater beaches.

(b) BAV is 104 cfu using Enterococci indicator at marine beaches.



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3. COMAR 26.08.09.04, 26.08.09.06, and 26.08.09.08: Updates BEACH regulations for consistency with terminology and new recreational water quality criteria shown above in #1 and #2. For details please see the May 12, 2017 issue of the Maryland Register.
4. COMAR 26.08.09.07B.: Updates BEACH regulations which describe the use of the BAV. The new proposed regulations are shown below in italics.
 - (3) *Evaluation of water quality using Beach Action Values (BAV).*
 - (a) *Sampling events shall consist of at least three indicator bacteria samples per sampling event.*
 - (b) *In addition to the application of the BAV, the approving authority may consider other factors, including the results of sanitary surveys, prior rainfall, and other environmental conditions in making public health decisions.*
5. COMAR 26.08.02.04-1: Updates the list of "Tier II" (high quality) waters by removing segments that, due to an index of biotic integrity recalculation, should not be identified as Tier II. In addition, other streams are added to the list of Tier II waters based on new data demonstrating excellent water quality.

Table 1: These waters were removed from the list of Tier II high quality waters.

Stream Name	County	From Lat	From Long	To Lat	To Long
Aydelotte Branch 1	Wicomico	38.41395	-75.44652	38.40576	-75.38133
Bens Run 1	Baltimore	39.31682	-76.79279	39.31402	-76.79400
Choptank River UT 2	Caroline	38.88450	-75.87640	38.87218	-75.85988
Deer Creek 1	Baltimore	39.72289	-76.61175	39.70730	-76.59021
Fifteenmile Creek 2	Allegany	39.67463	-78.45777	39.69293	-78.45128



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Stream Name	County	From Lat	From Long	To Lat	To Long
Indian Run 1	Baltimore	39.54821	-76.74264	39.54230	-76.73384
Lyons Creek 2	Anne Arundel, Calvert	38.76474	-76.65903	38.76498	-76.65334
Mudlick Hollow 1	Allegany	39.69590	-78.39292	39.65611	-78.40011
Murley Branch 1	Allegany	39.66398	-78.61768	39.66340	-78.61151
North Branch Patapsco River 2	Carroll	39.52579	-76.87790	39.52245	-76.87527
Persimmon Creek 1	Saint Mary's	38.42150	-76.71305	38.44077	-76.69696
Saint Marys River UT 1	Saint Mary's	38.21487	-76.43063	38.21155	-76.45141
Saint Marys River UT 2	Saint Mary's	38.21065	-76.40308	38.19760	-76.41921
Savage River 3	Garrett	39.50101	-79.10657	39.48643	-79.08279
Town Creek 2	Allegany	39.69388	-78.54752	39.71306	-78.53643
Western Run 1	Baltimore	39.52739	-76.72217	39.51503	-76.74060
Browns Branch 1	Queen Anne's	39.117590	-75.956460	39.116500	-75.965620
Browns Branch 2	Queen Anne's	39.116510	-75.965630	39.130350	-75.977880
Southeast Creek UT 1	Queen Anne's	39.159680	-75.920760	39.163600	-75.951770



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Table 2: These waters were added to the list of Tier II high quality waters.

Stream Segment	County	From LAT	From LONG	To LAT	To LONG
Big Run 1	Garrett	39.58348	-79.17124	39.55629	-79.15005
Browns Branch 3	Queen Anne's	39.15968	-75.92076	39.16360	-75.95177
Fifteenmile Creek 6	Allegany	39.65610	-78.40009	39.65591	-78.39701
Gravel Run 1	Queen Anne's	39.03535	-76.03710	39.05027	-76.06391
Harris Mill Creek 1	Baltimore	39.71528	-76.62412	39.71307	-76.59763
Island Creek 1	Queen Anne's	39.08896	-76.05355	39.11732	-76.06863
Laurel Run UT 1	Garrett	39.47897	-79.15120	39.47772	-79.11977
Little Deer Creek UT 1	Harford	39.62878	-76.48475	39.66009	-76.48109
Little Gunpowder Falls 4	Baltimore, Harford	39.47306	-76.40243	39.46108	-76.39091
Lyons Creek 3	Anne Arundel, Calvert	38.76472	-76.65905	38.75572	-76.67206
Marbury Run 1	Charles	38.56780	-77.14674	38.57919	-77.15872
Middle Fork Crabtree Creek 3	Garrett	39.53507	-79.18800	39.51565	-79.16892
Mill Run 4 Garrett Co	Garrett	39.71883	-79.30088	39.71553	-79.34541
Mill Run UT 2 Garrett Co	Garrett	39.71594	-79.27141	39.71849	-79.30071
Murphy Run 1	Baltimore, Carroll	39.62639	-76.83087	39.62004	-76.81855
N Branch Patapsco River UT 2	Baltimore	39.49571	-76.83795	39.49463	-76.86357
Norwich Creek 2	Queen Anne's, Talbot	38.92547	-75.97541	38.91998	-75.96930



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Stream Segment	County	From LAT	From LONG	To LAT	To LONG
Norwich Creek 3	Queen Anne's	38.94203	-75.99741	38.92547	-75.97541
Potomac River UT 2	Charles	38.48546	-77.23682	38.47495	-77.25927
Reeder Run 3	Charles	38.50269	-77.18977	38.50940	-77.20911
Saint Clements Creek 2	Saint Mary's	38.35866	-76.72707	38.34859	-76.73061
Southeast Creek UT 2	Queen Anne's	39.11759	-75.95646	39.11650	-75.96562
Southeast Creek UT 3	Queen Anne's	39.11651	-75.96563	39.13035	-75.97788
Spring Lick Run 1	Garrett	39.50365	-79.20005	39.49073	-79.17532
Toms Spring Run 1	Garrett	39.51704	-79.20115	39.51565	-79.16893
Tuckahoe River 2	Caroline, Queen Anne's	38.98128	-75.93486	38.97278	-75.93518
Wolf Den Branch 2	Charles, Prince George's	38.67283	-76.80444	38.63902	-76.81987
Wolf Den Run 1	Garrett	39.39655	-79.21193	39.38905	-79.19443
Wolf Den Run UT 1	Garrett	39.41259	-79.22063	39.39655	-79.21193



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6. COMAR 26.08.02.08: Added additional text to clarify the table describing Use Classification.

Also, corrected Use Classifications for waterbodies whose designated use was not consistent with downstream classifications. E.g. Class III waterbodies reclassified to Class III-P since these waters flow into III-P waters. (Essentially, these are corrections to previous misclassifications.) Waters with their corrected Use Classifications are shown in italics in the table below.

Table 3: Both of these water bodies were inaccurately identified as Class III and are being moved to Class III-P.

Water	Latitude	Longitude	Limits
<i>Rock Run and all tributaries (Cecil County)</i>	39.613544	-76.12697	<i>Upstream of mouth</i>
<i>Roaring Run (Carroll County) and all tributaries</i>	39.510061	-76.88728	<i>Upstream from mouth</i>

Updates the classification of Bucks Run stream in Garrett County from Class I to Class III based on the presence of trout and water temperatures that meet the Class III criterion.

Table 4: Coordinates for the Bucks Run stream reclassification.

Water	Latitude	Longitude	Limits
<i>Bucks Run and all tributaries</i>	39.721831	-79.24282	

Other changes to this regulation include changing “Use” to “Class” for some streams that should have been amended in the 2013 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards.



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7. COMAR 26.08.02.03-1 B.(3)(t): Incorporated minor corrections to the boundaries for applying fresh versus marine/estuarine toxic substance water quality criteria for the Chesapeake Bay Proper. New proposed language is shown in italics below.

(t) Chesapeake Bay Proper (Sub-Basin 02-13-99) boundary is a line connecting Booby Point (39.284206 north latitude, -76.381400 west longitude) with Handy's Point (39.291944 north latitude, -76.181388 west longitude).