PUBLIC HEARING TO ESTABLISH NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING AQUACULTURE IN DELAWARE’S INLAND BAYS (7 DE ADMIN. CODE §3800 AQUACULTURE), TO WIT: 7 DE ADMIN. CODE §3801 SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Fish & Wildlife, Fisheries Section will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 regarding the addition of a new §3801 Shellfish Aquaculture. The hearing will be held at 6:00 PM at the Watershed Stewardship Building, located at 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958.

This action proposes the regulations necessary to provide for a shellfish aquaculture industry in Delaware’s Inland Bays. Specifically, this action proposes a structured process and sets conditions for leasing of subaqueous bottom within Delaware’s Inland Bays for the culture of bivalve shellfish. The proposed regulations include requirements for lease: application, locations, issuance, marking, renewal, transfer, expiration, termination, condemnation and emergency relocation. The action further proposes measures related to: shellfish aquaculture gear and marking, shellfish nursery permitting and structures, harvester license qualifications, bivalve species authorized for aquaculture, activities within subaqueous lease areas, shellfish aquaculture reporting requirements, and prohibited activities.

The hearing record on the proposed addition of a new §3800 Aquaculture, to include a new §3801 Shellfish Aquaculture, will be open May 1, 2014. Individuals may submit written comments or request additional information regarding the proposed changes via e-mail to Lisa.Vest@state.de.us or via the USPS to Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer, DNREC, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901 (302) 739-9042.