

this category which have been transferred by the State by valid grant, lease, patent or grant confirmed by Article 5 of the MARYLAND Declaration of Rights [of the Constitution] shall be considered "private wetland" to the extent of the interest transferred.

9-102.

(A) In many areas of the State much of the wetlands have been lost or despoiled by unregulated dredging, dumping, filling, and like activities, and the remaining wetlands are in jeopardy of being lost or despoiled by these and other activities. The loss or despoliation:

(1) [will] WILL affect adversely, if not eliminate entirely, the value of the wetlands as a source of nutrient to finfish, crustacea, and shellfish of significant economic value;

(2) [the loss or despoliation will] WILL destroy the wetlands as a habitat for plants and animals of significant economic value and eliminate or substantially reduce marine commerce, recreation, and aesthetic enjoyment;

(3) [in] IN most cases, [the loss or despoliation] will affect the natural ability of tidal wetlands to reduce flood damage and affect adversely the public health and welfare; AND

(4) [the loss or despoliation] WILL will reduce substantially the capacity of the wetlands to absorb silt and result in increased silting of channel and harbor areas to the detriment of free navigation.

(B) It is [therefore] the public policy of the State, taking into account varying ecological, economic, developmental, recreational, and aesthetic values, to preserve the wetlands and prevent their despoliation and destruction.

9-103.

(A) Except as specifically provided in this title, a riparian owner may not be deprived of any right, privilege, or enjoyment of riparian ownership that [he] THE RIPARIAN OWNER had prior to July 1, 1970.

(B) The provisions of this title do not transfer the title or ownership of any land or interest in land.

9-104.

(a) This section does not apply to any project involving the construction of a dwelling unit or other [non-water] NONWATER dependent structure on a pier located on State or private wetlands in Prince George's County.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Board of Public Works may not issue a license under this title for any project involving the construction of a dwelling unit or other [non-water] NONWATER dependent structure on a pier located on State wetlands.