

(d) *Within the limits of funds available, each Department is authorized to enter into agreements with the federal government, with any municipality or other political subdivision of the State, or with any private agency for sharing the cost of any development, construction, or improvement of waterways, or facilities which are determined to have beneficial value to the boating public.*

8. RULES AND REGULATIONS

(a) *The Department of Tidewater Fisheries and the Department of Game and Inland Fish shall jointly establish uniform regulations governing the numbering, safety equipment, and operation of the vessels subject to this Article so that any such vessel complying therewith may be operated with equal freedom, or under similar requirements, upon all the waters of Maryland. The numbering system to be used shall conform to the numbering system promulgated by the federal government. Safety and operational regulations dealing with non-tidal waters shall be adopted only with the recommendation of the Game and Inland Fish Commission. Such regulations shall not be in conflict with federal laws and regulations applicable to such vessels upon the navigable waters of the United States which are within this State. The Departments are authorized and directed to alter and amend their regulations as need be, from time to time, to prevent conflict with federal laws.*

(b) *Each Department is authorized to prescribe special rules and regulations governing the operation of vessels in special areas or under special conditions within their respective jurisdictions.*

(c) *For the purpose of establishing, amending, or rescinding the regulations of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, the Chairmen of both the Senate of Maryland and House of Delegates Committees on the Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries may sit in meetings in an advisory capacity with members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission.*

(d) *Such rules and regulations of the Departments as are authorized by this Article shall not become effective unless they have been publicly advertised at least fifteen days IN NEWSPAPERS HAVING DAILY AND WEEKLY CIRCULATION AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS before the date on which they become effective. When any fifty (50) citizens of the State shall file a petition with the Department during the fifteen day period before any rules or regulations become effective, the respective Department shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed rules or regulations.*

(e) *No municipality, or other local authority, shall establish any regulations of a local nature not in conformity with State regulations authorized herein.*

(f) *On any proposed regulations affecting the equipment and/or operation of any vessel subject to this Article, each Department shall solicit the advice and opinions of the officials of representative boating associations, yacht clubs, and from local, State or Federal officials or agencies having knowledge or experience with the subject of the proposed regulations, WHICH SHALL HAVE REPRESENTATION THROUGH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TIDEWATER FISHERIES AND THE GAME AND INLAND FISH COMMISSION.*