

regulations; requiring the Department to make a certain report; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the impact of recreational watercraft on submerged aquatic vegetation.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 4–213(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 4–213.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–213.

(a) In this section, “submerged aquatic vegetation” means a vascular or nonvascular hydrophyte, which is rooted or unrooted, that lies entirely beneath the surface of the water, except for flowering parts in some species.

4–213.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “STUDY” MEANS THE STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT ACTIVITIES ON SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION BEDS.

(3) “SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4–213(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT ACTIVITIES ON SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION BEDS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL BAYS.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE A MINIMUM OF THREE SEPARATE SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION HABITATS WITHIN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL BAYS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY.

(2) EACH DESIGNATED SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION HABITAT SHALL HAVE A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF 4 FEET.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLEARLY MARK EACH DESIGNATED AREA WITH BUOYS.