

appropriate to achieve the standards stated in subsection (b) of this section. Prior to developing its criteria and also prior to adopting its criteria, the Commission shall hold at least 6 regional public hearings, 1 in each of the following areas:

- (i) Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties;
- (ii) Queen Anne's, Talbot, and Caroline counties;
- (iii) Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties;
- (iv) Baltimore City and Baltimore County;
- (v) Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties; and
- (vi) Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

(2) During the hearing process, the Commission shall consult with each affected local jurisdiction.

(e) Nothing in this section shall impede or prevent the dredging of any waterway in a critical area. However, dredging in a critical area is subject to other applicable federal and State laws and regulations.

(F) IN ADOPTING THE INITIAL LAND CLASSIFICATION FOR THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS CRITICAL AREA, THE LOCAL PROGRAM:

(1) OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY SHALL CLASSIFY AS AN INTENSELY DEVELOPED AREA THAT AREA THAT IS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF OCEAN CITY AS OF JANUARY 1, 2002; AND

(2) OF WORCESTER COUNTY SHALL CLASSIFY AS AN INTENSELY DEVELOPED AREA THAT AREA LOCATED ON THE WESTERN MAINLAND THAT IS EAST OF GOLF COURSE ROAD, SOUTH OF CHARLES STREET, AND NORTH OF ROUTE 707 (OLD BRIDGE ROAD).

~~(F)~~ (G) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE AND TITLE 27 OF THE CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS APPLY TO THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS CRITICAL AREA. 8-1808.1.

(a) This section is intended to establish conditions for development in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS CRITICAL AREA in addition to those established in criteria of the Commission. However, in the event of any inconsistency between the criteria and the provisions of this section, this section shall control.

(b) The growth allocation for a local jurisdiction shall be calculated based on 5 percent of the total resource conservation area in [the] A local jurisdiction:

(1) IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA at the time of the original approval of the local jurisdiction's program by the Commission, not including tidal wetlands or land owned by the federal government; OR