



## News

### Upriver Choptank closed to tonging because of bacteria

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Published: Sunday, February 8, 2009 4:37 AM CST

CAMBRIDGE The stretch of the Choptank River from Cambridge to Secretary will be closed to shellfishing starting Monday, Feb. 9, according to a recent notice from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

During recent sampling by the MDOE, as part of its standard sampling program, above average amounts of bacteria were found in the water, according to Kim Lamphier of the MDOE Office of Communications.

The closure starts at the restricted zone in the Choptank, located upriver from Cambridge's wastewater treatment plant, and continues up the Choptank to a triangular area just beyond the mouth of the Warwick River.

Lamphier said the MDOE could not link the bacteria to any specific source. She said the closure was announced more than a week before it occurred in order to give watermen and seafood buyers in the area time to plan for the closure.

"We will continue to monitor these waters," she said.

In recent years there have been few watermen tonging for oysters in this stretch of the Choptank, especially by this point in the oyster season.

Previous closures of the Choptank to shellfishing were linked to heavy rain events causing overflow from Cambridge's wastewater system.

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