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# February River Currents 2020

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## Help Enact Strong, Local, Environmental Laws

In the 2020 legislative session, Arundel Rivers is working on several bills. Please help us pass these bills by contacting your local representative. To send a letter or email, click here for [how and why](#).

**Plastics:** The Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act will ban the dispensing of plastic bags at retail establishments in the State, and require the charging of \$0.10 for any other bag distributed at the point of sale, including paper bags. A second plastics bill will ban the intentional release of balloons into the air, and carry a \$250 fine for violations of the ban.

**Fisheries:** If passed, one bill will require biodegradable panels on crab traps, so lost or abandoned traps do not continue to cause aquatic mortality after being lost.

**Enforcement:** Another bill we support will establish an enforcement ombudsman position within the Attorney General's office to track and report on environmental enforcement matters from the Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.

Lastly, a bill will improve the ability of MD's Dept. of Natural Resources to remove abandoned vessels from the State's rivers. This bill will allow DNR to remove boats before they sink, preventing pollution, reducing risks to navigation, and saving tax payer dollars.

If you have any questions about any of these bills, other environmental

legislation, or to learn how you can get more involved, contact your Riverkeeper at [jesse@arundelrivers.org](mailto:jesse@arundelrivers.org) or 410-224-3802.

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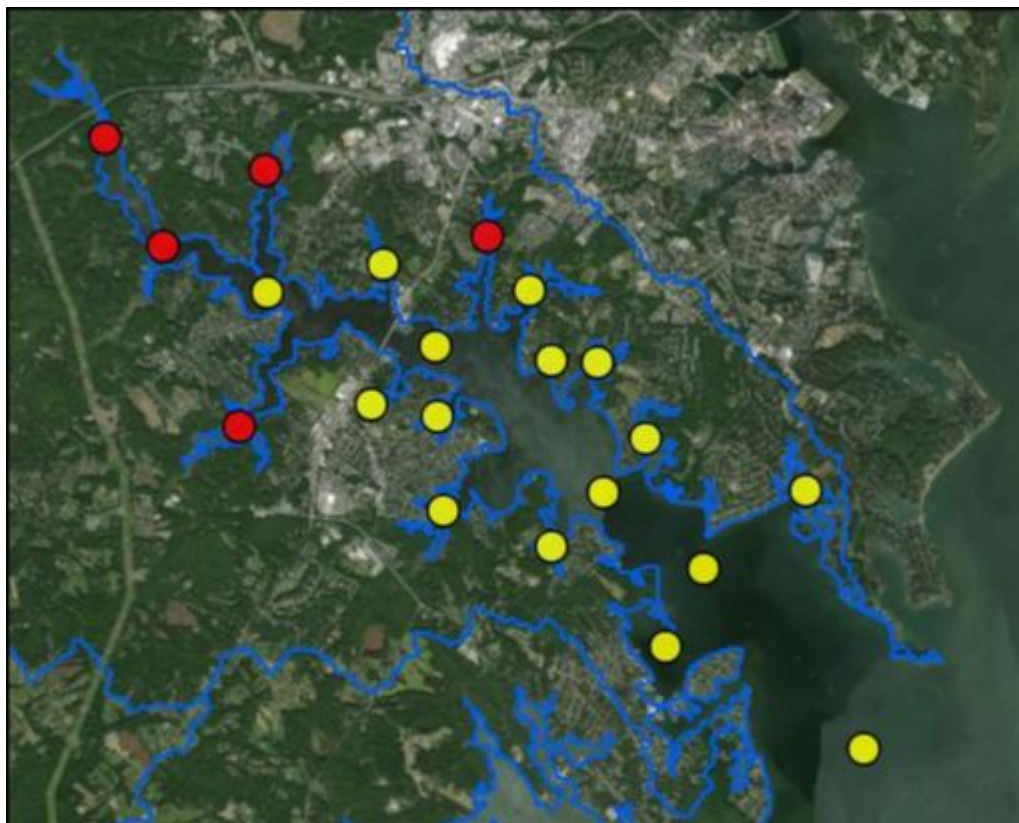
## **Purchase Your Tickets for Arundel Rivers on the Half Shell!**

*Saturday, April 4th at 5pm  
Camp Letts, Edgewater, MD*

Join Us for a night of fabulous food, drinks, oysters and jubilation at Arundel Rivers on the Half Shell to benefit the South, West, and Rhode Rivers. Come to help your local river, stay for the s'mores! Dress is camp attire.

[Buy tickets here.](#)

## Model Data Map Receives National Recognition



*The Federation has been chosen to present its interactive data map at the national NonProfit Technology Conference in Baltimore on March 24th. Chesapeake Conservancy, who produced the interactive web map will be co-presenters. Check out this innovative map showing the health of our rivers and our restoration projects [here](#).*

## Become a Half Shell Sponsor



[Support Your Local Rivers](#)

## Green Give 2020!



[Join the Party on May 12th](#)



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