



# Permitting Terms

Terminology	Definition
Abbreviated Joint Permit Application	The Abbreviated Joint Permit Application (JPA) is used to apply for federal and State authorization under the Maryland State Programmatic General Permit (MDSPGP) for work in tidal waters of the U.S. (including tidal wetlands) from the Baltimore District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) within the State of Maryland.
Critical Area	the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, including all waters and lands designated under Natural Resources Article, §8-1807, Annotated Code of Maryland, consisting of waters of and lands under the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to the head of the tide as indicated on the State wetland boundary maps, and all State and private wetlands designated under Environment Article, Title 16, and all land and water areas within 1,000 feet beyond the landward boundaries of State or private wetlands, and the heads of tides designated under Environment Article, Title 16, and the area beyond 1,000 feet designated by local critical area programs to protect sensitive areas, except developed, urban areas excluded by a local jurisdiction under a State-approved local critical area program
Critical Area Commission	Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays, as established under the Natural Resources Article, Title 8, Subtitle 18, Annotated Code of Maryland
Critical Area Buffer	a naturally vegetated area or vegetated area established or managed to protect aquatic, wetland, shoreline, and terrestrial environments from man-made disturbances as defined in the State-approved local critical area program
Critical Area Buffer Management Plan	<p>(a) a narrative, graphic description, or plan of the buffer that is necessary when an applicant proposes a development activity that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Affect a portion of the buffer;</li> <li>(ii) Alter buffer vegetation; or</li> <li>(iii) Require the establishment of a portion of the buffer in vegetation.</li> </ul> <p>(b) "Buffer management plan" includes a major buffer management plan, a minor buffer management plan, and a simplified buffer management plan. <a href="#">[COMAR]</a></p>
Living Shoreline	An erosion control practice that uses natural components alone or in combination with other structures for stabilization and wildlife habitat. Natural components or natural components in combination with other structures include sand, plant materials, or sand and plant materials with a sill, breakwater, or other structural erosion control practice <a href="#">[MDE]</a>
Living Shoreline Waiver	Form used to determine if a living shoreline is appropriate for a project site or if the site is exempt from the requirement to construct a nonstructural shoreline stabilization measure. Required to submitted as part of a complete JPA.
General Wetlands License	written authorization from the Department based on a standing authorization by the Board for recurrent or minimally disruptive activities conducted in State tidal wetlands <a href="#">[COMAR]</a>
General Wetlands Permit	written authorization from the Department for activities conducted in private tidal wetlands that cause only minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts. <a href="#">[COMAR]</a>
State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP)	Pertaining to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: "Programmatic general permits are based on an existing state, local, or other federal program and designed to avoid duplication of that program. A State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP) is a type of permit that is

	issued by USACE and designed to eliminate duplication of effort between USACE districts and state regulatory programs that provide similar protection to aquatic resources. In some states, the SPGP replaces some or all of the USACE nationwide permits, which results in greater efficiency in the overall permitting process.” <a href="#">[USACE]</a>
Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measure	an erosion control measure that is dominated by tidal wetland vegetation and is designed to preserve the natural shoreline, minimize erosion, and establish aquatic habitat <a href="#">[COMAR]</a>
State Tidal Wetlands	any land under the navigable waters of the State below the mean high tide, affected by the regular rise and fall of the tide. Tidal wetlands of this category which have been transferred by the State by a valid lease, patent, or grant confirmed by Article 5 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights are considered private tidal wetlands to the extent of the interest transferred <a href="#">[COMAR]</a>
Tidal Wetlands	all State and private tidal wetlands, marshes, submerged aquatic vegetation, lands, and open water within the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, the Coastal Bays and their tidal tributaries, and the Atlantic Ocean to a distance of 3 miles offshore of the low water mark <a href="#">[COMAR]</a>