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## Chapter 508 of the Acts of 2002

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3 (a) (1) The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize the study of  
4 the Suminoe oyster (*Crassostrea ariakensis*) ~~and other nonnative species~~ by both  
5 private and public research institutions with expertise in the field.

6 (2) The study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall  
7 INCLUDE:

8 (i) [Include an] AN analysis of the ecological benefits and risks  
9 associated with the introduction of:

10 1. Reproductively capable ~~nonnative oyster species~~ SUMINOE  
11 OYSTERS in Maryland waters, for purposes of fisheries restoration or any other  
12 purpose; and

13 2. Sterile ~~nonnative species~~ SUMINOE OYSTERS in Maryland,  
14 for purposes of the development of aquaculture or any other purpose; and

15 (ii) [Proceed in accordance with] TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AS THE  
16 STUDY PROGRESSES, the findings of the National Academy of Sciences review of the  
17 Suminoe oyster.

18 (3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY TERMINATE THE STUDY IF THE  
19 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES, BASED ON PRELIMINARY OR FINAL FINDINGS OF THE  
20 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEW, THAT THE STUDY POSES AN  
21 UNACCEPTABLE RISK TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

22 (d) The Department shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with §  
23 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the House Environmental Matters  
24 Committee and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

25 (1) By December 1, 2002, an interim report on the status of ongoing  
26 research and all interim findings available to the Department, including findings to  
27 date of the National Academy of Sciences review of the Suminoe oyster; and

28 (2) By December 1, 2004, a final report on all findings available to date  
29 from the National Academy of Sciences review and from studies conducted under this  
30 Act.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 June 1, 2003.

