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House Environment and Transportation Committee

Testimony in SUPPORT House Bill 1353

Natural Resources – Oyster Severance Tax – Increase

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

The Delmarva Fisheries Association (DFA) supports House Bill 1353, which will increase from \$1.00 to \$2.00 the per bushel “severance tax” paid by commercial oyster harvesters for oysters harvested from public natural oyster bars.

The additional revenue generated from the industry with the passage of HB 1353 will give a boost to the ongoing efforts of County Oyster Committees to routinely plant oyster seed and shell in strategic locations throughout the Bay and tributaries for purposes of oyster replenishment and propagation. More resources in the hands of County Oyster Committees, where the experience and knowledge about oysters is consolidated, will result in more oysters in the water...

DFA urges a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1353.

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