



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2020

Re: HB1498 - Tidal Fish Licenses - Oyster Authorizations - Revocation

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HB1498 is intended to provide the Department of Natural Resources with a modicum of flexibility with regard to certain oyster fishing violations.

Currently, a violation of the oyster poaching statute requires a permanent, lifetime revocation for anyone found violating the statute. HB1498 would allow anyone who violates the statute to apply for reinstatement after being found guilty of violating the oyster poaching statute.

Generally speaking, all oyster violations would still result in a lifetime revocation. These cases are prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office, which has and continues to maintain that a lifetime revocation is warranted for an oyster poaching violation.

That being said, there are occasional situations, where in particular, young individuals have made bad judgements or mistakes resulting in lifetime revocations. HB1498 is intended to address those rare and unique situations by requiring the Department to hold a hearing before revoking a license and allowing the Department of Natural Resources to consider an application for reinstatement five years after a violation penalty has expired.

We ask for your favorable report on HB1498.