

March 16, 2022

To: Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: **Senate Bill 979** – Prohibition Dredging on Man- O- War Shoals

CCA Maryland Position: SUPPORT

As anglers, and avid users of our natural resources, CCA Maryland members work hard to promote sensible science-based management measures to support sustainable fisheries for the benefit of the general public, and the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay.

From 1962 through 2006, the Department of Natural Resources contracted for a massive hydraulic dredge to strip mine three-dimensional structure in the upper Bay removing over **196 million bushels of buried shell**. This shell was barged to other areas of the Bay and used to supplement areas degraded by wild oyster harvest and disease.

This previous action came at a public cost of approximately **\$49 million dollars** and an unknown ecological impact through the removal of important habitat and economic cost by fishing areas for recreational anglers, charter business and local watermen.

The amount of habitat already removed from the upper Bay is comparable to the volume of:

- ~200 times the US Capitol Rotunda
- ~ 6 times Houston Astrodome
- ~ 100 times the Epcot Center Dome
- ~ 3 times the great pyramids of Giza

We strongly urge you to focus on more productive investments of public dollars in building habitat, and not returning to failed policies of the past which have no long lasting ecological or economic benefits.

Habitat should not be removed in one portion of the Bay to attempt to rebuild it elsewhere.

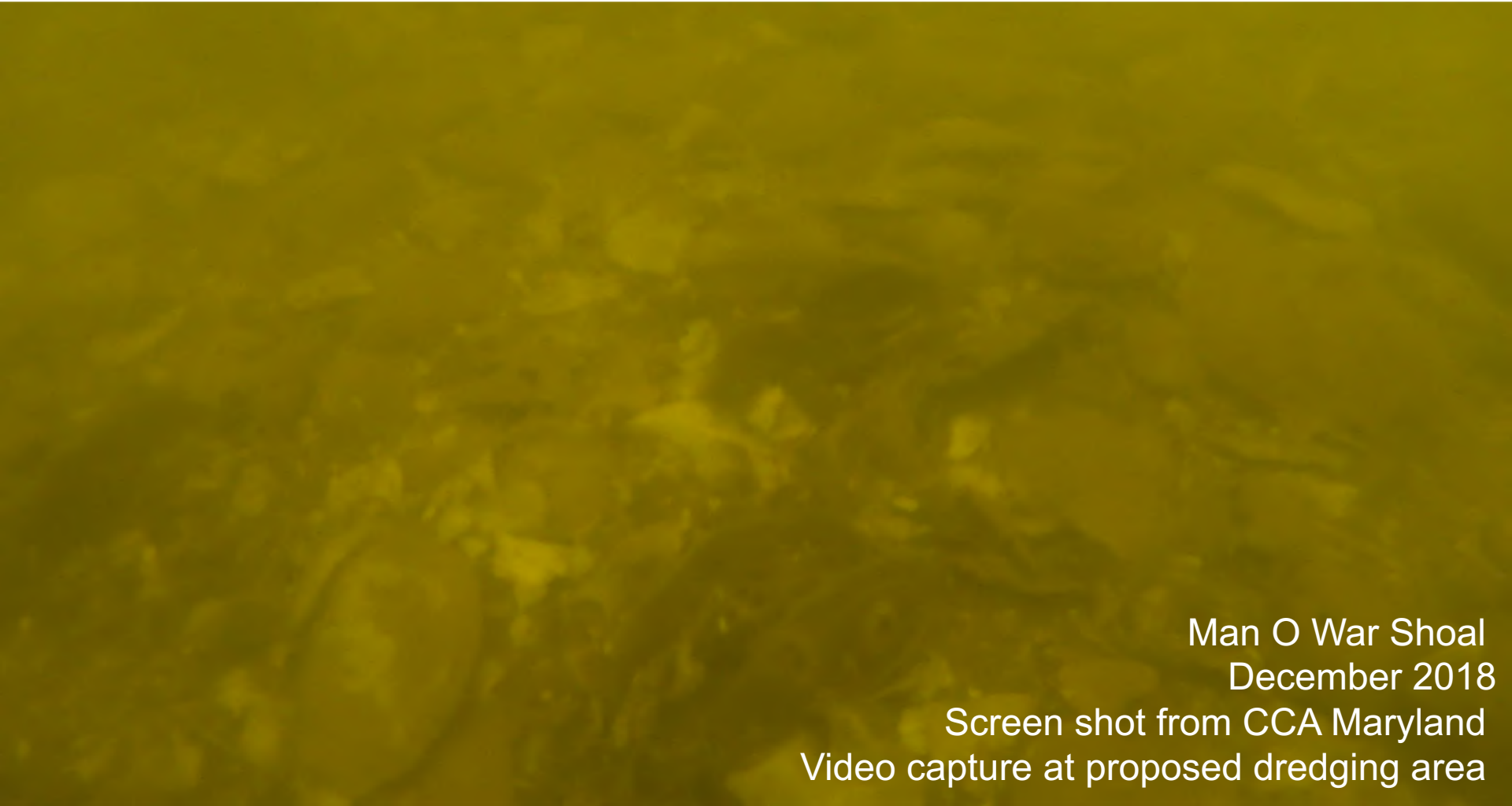
For these reasons, we respectfully request a FAVORABLE vote on SB 979 *For further discussion regarding this issue, please contact CCA Maryland Executive Director, David Sikorski – (443)621-9186 – david@ccamd.org*

*A video including information from multiple stakeholders can be found at: savemanowar.org

**Additional images regarding the equipment used for dredging, the three-dimensional topography/bathymetry and images of the actual bottom of Man O War Shoal are attached in the following pages.

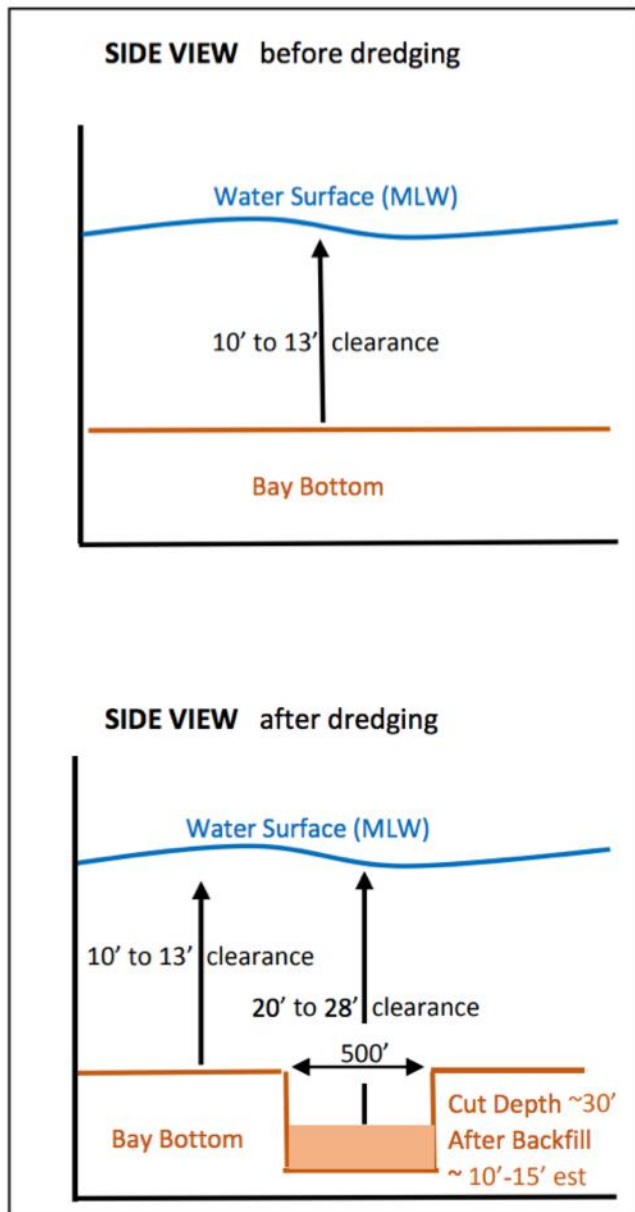
An aerial photograph of a tree trunk, likely a cypress, with a blue outline tracing its shape. A blue horizontal line points from the word "Baltimore" to the trunk. The background is a dense green forest.

Baltimore

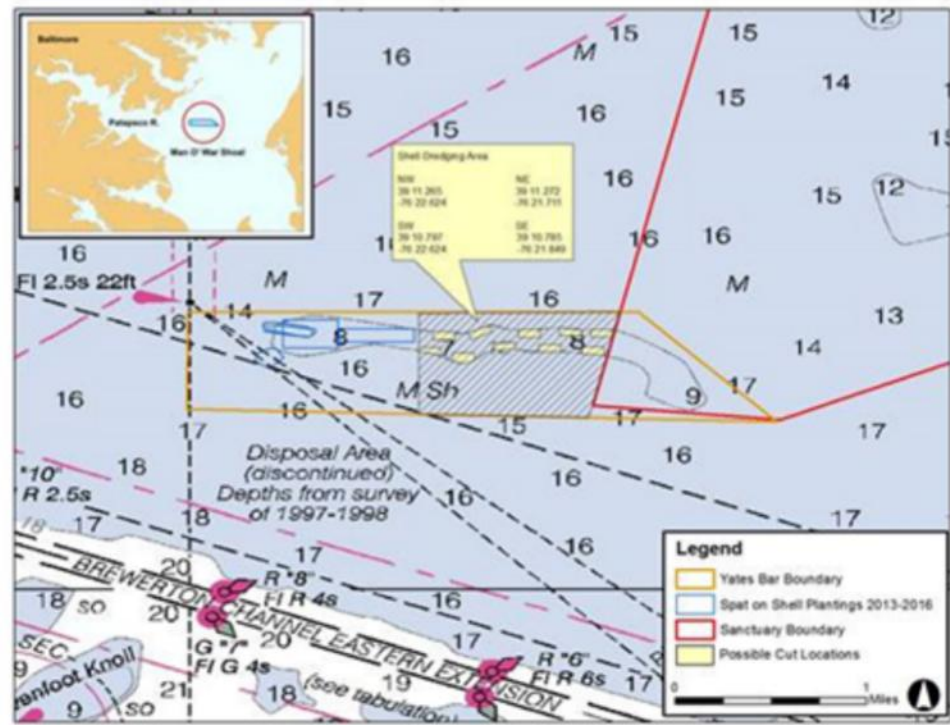


Man O War Shoal
December 2018
Screen shot from CCA Maryland
Video capture at proposed dredging area

SIDE VIEW of Dredge Cut

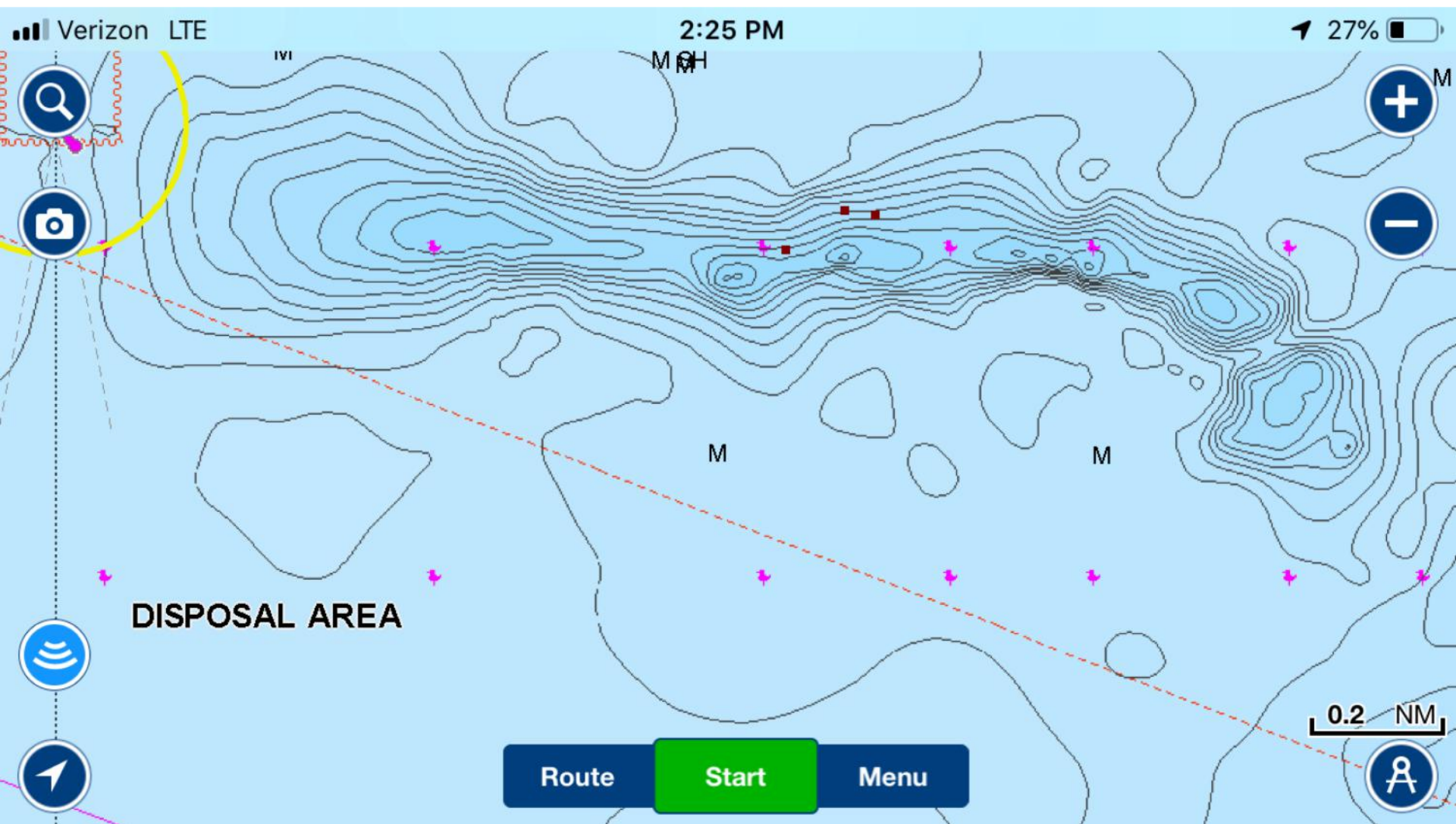


TOP VIEW of Dredge Cuts



- The proposed shell dredging area is the crosshatched area.
- Locations of dredge cuts are conceptual, for illustration purposes.
- Actual locations determined before dredging and according to the permit.
- Cut dimensions will be 500' maximum width and a length no greater than 1/3 of the way into the charted edge of the shoal (average of 275' long).
- Undredged bottom will be left between cuts.
- No greater than 10 cuts will be made to remove the proposed 5 million bushels of shell.

MD DNR Permit Application Proposed Plan
Map & Dredge Cut Diagram 2/2017



Current bathymetric (under water topography) chart of Man O War Shoal

Source: Navionics Application



Dredge in operation removing buried shell
Source: Virginia Marine Resources Commission