

March 2, 2022

To: Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: **House Bill 1133** –Oysters – Tributary – Scale Sanctuaries

CCA Maryland Position: OPPOSE

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.

Unfortunately, HB 1133 does not reflect a science-based approach to making changes to the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and subsequent plans to restore oysters in five tributaries in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay by 2025.

In 2019, House Bill 298 addressed the importance of oyster sanctuaries and codified in law that portions of the Manokin River would remain a sanctuary based on science-based metrics consistent with current information. Meeting such metrics and goals are part of existing plans, contracts and other actions to meet the 2025 Watershed Agreement deadline.

The Severn River may meet the standards of a future oyster restoration tributary, but the river should only be considered for future protection as an oyster sanctuary through a public and science-based deliberative process, not as a trade for the Manokin River plan as this bill suggests.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a UN-FAVORABLE vote on HB 1133 *For further discussion regarding this issue, please contact CCA Maryland Executive Director, David Sikorski – (443)621-9186 – david@ccamd.org*