



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 27, 2024

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 879 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Shellfish Aquaculture – Harvest Hours

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The agency supports Senate Bill 879. The agency currently regulates harvest times under existing authority through the Oyster Fishery Management Plan and Natural Resources Article, Sec. 4-11A-12, to regulate activities on shellfish leases. The agency works closely with the Aquaculture Coordinating Council normally for any regulatory changes, so this would follow current protocol for scoping of regulatory ideas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

No similar bills have been proposed previously.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill gives the Department authority to, in consultation with the Aquaculture Coordinating Council, establish by regulation hours for harvesting within shellfish leases.

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