

HOUSE BILL 1263

M2

5lr3416
CF SB 841

By: **Delegates Adams, Hutchinson, Jacobs, and Otto**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Public Clam Fishery Area – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with
4 the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, to identify by regulation based on certain
5 data the public clam fishery area in the Chesapeake Bay; prohibiting the lease of the
6 public clam fishery area for shellfish aquaculture; and generally relating to the
7 public clam fishery area in the Chesapeake Bay.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Natural Resources

10 Section 4–1006.3

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 **4–1006.3.**

17 **(A) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TIDAL FISHERIES ADVISORY**
18 **COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY BY REGULATION THE PUBLIC**
19 **CLAM FISHERY AREA IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BASED ON COMMERCIAL**
20 **HARVESTING ACTIVITY DURING THE 3 YEARS PRECEDING JUNE 1, 2025, ANY**
21 **SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER QUANTITATIVE DATA**
22 **KNOWN OR MADE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.**

23 **(B) THE PUBLIC CLAM FISHERY AREA MAY NOT BE LEASED FOR SHELLFISH**
24 **AQUACULTURE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(C) A TIDAL FISH LICENSE HOLDER MAY CATCH CLAMS IN AREAS LOCATED**
2 **OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC CLAM FISHERY AREA UNLESS PROHIBITED BY LAW.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
4 1, 2025.