

President: B. Baltus
410-952-6249
Vice President: R.
Spangler
410-477-3291
Second Vice-President:
M. Blake



Treasurer: E. Miller
410-686-0545

Secretary: A. Ashwell
7840 Denton Ave.
Baltimore Md. 21219
410-477-0798

21 February 2020

The Baltimore County Watermen's Association is opposed to SB629/HB1306 – Natural Resources-SAV Protection Zone & Hydraulic Clam Dredges. The following attachment is a list of Crab Houses and Seafood Restaurant's in the Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Hartford County and Northern Anne Arundel County that have been poled by our association and whom oppose this bill.

This Bill will take substantial grounds from all countries and these chosen grounds have typically been areas where Clammer's work during rougher weather conditions. This could shut their clamming operations down for days at a time and this will inadvertently impact the Blue Crab Fishery.

The impact to the crabber will be devastating to the seafood Industry, without the supply of Razor Clam to the industry the cost of a bushel of crabs will increase significantly to the public especially during the holiday weekend; Mother Day, Father Day, Memorial Day and 4th of July. Crabbers rely on Clams on a daily basis to bait their crab pots and trotlines. This will certainly alter that consistency and dependability.

This will also affect not only the commercial industry but will affect the recreational crabber whom uses this product as well. The impact to the clamming Fishery will impact the Blue Crab, Eel, and Recreational Fisheries, as well as bait shops.

The buffer zone proposed of 150 feet is too large, and has no scientific data to support the request for this increase. The data years that have been used on the Grass Lines are from 2016, which are 5 years old. The data being used from harvest information is from 2018, which is non-comparable with the 2016 data. In addition, we have concerns about the time frame of when this aerial footage was gathered. The dated aerial footage will negatively impact for choosing optimal locations for SAV protection. Without up-to-date maps, at this time not only is the protection of the SAV compromised, Clammer's are being boxed out of vital workable grounds unnecessarily.

The Baltimore County Watermen's Association, with the attached Seafood Restaurant and Crab House ask that you find SB629/HB1306 unfavorable.

Very Respectfully,

Blair Baltus
President
Baltimore County Watermen's Association
410-952-6249

Attachment – Baltimore County Watermen’s Association SB629

1. Kent Island Crab Company
Pasadena, MD
Gail Sindorf
2. Capt. Frank’s Crab House
Highlandtown, MD
Cecelia Hiese
3. Capt. Jim’s Crab House
Bowley’s Quarters, MD
Jim Dimick, Sr.
4. Capt. Jim’s Crab House and Seafood Market
Middle River, MD
Jim Dimick, Jr.
5. Salty Dog’s Crab House
Dundalk, MD
Shawn Hartman
6. Watermen’s Pride Crab House
Parkville, MD
Tony Vicari
7. Gaffney’s Back Fin
Highlandtown, MD
Neil Gaffney
8. Lady Francis Crab House
Essex, MD
Francis Dorn Malec
9. Pasadena Seafood
Pasadena, MD
Jason Krauch
10. Capt. Harry’s Ridge Crab House
Nottingham, MD
Harry Foote
11. Capt. Trehs Crab House
Cockeysville, MD
Treh Burnhardt
12. JM Seafood
Whitemarsh, MD
John Messenger
13. Blake’s Crab House
Baltimore, MD
Marcus Blake
14. Always Best Crabs

Pasadena, MD
Edward Sienkiewicz

15. Bill's Seafood

Perry Hall, MD
Bill Paulshock

16. Norris Seafood

Essex, MD
Charles and Barbara Norris

17. Capt. Jimmy's Crab House

Edgemere, MD
Jim Foltz

18. Vince's Crab House

Middle River, MD
Vince's Crab House
Dundalk, MD
Vince's Crab House
Manchester, MD
Vince's Crab House and Restaurant
Fallston, MD
Vince Meyers – Owner

19. Conrad's Crabs and Seafood Market

Parkville, MD
Conrad's Crab's and Seafood Market
Belair, MD
Conrad's Seafood Restaurant
Perry Hall, MD
Conrad's Seafood Restaurant
Abingdon, MD
Anthony Conrad – Owner

20. Topflight Seafood

Aberdeen, MD
Timothy Mortus