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House Environment and Transportation Committee

House Bill 1310
Tidal Fish Licenses – Oyster Authorizations - Revocation

Testimony in **SUPPORT**

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

The Delmarva Fisheries Association (DFA) urges a **favorable** report on House Bill 1310, which would make optional the authority of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to revoke a person's authorization to harvest oysters under certain circumstances and would enable a person to apply for reinstatement five (5) years after revocation.

Under current law, DNR's revocation of a person's authorization to harvest oysters in Maryland waters is mandatory upon certain proven offenses and is permanent (i.e., lifetime). Few if any industries have such a harsh penalty with limited agency discretion.

DFA urges a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1310

DFA represents over 80% of the commercial watermen in Maryland; individuals whose work and unique way of life spanning several generations depend upon sustainable harvests in a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

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