

Date: February 14, 2022 Position: SUPPORT To: House Environment and Transportation Committee From: Lani Hummel, lanihummel@aol.com, Annapolis Roads

Man O War Shoal is an important fishing and crabbing locatiin that supports the local ecology and economy. The proposed shell dredging will cut large holes on either side of the shoal, forever impacting its stability and value as habitat and structure. Oyster shell degrades over time so there are no long lasting public benefits in using buried shell to enhance habitat elsewhere. Maryland leaders should focus on other actions that can be made to improve oyster habitat, and not destroy existing habitat to attempt to supplement the wild oyster fishery and habitat enhancement in other portions of the Bay. Finally, efforts should be undertaken to encourage the growth of the aquaculture fishery as a more permanent solution to the harvest pressure on the wild oyster fishery.

Lani Hummel