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BILL NO.: House Bill 500

TITLE: Dredging on Man-O-War Shoals - Prohibition

SPONSOR: Delegate Grammer

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: February 16, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 500 – Dredging on Man-O-War Shoals - Prohibition. This legislation would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources from dredging buried oyster shells in Man-O-War Shoals.

The protection of Man-O-War Shoals is essential to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and dredging this area may have unintended consequences on the remainder of the ecosystem. Dredging can negatively impact other fish in the area, many of which are vital for recreational and commercial fishing. Baltimore County Watermen's Association has also noted that dredging may have significant negative impacts on crab populations which are vital to Maryland's economy. Man-O-War Shoals is a vital economic and recreational resource to the residents of Baltimore County, and it is critical that the State partner with the County in ensuring its continued ecological health.

House Bill 500 prevents the dredging of oyster shells on Man-O-War Shoals. This bill protects the ecosystem of Man-O-War Shoals, as well as the economy that its fisheries provide. Without this legislation, Maryland could lose a source of revenue and treasured natural resource. This effort is jointly supported by the County Executive and the Baltimore County Council.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 500. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.