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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB922-Natural Resources-Fisheries-Oyster Management
Prepared Statement
February 27, 2024
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SB922 repeals onerous requirements, which prevent the Department of Natural Resources from updating management strategies for state oyster sanctuaries – aside from Large Scale Restoration Projects covered by federal regulation.

Please see the attached 25-page summation of the Department of Natural Resources Oyster Sanctuaries Report submitted to the Oyster Advisory Commission in October 2021. This summation was compiled by Russell Dashiell, retired attorney, and Jeff Harrison, Talbot Watermen Association.

Also, please see the attached letter regarding Maryland’s Seed and Shell Program, written by Ron Fithian, Member of the Governor’s Substrate Committee, and President of the Kent County Board of Commissioners.

In addition, SB922 would authorize the use of power dredge fishing gear in the Eastern Bay. A power dredge study area currently exists in the Eastern Bay, and it has shown remarkable recovery in oyster habitat and recruitment.

We respectfully urge the Committee to favorably report SB922. Thank you for your consideration.