



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 303

Aquaculture - Definition of Shellfish – Alteration

Date: March 27, 2024

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Allison Colden
MD Executive Director

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 303. SB 303, as amended, would expand the definition of shellfish as it pertains to aquaculture from oysters and clams to “bivalves and bivalve shells.”

SB 303 will allow for the culture of scallops and other bivalve shellfish beyond oysters and clams in the State. The class Bivalvia includes oysters, clams, marine and freshwater mussels, scallops, and cockles. This expansion of the definition would allow for the diversification of Maryland’s aquaculture industry, making it more resilient to environmental conditions and market forces. Other species, particularly freshwater mussels, are in need of conservation and rearing mussels through aquaculture will be an important component of mussel restoration.

CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE report on SB 303.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.