



Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association

4547 Bonnie Branch Road

Ellicott City, MD 21043

February 18, 2024

The Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association (CBYCA) brings together more than a hundred yacht clubs and partners in a five-state area and DC, including 56 yacht clubs in the state of Maryland. Our Association understands the importance of the Port of Baltimore, and we recognize the need for dredging to keep the port viable. At the same time, we represent recreational boaters who frequently swim, crab, kayak and sail the waters of the Patapsco River as it flows from heavy industry to recreational and residential properties downstream. Confined Aquatic Disposal is new to us, and we urge transparency and considerable expert scrutiny as CAD may be utilized to keep the port channels open.

CBYCA has been encouraged by progress in Bay cleanup and various benchmarks that show better water quality. We are not scientists, so we ask you to defer to those experts who can analyze CAD as it might be used in Baltimore and that all of their ideas are shared with us. For these reasons, we speak in support of HB886 and ask for creation of the Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force that will explore this new technique so that our concerns are satisfied.

Our members want to make sure any new dredging techniques are thoroughly studied by experts and those who live in the area and enjoy these waters. CBYCA supports HB886 and its purpose of creating a public task force and total transparency of CAD as it may be used in the Patapsco River.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Naylor, Commodore
Commodore

David Thomas,
Director of Legislation