



Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.

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March 6, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our **support** for **Senate Bill 841/House Bill 1263 Natural Resources - Public Clam Fishery Area - Establishment**

SB841/ HB1263 requires the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to collaborate with the Tidal Fish Advisory Committee (TFAC) to identify public clam bottom fishery areas. The areas would be identified using quantitative data, surveys, and harvest activity.

Maryland is a national supplier of clams. The dockside value, which was last calculated by National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2006, was nearly \$5M. In addition to feeding families, clams support other important industries such as the commercial crab industry which produced a \$66,700,000 dockside value in 2023. There are no current regulations defining public clam bottom in Maryland which has led to disruptions and uncertainty in the industry and, at times, conflicts with other user groups. SB841/ HB1263 would allow the department to work with the harvesters, aquaculturists, and recreational anglers that are members of TFAC to establish needed regulations.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Herman Jeffrey Harrison
President

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