



Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 324 • Bozman, MD 21612 • (410) 745-9759 • info@talbotwatermen.org

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Regina T. Boyce
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee,

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

HB1263/SB841 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. HB1263/SB841 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

Contact: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
R&R Solutions, LLC
(443) 786-2137
jeannie@randrsolutions.us

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