



Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.

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March 4, 2026

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

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Chair Korman, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our **support** for **House Bill 1388/Senate Bill 875 - Oysters - Rotational Harvest - Pilot Program**.

This legislation would establish a rotational harvest pilot program for oysters under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Rotational harvest is a sustainable harvest method that allows licensed commercial watermen to build and rebuild oyster populations on designated bars where oysters are legally harvested. Rebuilding oyster populations not only helps to ensure economic success, it helps to ensure the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Oyster Management Plan (May 2019) includes a Rotational Harvest Strategy (Strategy 6.3) and a goal of "work toward a more sustainable harvest by managing fishing effort and monitoring oysters on specific bars using Rotational Harvest Areas." We applaud this strategy and goal being included in the Plan, but remained concerned that, to date, no actions have been taken to implement this strategy.

Consumer demand for sustainable food products is strong and growing. Passage of this legislation and implementation of the proposed pilot program would position Maryland's seafood industry to meet that demand by harvesting and producing sustainably caught seafood.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 1388/Senate Bill 875.

Sincerely,


Herman Jeffrey Harrison
President

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Talbot Watermen Association, Inc. is a component fund of the
Mid-Shore Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity.