

JAY A. JACOBS
Legislative District 36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, and
Queen Anne's Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Motor Vehicle and Transportation

Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Open Space

Local Government and Bicounty Agencies

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 309
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1388 Oysters- Rotational Harvest-Pilot Program

Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee: This legislation is for the purpose of establishing a 5-year Rotational Harvest Pilot Program for oysters in 4 areas of the Chesapeake Bay and implemented by the Department of Natural Resources as specified. Before opening an area for harvesting under the program, the Department will survey and investigate the area to collect certain baseline data and after closing the area, to continue to monitor the area.

There are 51 sanctuaries in Maryland of which the Big 5 known as Harris Creek, Little Choptank, Tred Avon, St. Mary's and Manokin River are not part of this legislation. The remaining 46 have had little to no investment from the State and this legislation intends to open 4 of these sanctuaries under specific criteria for rotational harvest and investment by the County Oyster Committees. These sanctuaries were established in 2009 with a 5-year time span. It has now been 16 years and most of the 46 sanctuaries have either stayed in the same condition or gotten worse.

The last several years have seen good spat sets in the Chesapeake Bay. In 2023 the spat set was the fifth highest in the last 39 years. Making good investments in the oyster sanctuaries at this time under these conditions may prove to be good for the industry, the water quality and habitat of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. **I ask for your favorable vote for HB 1388**

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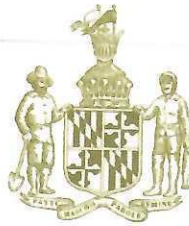
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HB 1400 Shellfish Aquaculture-Penalties-Suspension or Revocation of Permit or Registration Card

Chair Korman and members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

This legislation brings parity between the Public Commercial Oyster Fishery and the Aquaculture Oyster Fishery in terms of suspension or revocation for certain violations listed in the bill.

In 2011 legislation was passed that someone possessing a TFL with an oyster authorization could have a lifetime revocation for certain violations. Last year legislation was passed that changed that law for someone convicted for a first offense could receive a 5-year suspension and for a second offense a lifetime revocation. At no time did the Shellfish Aquaculture Harvesters have a similar penalty provision. This legislation basically puts the 2 fisheries in a similar and fair penalty scheme for the same types of offenses.

I ask for your favorable vote for HB 1400