



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 4, 2026

BILL NUMBER: **HOUSE BILL 1212 - FIRST READER**

SHORT TITLE: **WORKGROUP ON SEAFOOD MARKETING**

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

The Department supports House Bill 1212. The agency actively participates in the Seafood and Aquaculture Products Marketing Commission and believes creating and sustaining markets for the seafood harvested by the state's commercial fisheries is an important part of fisheries management. The Department welcomes any additional conversations related to promoting the state's seafood products.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under Agriculture Article, Section 10-1101, the state also has a Seafood and Aquaculture Products Marketing Commission whose purpose is to assist the Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing Program with promoting increased consumption and distribution of Maryland seafood and to seek efficient methods to reduce cost and improve the quality and marketability of Maryland seafood. The program is funded by the seafood marketing surcharge under Natural Resources Article, Section 4-701.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill creates a workgroup on seafood marketing convened by the secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources to examine challenges and opportunities in seafood marketing. The bill also requires a report on the findings of this workgroup.

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