

Chapter 114

(Senate Bill 303)

AN ACT concerning

Aquaculture – Definition of Shellfish – Alteration

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “shellfish” as it relates to certain provisions of law governing aquaculture to include live ~~mollusks and molluscan~~ bivalves and bivalve shells; and generally relating to aquaculture.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–11A–13
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

4–11A–13.

(a) Except as provided in § 4–1008 of this title, a leaseholder may plant, cultivate, sow, or protect oysters only of the species known as *Crassostrea virginica* in the waters of the State.

(b) (1) In this subsection, the word “shellfish” includes [live oysters, seed oysters, oyster shells, live hard–shell clams, live soft–shell clams, and clam shells] **LIVE ~~MOLLUSKS AND MOLLUSCAN~~ BIVALVES AND BIVALVE SHELLS**.

(2) A person may not import or possess within the State shellfish taken from waters outside the waters of the State for planting in the waters of the State without the approval of the Department.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2024.