



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 911 – Natural Resources - Fishery Management Plans - Oysters

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding House Bill 911. This bill would make several technical corrections to the statute governing the Oyster Advisory Commission as reestablished by Chapters 5 and 9 of 2020, including reinforcing the deadlines for interim reports due to the General Assembly on the Commission's progress.

Because the department has already reestablished the Oyster Advisory Commission per Chapters 5 and 9 of 2020 and has been holding regular monthly meetings that will continue through the year, we have no objection to reporting requirements. However, DNR respectfully requests that the General Assembly refrain from any further policy changes in the bill that would disrupt the process already in place. The policy consequence of Chapters 5 and 9 of 2020 is the delay it has created from the state reaching its goals on oyster restoration and a sustainable harvest and population in eight to 10 years. Amendments that create additional delays and set arbitrary timelines will further interfere with the body beginning its work.

The next meeting of the Oyster Advisory Commission is scheduled for March 9, 2020. Further details will be posted on our website.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide this information regarding House Bill 911.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

Contact: James W. McKitrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
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