



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

March 4, 2020

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

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

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1434 – Aquaculture Leases - Marking Requirements and Use of Lease - Alterations

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Committee Members:

The bill creates exceptions to the marking requirements and active use for aquaculture leases.

The industry would benefit from the exceptions for marking; however, there could be enforcement issues and unintended interactions with shellfish gear on leases by boaters if lease markers are not properly maintained.

Active use of an aquaculture lease is currently required under Natural Resources Article, Section, 4-11A-09, which requires annual planting of at least 1/4th of the leased area at a minimum density of 1,000,000 shellfish seed per acre or complying with any other requirements established by the department. The department currently waives the active use requirement for leaseholders when shellfish larvae or shellfish seed is unavailable.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully submits to the Committee information on House Bill 1434.

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

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