



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Acting Director of Government Affairs*

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

MIA R. GOGEL  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:** Senate Bill 979

**TITLE:** Prohibition of Dredging on Man-O-War Shoals

**SPONSOR:** Senator Salling

**COMMITTEE:** Baltimore County Senate Delegation

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** March 14, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 979 – Prohibition of Dredging on Man-O-War Shoals. This legislation would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from including the dredging of buried oyster shells on Man-O-War Shoals as a part of the fishery management plan and ensure that DNR is not allowed to perform any dredging on this shoal.

Protecting the Man-O-War Shoals is essential to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, and dredging this area may have unintended, yet catastrophic consequences. Dredging can negatively impact other fish in the area, many of which are vital for recreational and commercial fishing. Baltimore County Watermen’s Association has also noted that dredging may contribute to significant declines in crab populations which are vital to Maryland’s economy. Man-O-War Shoals is a vital economic and recreational resource to the residents of Baltimore County, and it is critical that the State partner with the County in ensuring its continued ecological health.

Senate Bill 979 prevents the dredging of oyster shells on Man-O-War Shoals. This bill protects the ecosystem of Man-O-War Shoals, as well as the economy that its fisheries provide. Without this legislation, Maryland could lose a significant source of revenue and treasured natural resource. Efforts to preserve Man-O-War Shoals are jointly supported by the Baltimore County Executive and the Baltimore County Council.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 979. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).