

SENATE BILL 979

M2
SB 437/20 – EHE

2lr3057

By: **Senators Salling, Klausmeier, Jennings, West, Lam, Hettleman, Sydnor, and Kelley**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prohibition of Dredging on Man-O-War Shoals**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from including the
4 dredging of buried oyster shells on Man-O-War Shoals as part of a fishery
5 management plan; prohibiting the Department from dredging buried oyster shells
6 on Man-O-War Shoals; and generally relating to the management of the State's
7 oyster culture by the Department of Natural Resources.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 4–215(b)(6)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Natural Resources
15 Section 4–215(e)(6)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Natural Resources
20 Section 4–1103(a)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Natural Resources**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4-215.

2 (b) The Department shall prepare fishery management plans for the following
3 species:

4 (6) Oysters;

5 (e) **(6) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-1103 OF THIS TITLE, THE**
6 **DEPARTMENT MAY NOT INCLUDE THE DREDGING OF BURIED OYSTER SHELLS ON**
7 **MAN-O-WAR SHOALS AS PART OF A FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

8 4-1103.

9 (a) **(1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
10 **SUBSECTION, THE** Department shall take measures which in its judgment seem best
11 calculated to increase the productivity or utility of oyster resources in the State, including:

12 [(1)] **(I)** Identifying and using effective methods of cleaning diseased
13 oyster bars;

14 [(2)] **(II)** Providing clean shell for the bars;

15 [(3)] **(III)** Using hatchery produced oysters to replant sites; and

16 [(4)] **(IV)** Applying for a permit to dredge buried oyster shells.

17 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DREDGE BURIED OYSTER SHELLS ON**
18 **MAN-O-WAR SHOALS.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
20 1, 2022.