

SENATE BILL 303

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0295

CF 4lr0296

By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 15, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 4, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Aquaculture – Definition of Shellfish – Alteration**

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

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Natural Resources
8 Section 4–11A–13
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 4–11A–13.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(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:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.