

## Coastal Conservation Association Maryland



# NEWS

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### **CCA MD calls better data on oysters**

Calling oysters “the most valuable part of the Bay’s ecosystem,” the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland (CCA MD) has called for the University of Maryland’s Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) to conduct a study to provide data that will lead to more effective management of the wild oyster population in Maryland.

The request came in testimony Tuesday to the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee supporting Senate Bill 937.

The Chesapeake Bay Oyster Management Plan requires that the state prevent overfishing while attempting to achieve the best use of Maryland’s public oyster fishery. However, the state has not developed “the best available estimates of sustainable harvest rates and indicators that would trigger any tightening or loosening of harvest restrictions,” CCA MD said in its testimony.

“SB 937 would require the UMCES to conduct a study to provide the Department of Natural Resources with the information necessary to manage our wild oyster population sustainably.”

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“CCA Maryland has always argued that fishery management decisions must be based on solid data,” said David Sikorski, chairman, CCA MD Government Relations Committee. “SB 937 provides the initial scientific inputs for the plan and will provide a foundation for a sustainable fishery well into the future.”

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*The Coastal Conservation Association Maryland (CCA MD) is one of 18 state chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association, which has more than 100,000 members nationally. CCA Maryland is an organization of recreational anglers fighting for Maryland’s marine resources and believing the sustainability of the resource must be the priority in any fishery management decision.*