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**RECREATIONAL ANGLERS
WORKING TO CONSERVE, PROMOTE, AND ENHANCE MARYLAND'S
MARINE RESOURCES**

February 13, 2019

To: Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chairman
Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: **House Bill 377** Natural Resources - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Zones
- Revisions

CCA Maryland Position: Support

As recreational anglers, CCA Maryland members recognize the key role that Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) plays in supporting the health and abundance of the many gamefish species we rely on. Most notably is our state fish, the striped bass. Between 70-90% of the coast-wide population of striped bass are born in the Chesapeake Bay, and SAV plays a very important role in their juvenile development and overall success. Blue crabs are another important species that use SAV throughout their lifecycles. SAV also helps absorb wave energy to limit erosion, and trap and stabilize sediment.

In the simplest terms, SAV is a key part of the overall Chesapeake Bay ecosystem providing a large number of ecosystem services and

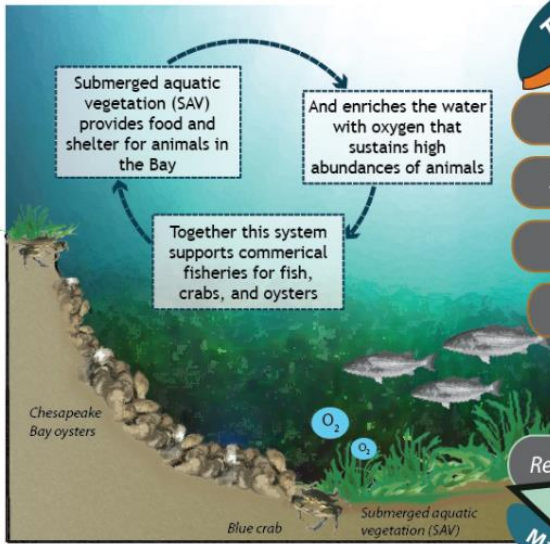
While nutrient loading, sediment, large storms, and erosion have played a major role in the negative changes of SAV over the years, there are also user and gear related impacts on SAV that are necessary to manage.

Unfortunately, different regulations exist for the management of SAV impacts at this time. Simply put, we support this legislation as a pathway towards providing consistency in regulation to the many users of our shared natural resources, and a way to conserve vitally important habitat and support the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 377.

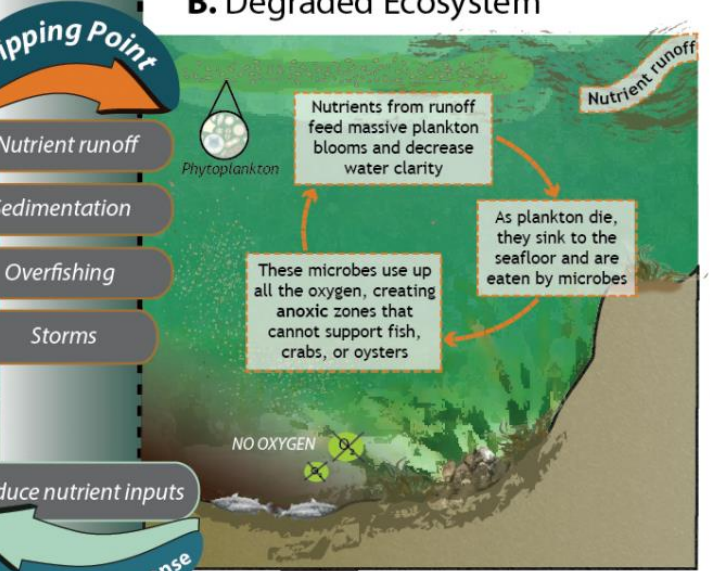
CHESAPEAKE BAY ESTUARY

A. Healthy Bay



The diversity of animals in Chesapeake Bay relies on clean water to enable vegetation to thrive and support commercial fisheries in the region

B. Degraded Ecosystem



Agricultural and urban runoff has impaired the Bay's water quality and led to low or no oxygen zones that cannot support most marine life



Basic SAV diagram: Source oceantippingpoints.org

