

February 16, 2022

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

Re: **House Bill 593** – Department of Natural Resources – Oyster Shell Dredging - Permit Application

CCA Maryland Position: OPPOSE

As anglers, and avid users of our natural resources, CCA Maryland members work hard to promote sensible science-based management measures to support sustainable fisheries for the benefit of the general public, and the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay.

From 1962 through 2006, the Department of Natural Resources contracted for a massive hydraulic dredge to strip mine three-dimensional structure in the upper Bay removing over **196 million bushels of buried shell**. This shell was barged to other areas of the Bay and used to supplement areas degraded by wild oyster harvest and disease.

This previous action came at a public cost of approximately **\$49 million dollars** and an unknown ecological impact through the removal of important habitat and economic cost by fishing areas for recreational anglers, charter business and local watermen.

The amount of habitat already removed from the upper Bay is comparable to the volume of:

- ~200 times the US Capitol Rotunda
- ~ 6 times Houston Astrodome
- ~ 100 times the Epcot Center Dome
- ~ 3 times the great pyramids of Giza

We strongly urge you to focus on more productive investments of public dollars in building habitat, and not returning to failed policies of the past which have no long lasting ecological or economic benefits.

Habitat should not be removed in one portion of the Bay to attempt to rebuild it elsewhere.

Additional information on this past action can be found at: savemanowar.org

For these reasons, we respectfully request a UN-FAVORABLE vote on HB 593 *For further discussion regarding this issue, please contact CCA Maryland Executive Director, David Sikorski – (443)621-9186 – david@ccamd.org*