

(III) IS DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED AS AN ASSEMBLY AREA FOR THE STORAGE, HANDLING, AND TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES WHOSE NEXT AND FINAL DESTINATION IS ANY OIL AND/OR GAS EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, OR PRODUCTION-RELATED OPERATION CONDUCTED IN THE TERRITORIAL SEA, CONTIGUOUS ZONE OR HIGH SEAS AREA; OR

(5) ANY FABRICATION YARD WHICH IS AN ASSEMBLY OPERATION USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR PREPARATION OF PETROLEUM DRILLING RIGS, JACKETS OR PLATFORMS, OR WELLHEAD INSTALLATIONS, WHOSE FINAL DESTINATION IS INSTALLATION OR OPERATION IN THE TERRITORIAL SEA, CONTIGUOUS ZONE, OR HIGH SEAS AREA.

(F) "GOVERNMENT AGENCIES" MEANS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE OF MARYLAND, OR ANY OTHER STATE, THEIR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, UNITS, OR INSTRUMENTALITIES THEREOF, AND INTERSTATE UNITS.

(G) "PERSON" INCLUDES CORPORATIONS, COMPANIES, ASSOCIATIONS, [[SOCIETIES,]] FIRMS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

(H) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

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(A) MARYLAND'S COASTAL AREA, WHICH BORDERS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, IS RICH IN A VARIETY OF NATURAL, COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND ESTHETIC RESOURCES. THESE RESOURCES POSSESS GREAT IMMEDIATE AS WELL AS POTENTIAL VALUE FOR THE STATE AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, THE COASTAL AREA AND THE FISH, SHELLFISH, AND OTHER LIVING MARINE RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE CONTAINED THEREIN ARE ECOLOGICALLY FRAGILE. THEY CONSTITUTE A UNIQUE, IRREPLACEABLE, NATURAL, AND ESTHETIC RESOURCE OF GREAT ECONOMIC VALUE.

(B) EXTRACTION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND FOSSIL FUELS FROM THE BALTIMORE CANYON TROUGH AND ELSEWHERE MAY CREATE IMMEDIATE, INCREASING, AND COMPETING DEMANDS UPON THE LANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE'S COASTAL AREA. THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND THE NATION REQUIRE A METHOD OF RESOLVING THESE COMPETING DEMANDS WHICH WILL GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE NATURAL SYSTEMS OF THE COASTAL ZONE AND PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

(C) CERTAIN FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXTRACTION AND REFINING OF MINERAL AND FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE STATE'S INTEREST IF THEY ARE LOCATED IN THE COASTAL AREA WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE PLANNING OF THEIR