

10-1301.

(a) (1) The General Assembly defines aquaculture as an agricultural activity.

(2) "Aquaculture" includes the commercial rearing of finfish, shellfish, and aquatic plants for sale, trade, barter, or shipment.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to create [an advisory committee]:

(1) AN AQUACULTURE REVIEW BOARD AND AN AQUACULTURE COORDINATING COUNCIL to promote the development of an aquaculture industry in this State; AND

(2) AN AQUACULTURE COORDINATOR TO ASSIST PERSONS IN OBTAINING THE PERMITS AND LICENSES NECESSARY TO CONDUCT AQUACULTURE IN THE STATE.

(c) The Maryland Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for [promoting]:

(1) PROMOTING, coordinating, and marketing aquaculture and aquaculture products; AND

(2) COORDINATING AND STREAMLINING THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR A STATE AQUACULTURE PERMIT.

(d) The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for enforcement of laws, regulations, and rules.

(e) The University of Maryland is the lead agency for research in aquaculture production and shall be responsible for development of education and extension programs which promote aquaculture as an industry.

10-1302.

(A) THERE IS AN AQUACULTURE REVIEW BOARD.

(B) THE REVIEW BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING 5 MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM SHALL REPRESENT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATE DEPARTMENTS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN ASPECT OF THE STATE AQUACULTURE PERMITTING PROCESS OR OVERSIGHT OF PERMIT COMPLIANCE:

(1) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO BE REPRESENTED BY THE AQUACULTURE COORDINATOR, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR;

(2) 1 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT;

(3) 1 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

(4) 1 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES; AND