

Approved May 21, 1973.

No. 44

(Senate Joint Resolution 51)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting a study by the Department of Natural Resources of all phases of harvesting of oysters in the State of Maryland with particular reference to the possibility of legalization of dredging, with appropriate safeguards, and further requesting that the results of the study be forwarded to the Legislative Council for appropriate action and report to the next session of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, Nature has blessed the citizens of Maryland with most bountiful resources in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, One of the most famous of these resources is the Chesapeake Bay Oyster, known throughout the land; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of acres of oysters have been closed to harvesting because of pollution and many more thousands of acres are threatened; and

WHEREAS, It has been indicated that present methods of harvesting will not result in the harvest of most of the threatened oysters before they are lost; and

WHEREAS, It has been suggested that the legalization of harvesting by dredge with limited catch might be beneficial and feasible under strict supervision of the Department of Natural Resources after a study of the circumstances; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That a study be requested of all phases of harvesting oysters in the State of Maryland by the Department of Natural Resources and other appropriate agencies of the State. Proper public meetings concerning such harvesting should be conducted with particular reference to the possibility of legalizing dredging with such gear, supervision, rules and regulations, and administration by the Department of Natural Resources that may prove to be reasonable and proper; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the results of the study be forwarded to the Legislative Council for appropriate action and report to the next session of the General Assembly of Maryland; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the Superintendent, Natural Resources Police Force.

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