

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Seafood Industry of Maryland

FOR the purpose of conducting a study of the Seafood Industry of Maryland to develop recommendations for improving production, harvesting, processing and marketing of Maryland Seafood.

WHEREAS, The seafood industry is a major industry in Maryland employing an estimated 25,000 Maryland citizens and annually contributing \$80,000,000 to the Maryland economy; and

WHEREAS, The Seafood Marketing Authority of the Department of Economic and Community Development is responsible for promoting optimum utilization of the State's seafood resources; to develop better methods or techniques which will reduce the cost, improve the quality and expand the market and profitability of the industry as well as increase employment and improve the quality of the area; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the preservation, enhancement, development and use of all fishery resources in Maryland including harvesting and management of resources from the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland annually appropriates general funds in support of the seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, There is no method available to assess the relationship between general funds expended in support of the marketing of seafood products and the real productivity of the seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, The inability to develop cause and effect relationships between marketing and productivity limits informed decisions on the most effective means of marketing seafood and further enhancing the seafood industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor appoint a Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the seafood industry in Maryland. The Commission shall be comprised of 9 members, one member of which shall be designated Chairman, 3 members of the Maryland Senate, 3 members of the Maryland House of Delegates and 3 representatives of the public at large. Commission members shall serve without compensation, except for reimbursement of reasonable business expenses as provided for in the State budget; and be it further