

WHEREAS, The importance and value of the Chesapeake Bay's seafood has recently been accorded recognition by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia have joined together in the Bi-State Working Committee and the Chesapeake Bay Commission to underscore the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and its resources, not the least being seafood; and

WHEREAS, Both Maryland and Virginia have responsibly participated in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for the development of certain conservation plans for fisheries resources; and

WHEREAS, The EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and other scientific investigations have identified certain habitat shortcomings for fisheries resources requiring action to restore traditional habitats; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review is requested to oversee, direct, monitor, and fully document the effectiveness of and need for changes in the fisheries laws, rules, and regulations of this State that pertain to the tidal finfish fisheries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Natural Resources is requested to make a comprehensive review of Title 4 of the Natural Resources Article to insure that existing laws and rules or regulations are responsive to the provisions of Sections 4-2A-02 and 4-2A-03 of the Natural Resources Article for the development of conservation programs designed to insure the continued ability of fish to perpetuate themselves successfully; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Natural Resources is requested to work through the Bi-State Working Committee, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to create a conservation regime for the protection and enhancement of breed fishery stocks for the entire Chesapeake Bay region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Harry Hughes, Governor of the State of Maryland; the Honorable ~~Lewis--N--Phipps~~, Acting Torrey C. Brown, Secretary of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; the Honorable James O. Roberson, Secretary of Economic and Community Development, 525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; the Honorable Betty J. Diener, Secretary, Virginia Department of Commerce and Resources, Office of the Governor, Richmond, Virginia 23219; John S.