

~~INSTITUTIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD, STUDY THE POTENTIALITY AND FEASIBILITY OF CULTIVATING THE SPECIES OF OYSTER CRASSOSTREA ARIAKENSIS IN MARYLAND WATERS.~~

~~(2) THE STUDY REQUIRED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF REPRODUCTIVELY CAPABLE NONNATIVE OYSTER SPECIES IN MARYLAND WATERS.~~

~~(B) WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT, A PERSON MAY ENGAGE IN RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION IN MARYLAND WATERS WITH LIVE, NONNATIVE OYSTERS.~~

~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT ANY RESEARCH IT APPROVES INVOLVING LIVE, NONNATIVE OYSTERS IN MARYLAND WATERS WILL NOT RESULT IN THE DE FACTO INTRODUCTION OF A NONNATIVE SPECIES.~~

4-11A-02.

~~(a) (2) [The] EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED IN § 4-1010.3 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE Department may not issue a permit for the raising of nonnative species, including hybrids of striped bass, or nonnative stocks unless:~~

~~(i) The permit limits the aquaculture operation to nontidal ponds, lakes, or impoundments; and~~

~~(ii) The aquaculture operation is constructed in a manner that assures that nonnative stocks are precluded from entering the tidal waters or contaminating the native species of the State.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) On or before December 1, 2003, the Department of Natural Resources shall submit an interim report to the Governor, the House Environmental Matters Committee and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee concerning the status of on-going research and interim findings in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.~~

~~(b) On or before December 1, 2004, the Department of Natural Resources shall submit a final report to the Governor, the House Environmental Matters Committee and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee concerning the potentiality and feasibility of cultivating the species of oyster Crassostrea ariakensis in Maryland waters in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.~~

(a) (1) The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize the study of the Suminoe oyster (Crassostrea ariakensis) and other nonnative species by both private and public research institutions with expertise in the field.

(2) The study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include: