

Section 4-204 of the Maryland Natural Resources Article, enacted in April, 2007
Natural Resources – Chesapeake Bay – Oyster Restoration
§ 4-204

- (1) There is an Oyster Advisory Commission in the Department.
- (2) The Commission consists of members appointed by the Secretary.
- (3) The Commission shall:
 - (I) Provide the Department with advice on matters related to oysters in the Chesapeake Bay
 - (II) Review the best possible science and recommend changes to the framework and strategies for rebuilding and managing the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay under the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Management Plan;
 - (III) Review the latest findings relevant to the Environmental Impact Statement evaluating oyster restoration alternatives for the Chesapeake Bay;
 - (IV) Review any other scientific, economic, or cultural information relevant to oysters in the Chesapeake Bay; and
 - (V) By December 31, 2007 and to the extent reasonably appropriate, report to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:
 1. Strategies to minimize the impact of oyster disease, including the State repletion program and bar cleaning;
 2. The framework and effectiveness of the oyster sanctuary, harvest reserve, and repletion programs, and the overall management of natural oyster bars, after performing a cost-benefit analysis that considers biological, ecological, economic, and cultural issues;
 3. Strategies to maximize the ecological benefits of natural oyster bars; and
 4. Strategies to improve enforcement of closed oyster areas.