

1995 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 449

Offered January 17, 1995

Requesting the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to study its organic statutes and its regulations to identify those that may inhibit the development and operation of shellfish aquaculture facilities.

Patrons—Murphy, Bloxom, Copeland and Morgan; Senators: Cross and Gartlan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the culturing of shellfish is an increasingly important component of Virginia's seafood industry and increasingly contributes to the Commonwealth's economy; and

WHEREAS, some current statutory requirements and regulations regarding gear, times of operation and other aspects of culturing and harvest may be applicable only to the harvest of wild shellfish but may be applied to shellfish aquaculture operations; and

WHEREAS, some current statutory and regulatory requirements for aquaculture operations may be a burden to existing or potential aquaculture operators; and

WHEREAS, shellfish aquaculture is a growing industry nationwide; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Commonwealth to foster the growth of this industry in Virginia waters and to facilitate the permitting and regulation of aquaculture operations so that Virginia aquaculture operations are not placed at a disadvantage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Marine Resources Commission be requested to conduct an analysis of statutes and regulations affecting aquaculture operations to (i) identify ways to streamline and simplify existing requirements and (ii) remove unnecessary requirements. The Commission shall appoint an advisory committee of individuals engaged in or familiar with shellfish aquaculture operations in Virginia to assist it with this study.

Technical assistance shall be provided by Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Division of Legislative Services, and the Office of the Attorney General as requested by the Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

The Commission shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1996 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

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