

# SENATE BILL 303

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0295  
CF 4lr0296

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By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 15, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Aquaculture – Definition of Shellfish – Alteration**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “shellfish” as it relates to certain provisions  
4 of law governing aquaculture to include live mollusks and molluscan shells; and  
5 generally relating to aquaculture.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 4–11A–13  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 4–11A–13.

15 (a) Except as provided in § 4–1008 of this title, a leaseholder may plant, cultivate,  
16 sow, or protect oysters only of the species known as *Crassostrea virginica* in the waters of  
17 the State.

18 (b) (1) In this subsection, the word “shellfish” includes [live oysters, seed  
19 oysters, oyster shells, live hard-shell clams, live soft-shell clams, and clam shells] **LIVE**  
20 **MOLLUSKS AND MOLLUSCAN SHELLS.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (2)    A person may not import or possess within the State shellfish taken  
2 from waters outside the waters of the State for planting in the waters of the State without  
3 the approval of the Department.

4                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
5 1, 2024.