Working For You:
MD Aquaculture Coordinating Council

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Designated as the lead agency for:

- Aquaculture industry development
- Promoting, and marketing aquaculture and its products.
- Coordinating and streamlining the State aquaculture permitting process.
Early Beginnings

- Task Force to Study the Economic Development of the Aquaculture and Seafood Industries established through legislation in 2002
- Report issued to the Governor and General Assembly in November 2004
  - Identified obstacles to industry advancement
Task Force Recommendations

- Establish a single point of contact for applications
- Create the Aquaculture Coordinating Council
- Establish Pre-permitted Aquaculture Enterprise Zones
- Appropriate funding to UM for demonstration projects
- Appropriate funding to DNR for additional NRP staff
- Appropriate funding for additional MDE staff
- Lift the moratorium on leasing in individual counties
- Study the use of non-natives oysters in aquaculture
Legislative Intent

- In response to the Task Force report, the State took a proactive approach by introducing, adopting and enacting legislation in June 2005.

- Create an infrastructure to support the responsible development of the aquaculture industry while protecting and enhancing fishery resources and the environment.
Aquaculture Coordinating Council

- Established by the General Assembly in 2005
  - Agriculture Article § 10-1301 - § 10-1303
  - MDA provides staff and membership
- To promote the development of an aquaculture industry in the State.
- Responsible for supporting policy development resulting from stakeholder input.
Aquaculture Coordinating Council Membership

- 17 members including:
  - Senator and Delegate
  - State Agency Officials
    - MDA-DNR-NRP-MDE-DHMH-DBED
  - University of Maryland Representatives
    - UMCP-Extension-UMCES
  - 3 Watermen
  - 3 Aquaculture Industry Members
Coordinating Council Meetings

- Meetings are held bi-monthly
  - Jan-March-May-July-September-November
- Held at MDA headquarters in Annapolis
  - Begin at 6:30
- Open to the Public
  - Opportunity for public comment at each meeting
Council Duties
Specified by the General Assembly

- Develop Best Management Practices
- Review regulations, recommend changes
- Make proposals for advancing the industry
- Enhance area available for private lease
- Provide for Aquaculture Enterprise Zones
Council Actions

2007 - **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
- provide a basis for facility operations and compliance

2008 - **Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Plan**
- identified initiatives for advancing the industry

2009 - **Assisted with creating new Maryland Leasing Law**
- established AEZs, enhanced areas available for leasing

2010 – **Leasing Regulations and Financing Program**
- helped create leasing procedures and shellfish loan program
Results

- Statewide support for aquaculture development
- Policy decisions developed by consensus
- More comprehensive set of regulations
- BMPs provide guidance for compliance
- Aquaculture Enterprise Zones
- Financing Program
- Opportunity for Aquaculture to grow