



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6222

January Session, 2025



***AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF EASTERN OYSTERS AND
INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Agriculture
2 shall conduct a study on the appropriate minimum length for eastern
3 oysters to be taken in the state. In undertaking such study, the
4 commissioner shall consult with scientific experts concerning such
5 appropriate minimum length. The commissioner's recommendation
6 concerning such minimum length shall be based on the conclusions of
7 such scientific consultations as to the minimum length that enables the
8 optimal health condition of the oysters taken and the state's oyster beds.
9 Not later than February 1, 2026, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
10 general statutes, the commissioner shall submit a report to the joint
11 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
12 matters relating to the environment that shall contain such
13 recommendation and a detailed analysis of the basis for such
14 recommendation.

15 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The Commissioner of
16 Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the
17 Department of Agriculture, shall establish a commercial invasive
18 aquatic species harvest license to regulate the collection, sale and
19 distribution of invasive marine species, including, but not limited to,

20 green crabs and Asian shore crabs. Any such licensee shall be permitted
21 to: (1) Harvest and sell such invasive species for use as bait or for human
22 consumption, and (2) sell such invasive species directly to restaurants
23 and seafood markets for food purposes.

24 (b) The Commissioners of Energy and Environmental Protection and
25 Agriculture shall develop clear guidance and regulatory provisions to
26 ensure that (1) restaurants and individuals with a dealer's license can
27 legally procure, process and sell green crabs and other designated
28 invasive species for human consumption, and (2) fishermen operating
29 under a bait dealer license may sell invasive species both as bait and for
30 food while ensuring compliance with all applicable public health and
31 seafood safety regulations.

32 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
33 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
34 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Such
35 regulations may include an expansion of the list of invasive aquatic
36 species covered under such license, as may be necessary to support
37 ecosystem management efforts.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*