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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

March 3, 2015

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## CALL TO ACTION

### Legislation Terminates Oyster Sanctuaries

A bill - HB 0638 - sponsored by Delegate Holmes of Prince George's County will allow commercial harvesting of oysters in the St. Mary's River and other oyster sanctuaries. Effective April 1, 2015, this bill will redesignate the waters of the upper St. Mary's River as open harvest areas for power dredging by all Maryland license holders.

**CALL Delegate Holmes IMMEDIATELY**

**Phone: 301-858-3310**

Tell him to pull this bill prior to the committee hearing scheduled for 1:00 pm Wednesday March 4th.

Delegate Holmes has a track record as a progressive Democrat who is sensitive to environmental issues. It is hard to believe that he has his name on this bill - so explain to him that his bill will sunset most of the sanctuaries in the Bay and erase more than 20 years of oyster restoration efforts. Delegate Homes email address: [marvin.holmes@house.state.md.us](mailto:marvin.holmes@house.state.md.us)

**Call Committee Chair Barve as well, and tell him to return an unfavorable report on Bill HB 638.**

**Phone: 410-841-3990**

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## SMRWA Supports Some Legislation - Opposes Others

The Association has signed on to testimony on several bills currently working their way through Annapolis. While clearly we support the Bag and Bottle Bill HB 0551 "Community Greening Act"—and we clearly oppose HB 0638 to Sunset Oyster Sanctuaries, there are many other bills that need

to be considered.

Those that have garnered our support include: a lengthy delay on issuing permits for fracking HB 0449 and one that clearly defines and prohibits dangerous substances that are used during fracking HB 0458. Our herculean opposition to HB 0638 (above) is buttressed by our opposition as well to a bill that puts spending tax dollars into the hands of local oyster committees HB 1002, and another that will make it difficult to do any oyster restoration work or to engage in aquaculture HB 0419.

We urge everyone to stay informed on legislative matters and to take action on bills that you feel strongly about. Contact information for our local representatives:

Delegate Deb Rey  
Phone: 410-841-3227 | 301-858-3227  
Email: [Deborah.Rey@house.state.md.us](mailto:Deborah.Rey@house.state.md.us)

Senator Steve Waugh  
Phone: 410-841-3673 | 301-858-3673  
Email: [Steve.Waugh@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Steve.Waugh@senate.state.md.us)



#### OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

We're on the web!  
[www.smrwa.org](http://www.smrwa.org)



#### Upcoming Events:

- **RETURNING STREAMS AND RIVERS TO HEALTH**  
Thursday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express  
6860 Crain Highway  
La Plata, MD
- **STREAM SAMPLING**  
Volunteers Needed - TBD  
March thru April 2015  
Email Bob to get on the schedule  
[Bob.Lewis@stmarysriver.org](mailto:Bob.Lewis@stmarysriver.org)
- Join us for the  
7th Annual  
**RIVER CLEAN UP**  
Saturday, April 11, 2015  
9 am to noon  
Paddling event  
Call to register to volunteer at  
[info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org)
- **Earth Day on the Leonardtown Square**  
Sunday, April 19, 2015  
12:30 - 4:00 pm

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

- **Youth Fishing Rodeo**  
Saturday, May 9, 2015  
St. Mary's River State Park
- **Potomac River Swim**  
Saturday, June 6, 2015  
Point Lookout State Park  
Bring a dish to share -  
lunch begins at 10:00 am  
More info 301-737-2903.
- **National Envirothon**  
**Oyster Planting**  
Monday, June 15, 2015  
9:00 am to noon  
College Waterfront
- **SAVE THE DATE**



Saturday, September 26, 2015  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
State House,  
Historic St. Mary's City  
More info 301-737-2903

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