



## The Maryland Watermen's Association, Inc.

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April 30, 2015

As a non-profit that has represented the interests of the commercial fishing industry in Maryland for over forty years, the Maryland Watermen's Association is requesting that the Watershed-Crab and Oyster Restoration strategies be written in a way that explicitly states the role and the jurisdictional rights, both today and in the future, of all partners participating in its writing and implementation.

The Maryland Watermen's Association has collaborated with other organizations to ensure Maryland's Seafood Industry has a future in our state. We know the Bay Watershed's Strategies standards on clean water quality will bring us even closer to this goal.

The MWA is very adamant about commercial and recreational fishermen, as well as all Marylanders keeping ownership of Our Bay and Our Fishery. Having this ownership makes restoration and sustainability more personal and rewarding for us who live around it. Because of this, MWA is requesting that the Oyster Restoration Strategies and Watershed Crab Strategies documents be written in a way that explicitly states the role and jurisdictional rights of all partners participating in its writing and implementation. We want to know that our local traditions stay intact throughout its competition. We also want all Marylanders to feel pride about what *they* have done to restore it.

Our watermen want a better industry for themselves and for their future generations.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Brown Sr.  
President  
Maryland Watermen's Association