



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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Clammers' Compensation Bill Defeated

(PASADENA, MD) – On Friday, March 21st, the Senate Environmental, Health and Education Committee voted unfavorable on the Clammers compensation bill heard in front of the committee two weeks ago.

SB 673 entitled Clammers - Clamming Appliances and Income – Compensation, would have required the DNR to compensate eligible Clammers for their equipment and diminished earning capacity. The defeat also stopped the request from Clammers to harvest in the Back Bays for several more years.

MSSA's Legislative Committee Chairman, Henry Koellein Jr. and Executive Director, Richard Novotny, endured five long hours of committee hearings to testify against SB 673. Mr. Koellein testified alongside Mr. Novotny and provided the committee with extensive photographs that showed the destructive process clamming does to the Bay.

Mr. Koellein and the MSSA have been a strong voice in this fight for many years and will continue to fight so long as there are threats to the Bay. With Mr. Koellein's help and generosity the MSSA has once again stepped up for sportfishermen around the region and took another step in the right direction to help restore the Bay.