



Ecosystem Initiatives Advisory Services

January 5, 2005

Dr. Bill Hogarth
Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hogarth,

I have been following the political, public, and scientific discussions dealing with the east coast oyster resource. I feel that the oyster used to serve a number of very important purposes in the coastal ecology and it has been of great economic value.

I am distressed by the slow and disorganized effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem. The current condition and efforts to restore the Bay remind me of my work on the lower Great Lakes in the 1960s.

The effort to restore the eastern oyster has not had much success for a number of different reasons. Although restoration is still very viable Maryland is looking at a unilateral "quick fix" to resolve low oyster abundance by introducing the Asian oyster.

The current very low abundance of the eastern oyster, coupled with its stressed environment seems to require action to protect the species. Therefore, I have prepared a Petition to list the eastern oyster as a threatened or endangered species (2 copies enclosed). Additional copies can be obtained from my web page.

Sincerely,

W.- Dieter N. Busch

Enclosures

cc Steven A. Williams, Director, USFWS
Congressman Wayne Gilchrest