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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

November 23, 2016

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## CALL TO ACTION

### Oyster Sanctuary Under Threat May Be Opened to Public Harvest

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!

Please take a few minutes over the holiday weekend to pen your thoughts to the Oyster Advisory Commission and Secretary Mark Belton. Ask your friends and family to sign on with you. Our waters are cleaner today because of sanctuaries - let's not lose them.

[Download a Sample Letter](#)

[SMRWA Management Plan](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[DNR's 5 year Report](#)  
(see page ix)



St. Mary's City, Nov 9—At the State's invitation, the St. Mary's county oyster committee submitted a proposal to the Secretary of DNR and the Oyster Advisory Committee to open most of the St. Mary's River Oyster Sanctuary to public harvest. In fact, many of Maryland's sanctuaries are under similar threat from relevant county oyster committees. These committees are made up of license watermen only. Yet oysters are a publically-owned resource—the public should be a part of any decision. Therefore the SMRWA has submitted our proposal to manage our sanctuary (see article below).



PLEASE WRITE A LETTER TO SECRETARY BELTON AND THE OYSTER ADVISORY COMMISSION AND TELL THEM TO PROTECT THE ST. MARY'S RIVER SANCTUARY AND ALL OF MARYLAND'S SANCTUARIES. Ask them to designate the St. Mary's as one of five tributaries to be restored using federal monies.