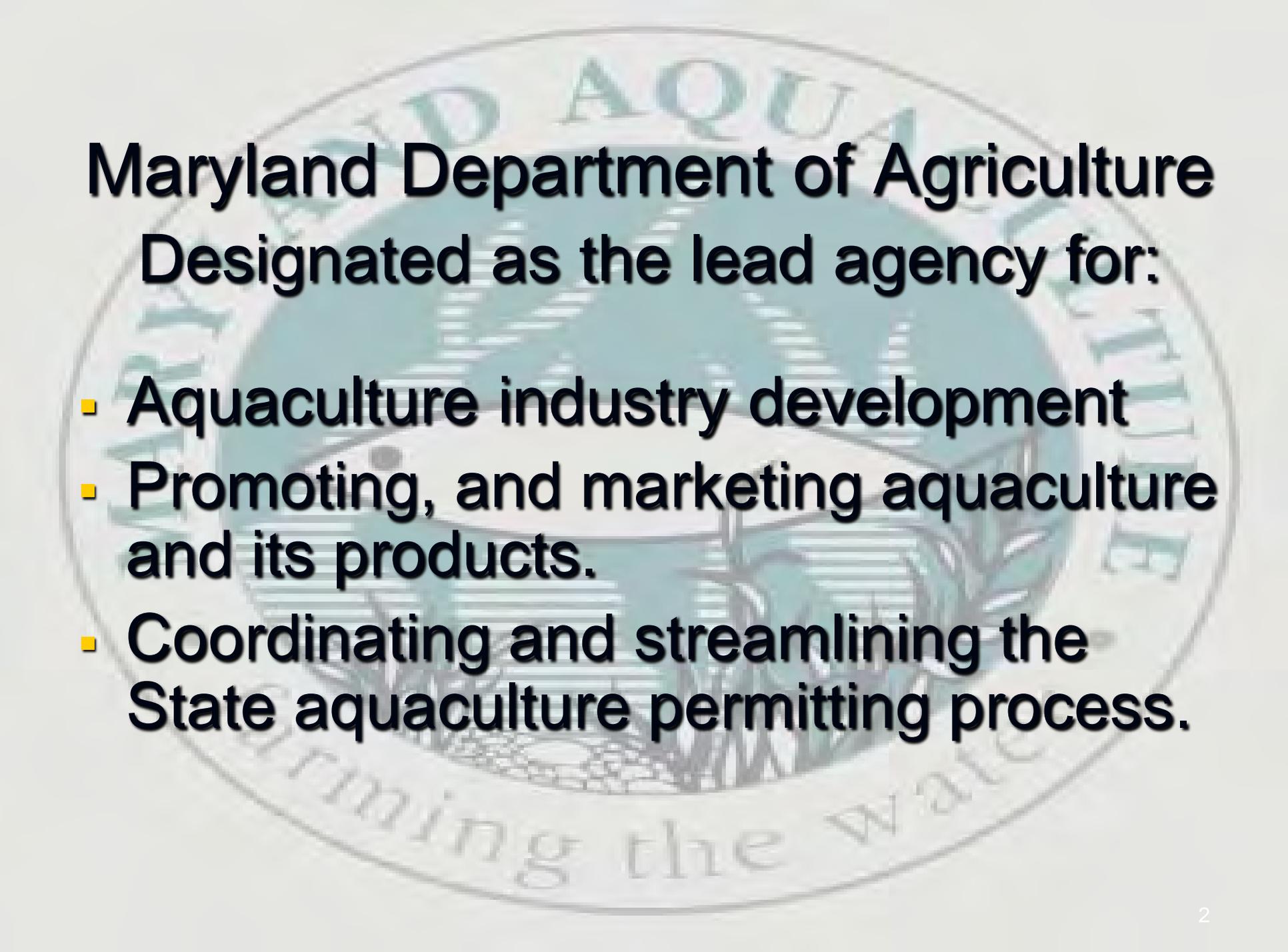


Working For You:

MD Aquaculture Coordinating Council

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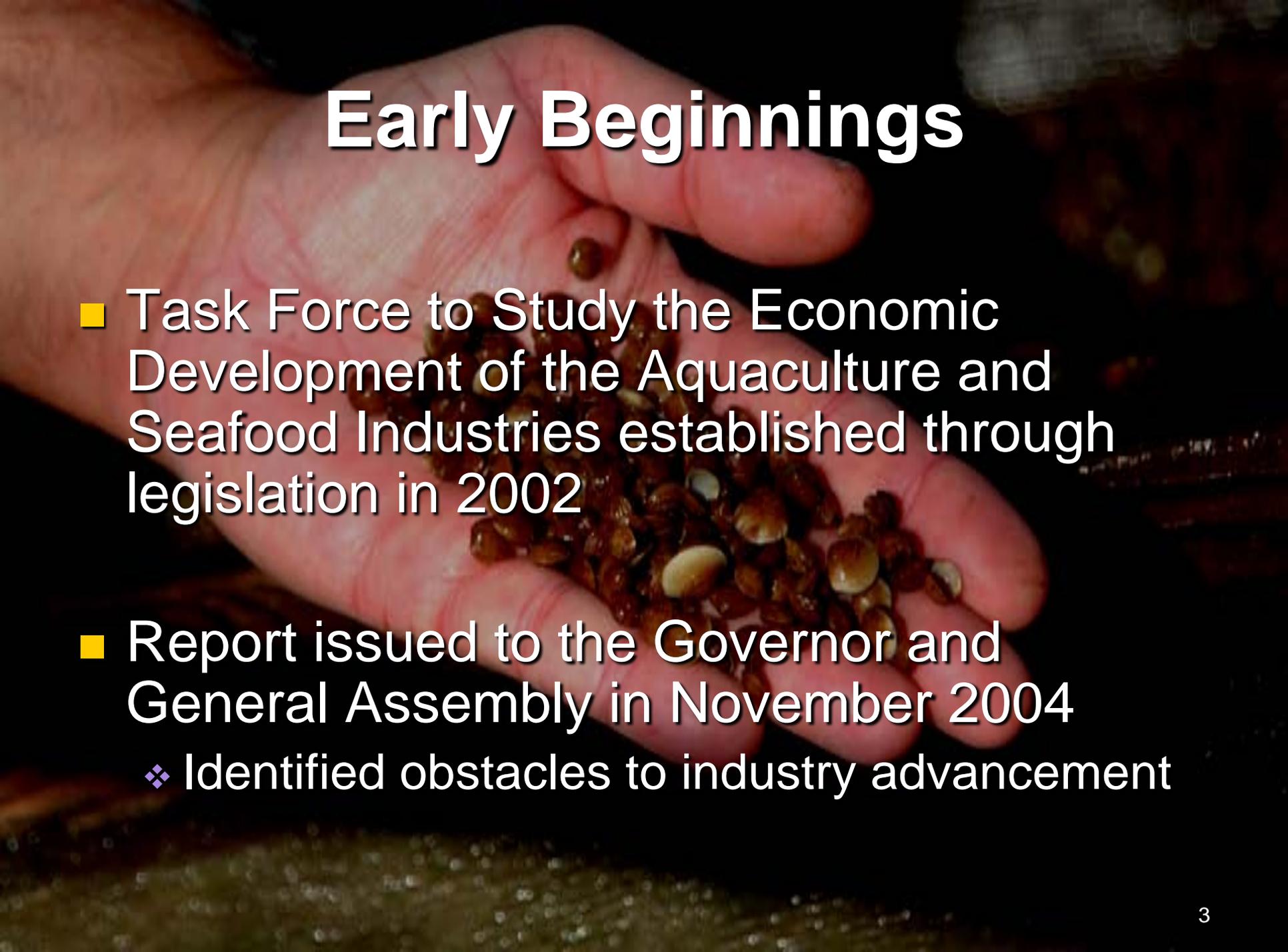
The background of the slide features a large, faint watermark of the official seal of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The seal is circular and contains the text "MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE" around the top edge and "Sustaining the Way of Life" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a landscape with a sun, a field, and a river.

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Designated as the lead agency for:

- **Aquaculture industry development**
- **Promoting, and marketing aquaculture and its products.**
- **Coordinating and streamlining the State aquaculture permitting process.**

Early Beginnings



- Task Force to Study the Economic Development of the Aquaculture and Seafood Industries established through legislation in 2002
- Report issued to the Governor and General Assembly in November 2004
 - ❖ Identified obstacles to industry advancement

Task Force Recommendations

- Establish a single point of contact for applications
- Create the Aquaculture Coordinating Council
- Establish Pre-permitted Aquaculture Enterprise Zones
- Appropriate funding to UM for demonstration projects
- Appropriate funding to DNR for additional NRP staff
- Appropriate funding for additional MDE staff
- Lift the moratorium on leasing in individual counties
- Study the use of non-natives oysters in aquaculture

Legislative Intent

- In response to the Task Force report, the State took a proactive approach by introducing, adopting and enacting legislation in June 2005
- Create an infrastructure to support the responsible development of the aquaculture industry while protecting and enhancing fishery resources and the environment.

Aquaculture Coordinating Council

- Established by the General Assembly in 2005
 - Agriculture Article § 10-1301 - § 10-1303
 - MDA provides staff and membership
- To promote the development of an aquaculture industry in the State.
- Responsible for supporting policy development resulting from stakeholder input.

Aquaculture Coordinating Council Membership

- 17 members including:
 - ✓ Senator and Delegate
 - ✓ State Agency Officials
MDA-DNR-NRP-MDE-DHMH-DBED
 - ✓ University of Maryland Representatives
UMCP-Extension-UMCES
 - ✓ 3 Watermen
 - ✓ 3 Aquaculture Industry Members

Coordinating Council Meetings

- Meetings are held bi-monthly
 - Jan-March-May-July-September-November
- Held at MDA headquarters in Annapolis
 - Begin at 6:30
- Open to the Public
 - Opportunity for public comment at each meeting

Council Duties

Specified by the General Assembly

- Develop Best Management Practices
- Review regulations, recommend changes
- Make proposals for advancing the industry
- Enhance area available for private lease
- Provide for Aquaculture Enterprise Zones

Council Actions

2007 - Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- provide a basis for facility operations and compliance

2008 - Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Plan

- identified initiatives for advancing the industry

2009 - Assisted with creating new Maryland Leasing Law

- established AEZs, enhanced areas available for leasing

2010 – Leasing Regulations and Financing Program

- helped create leasing procedures and shellfish loan program



Results

- Statewide support for aquaculture development
- Policy decisions developed by consensus
- More comprehensive set of regulations
- BMPs provide guidance for compliance
- Aquaculture Enterprise Zones
- Financing Program
- Opportunity for Aquaculture to grow