

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1148

(Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Recreational Striped Bass Fishery - Study on Harvest Data

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This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery. DNR must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and the House Environmental Matters Committee by December 1, 2014.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014, and terminates May 31, 2015.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The study must:

- examine the benefits that more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery would have on the scientific and management capabilities of DNR with respect to the entire striped bass fishery;
- consider the types of information and level of detail that would be most beneficial for DNR to obtain;

- consider the advantages, disadvantages, and feasibility of implementing various methods for obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery;
- recommend methods for obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery; and
- recommend any enforcement measures that would need to be implemented to support any recommended methods for obtaining more accurate harvest data.

**Current Law/Background:** Recreational fishermen are not currently required to report information to DNR. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), under the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), conducts surveys of recreational fishermen, including in-person intercept surveys and phone surveys, which are used to generate recreational harvest estimates. DNR provides information to NMFS, but the surveys and estimates are handled by NMFS. DNR is, however, currently involved in a review of how MRIP can be improved with respect to Maryland's recreational fishery. The study required under the bill is expected to be conducted in concert with that review.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2014  
mc/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2014

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