

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 998 (Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*)  
 Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Striped Bass Permits - Annual Fees

This bill decreases fees for commercial striped bass permits issued to tidal fish licensees by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For a licensee with a finfish authorization, the annual permit fee is reduced from \$200 to \$160. For a licensee with an unlimited tidal fish authorization, the annual permit fee is reduced from \$150 to \$120.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015, and terminates May 31, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues decrease by approximately \$35,000, in FY 2016 only, due to reduced striped bass permit fee collections. Expenditures are not directly affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
SF Revenue	(\$35,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$35,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** DNR may issue a permit for several specified activities to a tidal fish licensee. To catch striped bass for sale, the annual permit fee is \$200 for a licensee with a finfish authorization. The annual permit fee is \$150 for a licensee with an unlimited tidal fish authorization.

The commercial striped bass fishery operates under a limited entry system. No more than 1,231 licensees can participate. DNR advises that currently, 1,036 licensees are registered to participate in the commercial striped bass fishery with 1,099 permits. DNR must manage the fishery in accordance with quotas set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which coordinates the conservation and management of the near-shore migratory fishery resources of the Atlantic coastal states. Maryland's harvest quota for 2015 must reflect a 20.5% reduction from the 2012 harvest.

**State Revenues:** Special fund revenues decrease by approximately \$35,000 in fiscal 2016 only due to reduced striped bass permit fee collections. This estimate is based on recent numbers of permit holders provided by DNR. Revenues are not affected after fiscal 2016 due to the bill's termination date.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2015  
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