

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1397

(Delegate Jacobs)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Recreational Striped Bass Fishery - Study on Harvest Data

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 Environment and Transportation Committee by December 1, 2020. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2020, and terminates May 31, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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: Pursuant to Chapter 446 of 2014, DNR conducted a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery in 2014. The study found that (1) the recreational harvest estimates provided for the Maryland striped bass fishery were appropriate for management and (2) altering or substantially augmenting the existing methods would be costly and not guarantee sufficient increased information to impact management strategies.

DNR is currently in the process of implementing striped bass conservation measures that affect the recreational fishery, pursuant to an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requirement that states achieve an 18% reduction in total striped bass removals relative to 2017 levels. DNR recently announced the conservation measures for the spring 2020 season and indicated that it plans to also move forward with conservation measures for the summer and fall seasons.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1148 of 2014 was enacted as Chapter 446.

Designated Cross File: SB 882 (Senator Bailey) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2020
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