

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 343

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Natural
Resources)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Natural Resources - Shrimp Fishery - Licensing and Regulation

This departmental bill prohibits a person from catching shrimp for commercial purposes unless the person first obtains a license from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bill also authorizes the department to adopt regulations (1) governing any aspect of the shrimp fishery and (2) establishing and implementing a pilot program related to fishing for shrimp. The regulations may authorize the department to establish for the shrimp fishery – by public notice – closed areas, catch limits, seasons, size limits, gear restrictions, and reporting requirements. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is expected to be implemented with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DNR has determined that this bill has a meaningful impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: DNR indicates that the presence of shrimp in the Chesapeake Bay has been growing, as well as interest in commercial harvest of the shrimp.

Shrimp are not explicitly regulated as a fishery under State fisheries laws, and DNR indicates that there is uncertainty regarding who is allowed to harvest shrimp and with what gear. The bill gives DNR broad authority to develop and manage the shrimp fishery.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 12, 2021
rh/lgc Third Reader - February 2, 2021

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Natural Resources - Shrimp Fishery - Licensing and Regulation

BILL NUMBER: SB 343

PREPARED BY: James McKittrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

 WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON
MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

OR

 X WILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON
MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Creating a new fishery in Maryland will allow watermen – largely small businesses – to participate and earn additional income.