

Dear Chairman and committee members,

I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment and show my support for SB793. My name is Capt. Michael Dunlap and I am the owner and operator of Barefoot-Adventures, LLC, an outdoor adventure company focusing on Stand-up Paddle boarding (SUP), fishing, diving, SUP-fishing, and Eco-tours on the eastern shore of Maryland. As you know, the eastern shore is a destination vacation site for many Marylanders as well out of state individuals and families. My company aims to put these visitors in touch with nature and the environment in an active and engaging manner. Paddle boarding is one of the fastest growing segments in the outdoor market and when combined with fishing, which as you know is a big draw to the eastern shore, creates a new niche that pairs these activities together in a unique way. It is this pairing that has led me to focus on this bill.

As a licensed fishing guide, I offer my clients the unique experience of fishing from a paddleboard. While SUP-fishing is popular in other locales, it is just gaining popularity here in Maryland. With the ability to reach areas otherwise inaccessible by boat or shore, I offer a truly memorable experience that is peaceful and quiet in a way most anglers have never experienced. The excitement of reeling in a fish while on paddleboard creates a whole new level of excitement and pride in the angler.

SB793 is aimed at cleaning up the language of the current regulation for the Limited Guide License. The limited guide license covers up to 3 vessels with 1 or 2 occupants per vessel and up to 10 clients shore based. The language of the bill "human powered" would include paddle and pedal drive (kayaks). This language makes it inclusive for those requiring special adaptations of the craft for physical reasons.

I understand that my business is a small niche market but there is growth potential for SUP fishing and the potential is there for others would be guides for kayak fishing and the like. I am looking for a way to offer my clients a unique fishing experience while taking in the beauty our great state has to offer without the unnecessary hurdle of additional steps in order to do so. SB793 would make this a possibility. The opportunity to offer unique fishing experiences is beneficial well beyond my small company. As with other tourism industries, clients who support my business help our entire local economy with their patronage to local tackle shops, restaurants, shops etc.

Thank you for hearing my voice today. I sincerely hope that you will support SB793 and come and join me sometime for an awesome SUP fishing adventure.

Captain Michael Dunlap Barefoot-Adventures

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