

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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February 25, 2020

Senate Bill 882 - Recreational Striped Bass Fishery - Study on Harvest Data

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 882 - Recreational Striped Bass Fishery - Study on Harvest Data. This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery.

In 2014, the General Assembly passed similar legislation requiring a study on harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery. The report found that the recreational harvest estimates provided for the Maryland striped bass fishery were appropriate for management and altering or substantially augmenting the existing methods would be costly and not guarantee sufficient increased information to impact management strategies.

I believe that it is time for the Department to take another look at how it estimates this harvest data. Since the 2014 report, the statistics that we have based on current measures of the recreational striped bass harvest include a significant amount of error. Effective management of the striped bass fishery requires accurate catch data for both the recreational and commercial harvest. What we currently have available from the Department of Natural Resources to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the governing body who determines the allowable harvest for the State of Maryland, on the recreational data is outdated. This updated study will review changes since the 2014 report and determine the best suited, feasible alterations that can be made to the method of reporting the harvest data which would give us more accurate data.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 882. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties