



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1397 - Recreational Striped Bass Fishery – Study on Harvest Data

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is providing the following information on House Bill 1397. This bill requires the department to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery and report its findings to the General Assembly by the end of the year.

House Bill 1397 appears to be a reintroduction of House Bill 1148 from the 2014 Legislation Session. That legislation passed into law and the department produced a report identical to the provisions of House Bill 1397. If House Bill 1397 also passed into law, the department would update some of the information contained in the 2014 report.

In terms of taking action on obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery, the department is currently working in earnest with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission. A subcommittee was recently formed under the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission in order to get a handle on trends and technology related to saltwater/tidal recreational fishing. More importantly, the subcommittee understands that any data collection methodology developed for Maryland's recreational fisheries must also pass muster with the federal Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates many of them.

Thank you for allowing the department to submit to the Committee this information on House Bill 1397.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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