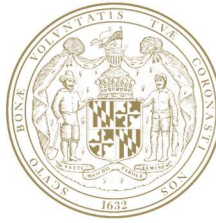


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 947 Department of Natural Resources - Commercial Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline License - Alterations.**

This bill updates the commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license to broaden what equipment licensed fishermen may use when catching invasive blue catfish in Maryland's tidal waters. Under the bill, fishermen could use a gill net with a mesh size of 7 inches or less in addition to the finfish trotline that is already allowed. Many rural fisheries will benefit from this legislation, as it allows them to harvest more blue catfish to supply the growing market for this invasive but delicious fish.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 947 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Jefferson L. Ghrist in black ink.

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Natalie Ziegler in black ink.

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair