

Department of Fiscal Services

Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1254 (Delegate Guns)

Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - New Fishery Management Plans for Certain Varieties of Fish

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide fishery management plans for tautog, black sea bass, and scup.

The bill is effective July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The requirements of this bill could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: The Secretary of Natural Resources adopts a management plan and any relevant conservation and management measure through regulation. The State's fishery resources are then harvested in accordance with the plan and any conservation measures. Of the 19 species currently listed in statute, regulations have been adopted for 16 species and another one (menhaden) is in the plan development process.

Small Business Effect: This bill allows DNR to adopt a management plan and relevant regulations for specified fish species. The impact on small businesses depends upon the type and extent of regulations adopted by the department. Any such regulations would

impact commercial fishing businesses; there are approximately 8,000 licensed commercial fishers, almost all of which would be small businesses. In addition, the recreational fishing industry could also be affected by regulations. This would include bait and tackle shops, charter boats, and other business services that cater to recreational fishers.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 1997

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