

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 525 (Senator Collins)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Fishing - Otter or Beam Trawl - Summer Flounder**

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This bill prohibits the commercial use of an otter or beam trawl to catch summer flounder in the tidal waters of the State.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently regulates the flounder harvest and seasons for trawl nets under a management plan. Trawl nets are currently prohibited from being used within one mile of the Atlantic Coast in Maryland; the regulations allow for an open area of one to three miles of State water.

Under this bill, commercial fishers would not be able to catch summer flounder using trawl nets in State waters. Data from DNR indicates that up to 25 vessels and 80 commercial fishers may rely on the current one to three mile open area prohibited under this bill for flounder harvest. In 1996, a total of approximately 163,000 pounds of flounder were caught in State waters; this represents 72% of Maryland's 226,000 pound quota. The dockside value for flounder averaged \$1.68 per pound (total catch value of \$273,800).

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1997

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