

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 873 (Delegate McClenahan, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Hard-Shell Clams - Harvesting - Size Limit

This bill reduces the size of harvestable hard-shell clams by decreasing the “transverse dimension” of hard-shell clams that a person may possess from 1 inch to 7/8 of an inch. The bill also specifies that up to 10 hard-shell clams out of each 105 in the person’s possession may have a transverse dimension of less than 7/8 of an inch. The Department of Natural Resources shall determine the number of hard-shell clams in a person’s possession that are less than 7/8 of an inch by a representative sample of all the clams in the person’s possession.

This bill takes effect June 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not materially alter State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: Most of the commercial fishermen involved in the harvesting of hard-shell clams are small businesses. The bill would allow commercial licensees to target smaller clams (up to 10 out of each 105 can be less than 7/8 of an inch) for harvest than currently allowed (minimum one inch). Smaller clams are up to twice the market value of larger “chowder clams.” As a result, small businesses involved in clam harvesting could see increased revenues.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative

Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 8, 1998

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Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 1998

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