

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 732 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(Departmental – Natural Resources)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Power Dredging for Oysters - Somerset, Calvert, St. Mary's, and Dorchester
Counties**

This departmental bill corrects technical errors in provisions of current law relating to power dredging for oysters and oyster sanctuaries.

Sections 1 and 2 take effect October 1, 2001. Section 3 takes effect June 1, 2004, the effective date of specified sections of Chapter 580 of 1999. If the effective date of those sections is amended, Section 3 of the bill will take effect when those sections take effect. Section 1 sunsets when Section 3 takes effect.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is intended to correct technical errors.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: DNR must establish zones by regulation within specified areas of Calvert, Dorchester, Somerset, and St. Mary's counties in which a person may catch

oysters by power dredge. The regulations must establish an oyster sanctuary of not less than 100 acres in specified areas of each of those counties.

Background: In 1999 the General Assembly passed several bills relating to power dredging for oysters and the establishment of oyster sanctuaries in designated areas of Calvert, Dorchester, Somerset, and St. Mary's counties. According to DNR, during the promulgation of regulations, several technical errors were discovered. This bill is intended to correct those errors.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 12, 2001
cm/cr Revised – House Third Reader – March 15, 2001

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