

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1264

(Delegate Weir)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Tidal Fisheries - Nets

This bill repeals specified statutory prohibitions and requirements relating to the use of stake nets in tidal fisheries. The bill also prohibits a person from setting at any time a fyke net within 300 feet of a pound net.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute provides that a person may not set any pound or stake net or any line of those nets which is greater in length than one-third the distance across the water from where it is set, or is set so that it impedes navigation on or blocks the main channel of the body of water. A person may not set a stake net within 1,200 feet of another stake net or pound net, although a person may set a stake or fyke net closer to any pound net if the owner of the pound net location gives written permission. Clear and unobstructed intervals of at least 200 feet shall be maintained between successive pound or stake nets in the same row. A person may not set a pound or stake net over leased oyster ground without the permission of the licensee.

The use of staked gill nets (stake nets) is prohibited under current regulations.

Background: A pound net is a visible passive (stationary) gear type used to trap fish. A pound net consists of three main sections: (1) a crib (pound) which is the enclosed end where entrapment takes place; (2) a heart, which is a net in the shape of a heart that aids in funneling fish into the crib; and (3) a leader, which is a long, straight net that leads fish offshore towards the crib. Pound nets catch a wide variety of bay finfish. The majority of pound nets are set and fished between April and November.

According to a U.S. Department of the Interior publication, a fyke net is a conical, cylindrical net distended by a series of hoops or frames, covered by web netting or wire mesh and having at least one internal funnel-shaped throat whose tapered ends are directed away from the mouth of the net.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2004
mh/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2004

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