

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 439 (Senator Jacobs)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Bush River - Fyke Nets

This bill prohibits a person from using a fyke net in the waters of the Bush River from January 1 to March 20.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund expenditures related to enforcement.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Except within the boundaries of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, a person may not set a fyke net in the Bush River within 300 feet of another fyke net or 750 feet of a pound net. An owner, tenant, or lessee of the riparian rights of any property bordering the Bush River may maintain a single fyke net that is closer than 300 feet to another fyke net or pound net set in front of an adjacent property.

Background: 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.

State Expenditures: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advises that, because there are no Natural Resource Police officers currently assigned to the Bush River, it would need to hire two seasonal officers for 80 days each year (from January 1 to March 20) to enforce the bill's prohibition at a cost of approximately \$20,000 annually. Legislative Services advises that, to the extent the bill requires enforcement beyond what can be accommodated within existing resources, general fund expenditures could increase minimally if the need to hire seasonal officers arises.

Small Business Effect: DNR advises that, over the past 5 years, 10 different commercial watermen have reported fyke net harvests from the Bush River between January and March. Based on harvest reports from those years, 11 different species were harvested from the Bush River between January and March, with an average annual dockside value of \$26,683.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Department of Legislative Services

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