

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1570

(Delegate Weir)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Fisheries Management - Anchored Fishing Nets - Buoy Markers**

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This bill authorizes the use of a buoy or other floating device to mark specified anchored fishing nets and repeals a requirement that such floating devices be marked with the fishing net owner's address.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's changes can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, a person is prohibited from setting any anchored gill net or fyke or hoop net or any line of these nets which has a length more than one-third the distance across the waters of the bay, sound, river, creek, cove, or inlet in which it is set, or setting such nets in a way that impedes or obstructs navigation. The outer end of the submerged gear of these nets must be marked by a paddle or board which shows the net owner's name, address, and license number.

A person may not set an anchored gill net within 1,200 feet of a pound or stake net, measured at right angles to the line of stakes.

**Background:** The Department of Natural Resources advises that the bill addresses an antiquated provision of law that is rarely referenced. The law was put into effect when only wooden paddles and boards were available to mark fishing nets. Now, most individuals use plastic buoys or other floating devices to mark anchored fishing nets. Recently, a waterman was written a citation for using only a buoy, not a paddle or board, to mark anchored fishing nets.

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### **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 24, 2009  
mcp/ljm                     Revised - House Third Reader - April 3, 2009

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