

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 1096 (Senator Astle)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Natural Resources - Fishery Management Reform Act - Task Force and Sunset  
Repeal

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This bill repeals the June 30, 2010 termination date of Chapter 217 of 2007, which (1) increased the license fees for resident and nonresident nontidal angler's licenses and sport fishing licenses; and (2) authorized the Governor to include general fund appropriations for the State Fisheries Management and Protection Fund and the Fisheries Research and Development Fund in the budget bill each fiscal year. The bill repeals the Task Force on Fishery Management, which was established by Chapter 217 of 2007.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The increase in fishing license fee special fund revenue due to Chapter 217 of 2007 (estimated at \$2.4 million annually) continues in FY 2011 and future years. The potential increase in general fund expenditures due to Chapter 217 of 2007 continues in FY 2011 and future years.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Among other things, Chapter 217 of 2007 (1) increased the license fees for resident and nonresident nontidal angler's licenses and sport fishing licenses; (2) authorized the Governor to include general fund appropriations in the budget bill each

fiscal year for the State Fisheries Management and Protection Fund and the Fisheries Research and Development Fund; and (3) established a Task Force on Fishery Management. The Act took effect on July 1, 2007, and terminates June 30, 2010. **Exhibit 1** illustrates how the fees associated with several licenses change under current law as of July 1, 2010.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Select Tidal and Nontidal Fishing Licenses**

<u>License</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Current Law Fee as of July 1, 2010</u>
Angler (Nontidal)		
Resident Annual	\$20.50	\$10.50
Nonresident Annual	Greater of \$30.50 or the fee charged by applicant's state	Greater of \$20.50 or the fee charged by applicant's state
Sport Fishing (Tidal)		
Annual Resident	\$15.00	\$9.00
Annual Nonresident	\$15.00	\$14.00
Annual Bay Sport Boat	\$50.00	\$40.00

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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Revenue generated from the sale of angler's licenses is deposited into the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund and used only for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of nontidal finfish. Revenue generated from the sale of Chesapeake Bay sport fishing licenses is deposited into the Fisheries Research and Development Fund to be used for the replenishment, protection, and conservation of fish stocks caught by recreational anglers; enhancement of recreational fishing opportunities; and research regarding tidal fishery resources.

**Background:** The Task Force on Fishery Management was established to review current fishery management processes and develop recommendations for improving, modernizing, and streamlining fishery management in Maryland. A report of the findings and recommendations of the task force was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly in December 2008. This report outlines numerous recommendations addressing habitat preservation and restoration, stock monitoring and assessment, data

management, fisheries management, alternative management, legal and regulatory updates, and fishery law enforcement.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The increase in fishing license fee revenue due to Chapter 217 of 2007 continues in fiscal 2011 and future years due to the repeal of the June 30, 2010 termination date. The increase in Department of Natural Resources (DNR) special fund revenues resulting from the Act are estimated to total \$2.4 million in fiscal 2011 and future years. The fiscal 2011 estimate reflects the bill's July 1, 2010 effective date. The estimate assumes that fishing license sales remain at the fiscal 2009 level. In fiscal 2009, DNR issued 120,195 annual resident angler licenses, 11,951 annual nonresident angler licenses, 94,734 annual resident sport fish licenses, 23,383 annual nonresident sport fish licenses, and 47,275 sport boat licenses.

As a result of the repeal of the termination date, DNR is permanently authorized to include a general fund appropriation in the budget bill for the affected special funds. Accordingly, general fund expenditures may increase in fiscal 2011 and future years to the extent funds are provided as a result of the bill, but any such increase cannot be predicted at this time. Special fund revenues would further increase correspondingly.

The repeal of the task force is not expected to materially affect State finances because the task force has already completed the report required by Chapter 217 of 2007.

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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 26, 2010  
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