

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 911 (Delegate Jacobs)
Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Commercial Fishing - Crabs and Striped Bass

This bill prohibits a tidal fish licensee who is authorized to fish for striped bass and crabs for commercial purposes, from simultaneously (1) fishing for striped bass with a hook and line; and (2) catching crabs in any manner.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Secretary of Natural Resources is responsible for conservation management of the fish, fisheries, fish resources, and aquatic life within the State. Various statutory provisions govern the manner, methods, and gear for catching and possessing fish.

Background: The Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Fisheries Service is responsible for managing commercial and recreational fishing in the State. The Fisheries Service seeks to develop a management framework for the conservation and equitable use of fishery resources; manage fisheries in balance with the ecosystem for present and

future generations; monitor and assess the status and trends of fishery resources; and provide high quality, diverse, and accessible fishing opportunities.

A tidal fishing license is the single commercial license issued by DNR with respect to fishing and fisheries in tidal waters. A person must obtain authorizations on the license, for which various fees apply, to engage in different types of fishing or commercial activity. The annual fee for an unlimited authorization is \$300. The fee for catching finfish for sale by hook and line only, as an example of a more specific authorization, is \$37.50. The license year for each tidal fish license is from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Currently, 2,194 individuals are authorized to harvest both striped bass and crabs and 795 of those individuals may fish for striped bass with a hook and line. DNR advises that it is not aware of any watermen who fish for striped bass with a hook and line and catch crabs at the same time.

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, 2012
mm/lgc

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