

Chapter 446

(House Bill 1148)

AN ACT concerning

Recreational Striped Bass Fishery – Study on ~~Reporting Requirements~~ Harvest Data

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study on ~~the establishment of reporting requirements~~ methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery; requiring the study to examine certain issues relevant to ~~the reporting requirements~~ obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery; requiring the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the study on ~~the establishment of reporting requirements~~ methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a study on ~~the establishment of reporting requirements~~ methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery.

(b) The study shall ~~examine~~:

(1) examine the benefits that ~~reporting by~~ more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery would have on the scientific and management capabilities of the Department with respect to the entire striped bass fishery;

(2) consider the ~~type~~ types of information and level of detail that would be most beneficial ~~to~~ for the Department to ~~collect, including catch numbers, poundage, the date and time of catch, the location of catch, and any other information that the Department considers to be necessary~~ obtain for its scientific and management duties and capabilities;

(3) ~~the~~ consider the advantages, disadvantages, and feasibility of ~~implementing the reporting requirements, collecting and processing the reported data, and enforcing the reporting requirements~~ implementing various methods for obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery;

(4) ~~the feasibility and desirability of implementing electronic or automated reporting requirements~~ recommend methods for obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery; and

(5) recommend any enforcement measures that would need to be implemented to support ~~the reporting requirements~~ any methods recommended under paragraph (4) of this subsection.

(c) On or before December 1, 2014, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations with respect to ~~reporting requirements~~ obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.