

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 318

(Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Kent County - Fisheries - Use of Haul Seines

This bill authorizes a person, in Kent County, on prior notification to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to catch gizzard shad, also known as mud shad, carp, or catfish, with a haul seine during the period from Friday midnight until sunrise on Monday. DNR must, by regulation, establish procedures for prior notification.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Subject to exceptions in Baltimore County and Harford County, a person may not fish with a haul seine during the period from Friday midnight until sunrise on Monday in the tidal waters of the State. Statute also includes specified requirements regarding the use of haul seines including inspection and dimensions requirements.

Background: Information on DNR's website indicates that gizzard shad are a Maryland resident species and widely distributed throughout the upper tidewater areas of the Chesapeake Bay. Common carp can be found in the brackish and fresh waters of the Chesapeake Bay and in most freshwater rivers and impoundments statewide. There are

multiple types of catfish in the Chesapeake Bay, including the native white catfish and the invasive blue and flathead catfish.

Small Business Effect: Commercial licensees may meaningfully benefit from being able to harvest gizzard shad, carp, and catfish in tidal waters with a haul seine on weekends in Kent County. DNR indicates, with respect to gizzard shad, that the fish have a dockside value of approximately \$0.10 per pound but can be harvested in significant quantities with a haul seine.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1174 of 2015, a similar bill, was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Kent County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 29, 2016
kb/lgc

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