

**HB0889/203220/1**

BY: Environment and Transportation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 889  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, after “at” insert “at least a certain number of additional”; strike beginning with the first “in” in line 6 down through “sites” in line 8; in line 10, strike “and reenacting, with amendments,”; and after line 14, insert:

“BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 4–746

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 18 through 23, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**4–746.**

**(A) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4–215 OF THIS TITLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC MONITORING TO COLLECT BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION TO DETERMINE THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF STRIPED BASS OR ROCKFISH IN AREAS THROUGHOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES.”.**

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 2 through 8, inclusive, and substitute:

“(1) CONDUCT SAMPLING USING THE SAME OR EQUIVALENT METHODS AS THE YOUNG-OF-THE-YEAR JUVENILE INDEX SURVEY OF STRIPED BASS OR ROCKFISH IN AT LEAST TWO SITES LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF THE MARYLAND WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES; AND

(2) LOCATE THE CENTRAL REGION SAMPLING SITES IN AREAS OTHER THAN THE AREAS SAMPLED FOR THE YOUNG-OF-THE-YEAR JUVENILE INDEX SURVEY OF STRIPED BASS OR ROCKFISH AND IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WATERS OF THE STATE:”;

in line 14, strike “OR”; in line 15, strike the period and substitute “;

(VIII) THE PATAPSCO RIVER;

(IX) THE RHODE RIVER; OR

(X) THE TRED AVON RIVER.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

4-746.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-215 OF THIS TITLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC MONITORING TO COLLECT BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION TO

**DETERMINE THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF STRIPED BASS OR ROCKFISH IN AREAS THROUGHOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES.**

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Natural Resources shall annually examine the survey data collected under § 4-746(b) of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted under Section 2 of this Act, to ensure the distribution of striped bass or rockfish has not shifted from the established sites of the young-of-the-year juvenile index survey of striped bass or rockfish.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31 each year, the Department of Natural Resources shall report its results from its examination of the survey data conducted under Section 4 of this Act to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2027.”;

in line 16, strike “2.” and substitute “7.”; in the same line, after “That” insert “, except as provided in Section 6 of this Act.”; and in line 17, after “2025.” insert “ Sections 2, 4, and 5 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2027, Sections 2, 4, and 5 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.