

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 29, 2020

Testimony in Favor of SB162
Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing With a Haul Seine

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 162. This local bill would watermen to fish with a haul seine in Anne Arundel County - the only county that currently prohibits this practice.

Haul seine fishing is a method of fishing that uses a net. This bill was brought to me by the watermen in my community who are hoping to diversify their annual catch and benefit from this alternative - but not new - method of fishing. Fishing with a haul seine will have limited impact (a watermen would need a property owner's permission to haul seine) and they would better allow watermen to target the fishing of perch and other fin fish in order to catch fewer menhaden. The bill also ensures that watermen could not haul seine during the critical spawning season.

The Anne Arundel County House and Senate Delegation have voted in support of this bill. I thank the Committee for its time and request a favorable report on SB 162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Elf".

Sarah Elfreth