



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 162 Anne Arundel County - Natural Resources - Fishing With a Haul Seine

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 162. This bill, widely cosponsored by the local delegation, would repeal the archaic ban on haul seines in Anne Arundel County waters. The bill also clarifies the type and dimensions of dip nets used in county waters as well as makes technical corrections to the statute.

Many of the county specific fishing statutes are decades old and no longer reflect current management issues or local stakeholder issues. The last meaningful change to this statute in particular occurred in 1981. Stakeholders have also repeatedly requested the department enact this change. By repealing the ban on haul seines in Anne Arundel County waters, the regulatory burden on the commercial fishing industry would be reduced and likely increase economic opportunity for local commercial fishermen.

The department does not have any management issues with the clarification on types of dip nets that may be used in county waters or the removal of specific restrictions on haul seine use in county waters.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests the Committee to grant Senate Bill 162 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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