

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**Senate Bill 510 - Natural Resources - Commercial Fishing - Use of Haul Seines**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 510 - Natural Resources - Commercial Fishing - Use of Haul Seines. Senate Bill 510 authorizes a person, if a haul seine is fished on a Friday, to empty that haul seine during the period from 12:01 a.m. on the following Saturday until sunrise on the following Monday.

Current Maryland law prohibits fishing with a haul seine between 12:01 a.m. on Saturday until sunrise on Monday in the tidal waters of the state. However, there has been an issue recently with commercial fishermen who exercise their right under state law to fish with a haul seine on a Friday and who are unable to empty their nets before midnight on Saturday. In my 30 years of experience as a Maryland Natural Resources Police Officer, this law was not enforced to prohibit emptying a haul seine that was set on a weekday. Recently, some of our state's watermen have informed me that the law is now being enforced in that manner. This leads to fish that have been caught in the haul seine but cannot be emptied on Friday dying and, in some cases, just being thrown away.

Senate Bill 510 does not alter the prohibition on fishing with a haul seine on the weekends. It only ensures that fish that have been legally caught can be removed from the net and ensures that commercial harvesters are not penalized for catching a large number of fish on a Friday.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 510. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties