



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

February 25, 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 Information – Senate 882 - Recreational Striped Bass Fishery – Study on Harvest Data

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is providing the following information on Senate Bill 882. This bill requires the department to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery and report its findings to the General Assembly by the end of the year.

Senate Bill 882 appears to be a reintroduction of House Bill 1148 from the 2014 Legislation Session. That legislation passed into law and the department produced report identical to the provisions of Senate Bill 882. If Senate Bill 882 also passed into law, the department would update some of the information contained in the 2014 report.

In terms of taking action on obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery, the department is currently working in earnest with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission. A subcommittee was recently formed under the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission in order to get a handle on trends and technology related to saltwater/tidal recreational fishing. More importantly, the subcommittee understands that any data collection methodology developed for Maryland's recreational fisheries must also pass muster with the federal Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates many of them.

Thank you for allowing the department to submit to the Committee this information on Senate Bill 882.

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

Contact: James W. McKittrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
Jamesw.mckittrick@maryland.gov ♦ 443-510-5013

