

House Bill 504 – Maryland Boat Act – Abandoned and Sunken Vessels

Testimony submitted by: Samuel J. Weaver, II
-Owner, Weaver's Marine Service in Essex, Maryland
-President, Maryland Waterways Foundation
-Board Member, Marine Trades Association of Baltimore County

Position on HB 504 – in support of Bill





















The above are a series of pictures of abandoned boats on Back River in Essex, Maryland. Some are in creeks, others at marina's and others left on shorelines. Last year, in working with Baltimore County Marine Police, the non-profit organization I was President of and the now the newly formed organization I preside over we removed 15 boats for free from state waters. These are boats left behind for years on shorelines and in waterways and unable to be removed without a lot of red tape, lengthy waits and risks of being sued by owners of these abandoned vessels. Shortening the time in which a vessel can be removed, will remove the hardship for marina's. They are incurring expenses and losing revenue. These vessels often are sinking at the pier and causing damage to the piers and waterways, releasing gas and oil.

I am in support of House Bill 504 for the environmental and economic impact to the Chesapeake Bay.

Sam Weaver