



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

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 95 – Anne Arundel County - Natural Resources - Fishing With a Haul Seine

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports House Bill 95. 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 House Bill 95 a favorable report.

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

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