



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

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March 4, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

***Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 1399 - Natural Resources – Commercial Fishing – Use of Haul Seines***

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Nature Resources offers its full support for House Bill 1399. This bill is corrective in nature and would allow commercial harvesters to empty on a weekend a haul seine net that had been hauled on a Friday.

Current law says that, outside of a narrow set of exceptions, haul seines may not be fished on the weekend. This limits a commercial fisherman's ability to use haul seines on a Friday, because they may not be able to empty the net before midnight, depending on how many fish are in the net. By allowing the fisherman to continue to empty the net on the weekend, fishermen will not be penalized if they catch a large number of fish in their haul seine on a Friday. This technical issue in statute has frequently been brought to the department by stakeholder over a previous number of years.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests a favorable committee report for House Bill 1399.

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

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