



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

Bill Number: Senate Bill 537

Short Title: Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations – Clarification

Department's Position: Support

Explanation of Department's Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides the following information on SB 537.

Under SB 343 in 2021, the Maryland General Assembly granted DNR the authority to establish a shrimp fishery pilot program for certain commercial licenses. Senate Bill 537 authorizes additional license types to participate in the pilot.

The department has been working with a newly formed shrimp workgroup under the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission to develop the parameters for Maryland's coastal commercial shrimp fishery pilot program. Maryland DNR and the shrimp workgroup have been consulting and coordinating with Virginia since they have already developed a successful commercial shrimp fishery pilot program. Authorizing additional license types to participate in Maryland's pilot would be consistent with Virginia's program and would provide DNR with more complete information on various gears. This information will be used to make decisions on how to proceed with a commercial fishery once the pilot program is complete.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.