

**SB0537\_DNR\_SUP\_EHEA\_3-1-22.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bunky Luffman

Position: FAV



*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.

# **SB 537 - DFA Testimony Senate EHEA Spport (3-1-22)**

Uploaded by: Chip MacLeod

Position: FAV



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Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Testimony in **SUPPORT** to **Senate Bill 537**

Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations - Clarification

March 1, 2022

The Delmarva Fisheries Association (DFA) urges a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 537, which clarifies regulations to facilitate the formation of a pilot program in furtherance an establishing a commercial shrimp fishery in Maryland.

*DFA represents over 80% of the commercial watermen in Maryland; individuals whose work and unique way of life spanning several generations depend upon sustainable harvests in a healthy Chesapeake Bay.*

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# **Sonny Gwin Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Earl Gwin

Position: FAV

Good afternoon. My name is Earl (Sonny) Gwin

I am here today to testify on behalf of Senate Bill #537. As a lifelong commercial fisherman, I have seen changes to our environment, our fisheries, and our livelihood. An abundant amount of shrimp has been seen in Maryland waters, both the Atlantic Ocean and its tributaries.

We would like to have the opportunity to participate in this new fishery as well the opportunity to fish in the areas where the shrimp are located. We also believe that the data that could be collected in this fishery would be valuable, not only in the shrimp fishery, but could give insight into future stock shifts in other fisheries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill #537hrimp testify bill.

# **Senator Carozza Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA  
Legislative District 38  
Somerset, Wicomico,  
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Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 1, 2022

**The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**SB 537 Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations – Clarification**  
**Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you, Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the distinguished Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for allowing me to present **Senate Bill 537 Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations – Clarification**. This bill is clarifying legislation on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources authority to adopt regulations for shrimp fisheries.

The Maryland General Assembly passed SB343 last session to create a new shrimp fishery, requiring licensing to engage in the fishery and giving the Department of Natural Resources broad authority to develop and manage the fishery. The pilot program was to go into effect last June.

Since the passage of last year's bill, there is a need for clear guidance, specifically, over the parameters and potential conflicts with existing regulations created for other fisheries that did not apply to this new shrimp fishery.

Previously, commercial shrimp harvesting had always been thought to be feasible only in southern waters. However, recent findings have concluded that shrimp are in our Atlantic Coast waters and the harvesting of them will create a new economic boost as well as contribute to local and state revenues.

During current uncertain times with supply chain issues and food shortages, our commercial seafood harvesters consistently provide local, relatively inexpensive, unprocessed, healthy food choices. But watermen are taking a risk when beginning to engage in a new fishery. They deserve our support in making this pilot program a workable, flexible alternative.

Mr. Chair and Vice Chair, I respectfully urge the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Members for a favorable report on Senate Bill 537 to further clarify regulations for this new shrimp fishery. Thank you for your kind attention and consideration of this bill.

**SB537\_CCAMD.pdf**

Uploaded by: David Sikorski

Position: UNF

March 2, 2022

To: Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: **Senate Bill 537** – Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations -  
Clarification

### **CCA Maryland Position: OPPOSE**

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As anglers and avid users of our natural resources, CCA Maryland members work hard to promote sensible **science-based management measures to support sustainable fisheries for the benefit of the general public** and the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay.

As waters in the region continue warm and provide favorable conditions for southern species like shrimp, it is important to implement a sound and science-based process for the development of new fishery management plans to guide the use of such resources.

CCA Maryland expects that Maryland's Department of Natural Resources(DNR) intends to use their existing regulatory processes to develop any new fisheries, and recognize this as "enabling legislation" specific to shrimp. Given the value of shrimp as a commercial seafood product, there is no question that if commercial fishers can harvest enough shrimp to develop and maintain markets, then an economically viable fishery will be built and maintained.

Throughout the development of a commercial shrimp fishery, DNR should include the development of suitable rules and regulations to allow for a recreational fishery as well. This will allow for a fair and equitable approach to the use of this expanding resource.

#### **Concerns with gear & by-catch**

As DNR develops any shrimp fishery, it is paramount that regulations are implemented which recognize the wasteful impacts of the most widely used shrimp catching gear, a trawl net (fig. 1)

By-catch, also known as discards, are the fish which fishers are required to release due to regulations or are caught by their gear used to target another species. Studies have shown that shrimp fisheries have a 5:1 ratio of by-catch to shrimp and can be much higher depending on prevailing conditions and regulations.

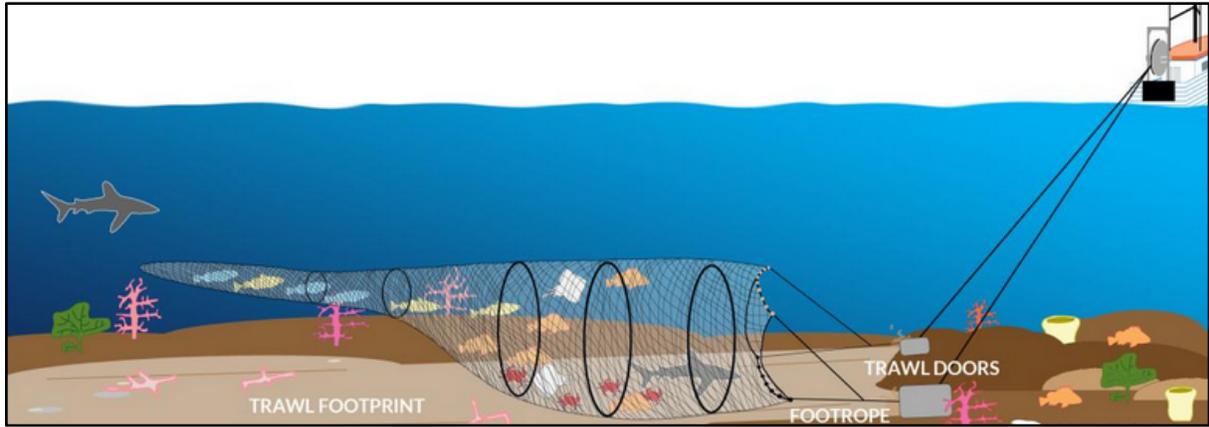
Trawls may also have an impact on submerged aquatic vegetation and other sensitive habitats if permitted for use in any Maryland shrimp fishery.

## **Capacity & Authority Concerns**

Given the broad and generic authority of a DNR pilot program and the many shortfalls of existing fishery management plans, we are concerned with the ability of DNR to develop and manage a shrimp fishery consistent with current state law.

Given the current capacity of DNR to manage existing fisheries, collect relevant data and provide meaningful on water enforcement throughout a broad area, we are concerned that recreational fishery dollars and capacity will continue to be used to manage another commercial fishery.

**For these reasons, we respectfully request a UN-FAVORABLE vote on SB 537.** *For further discussion regarding this issue, please contact CCA Maryland Executive Director, David Sikorski – (443)621-9186 – david@ccamd.org*



*Figure 1: Trawl Net ( source: CCA NC)*



*Figure 2: shrimp trawl bycatch (source: CCA NC)*