



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

Bill Number: House Bill 1215

Short Title: Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing Gear

Department's Position: Support

Explanation of Department's Position:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides the following information on HB 1215, which removes restrictions on recreational fishing gear in Anne Arundel County waters and allows for commercial licensees to use archery equipment in those same waters.

Populations of invasive Northern snakeheads have increased in western shore tidal rivers and throughout the Chesapeake Bay. With the increase in those populations, there has been increased interest by both recreational and commercial harvesters to target those fish with archery equipment. Current law restricts fishing in many Anne Arundel County tidal waters to hook and line only, which is a less efficient manner of harvest for snakeheads. By increasing opportunity for harvest, recreational and commercial harvesters may suppress the burgeoning invasive population.

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