



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

Bill Number: House Bill 644

Short Title: Cecil County - Fishing - Restrictions

Department's Position: Letter of Information

Explanation of Department's Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information on HB 644, which prohibits the use of commercial nets or haul seines in the Cecil County portion of the Susquehanna River and removes the requirement that a commercial licensee obtain landowner permission when setting a pound net adjacent to the shore in Cecil County.

The Harford County portion of the Susquehanna River has gill net restrictions and a prohibition that matches the existing text of Natural Resources Article, Section 4-717.

So, under this bill, some portions of the Susquehanna River would restrict only pound nets and stake nets, but would allow other nets, while in other portions of the river, no nets would be allowed, including haul seines. This may cause some confusion, and hamper compliance and enforcement activities.

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