

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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February 4, 2025

**Senate Bill 87 – Fisheries – Striped Bass or Rockfish – Juvenile Survey**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 87. This bill would expand the scope of the annual young-of-the-year juvenile survey of striped bass by requiring this survey to be conducted in the central region of the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Each year, the Department of Natural Resources conducts young-of-the-year surveys that provide important data on juvenile fish in our State's waterways. This data is critical to measuring the success of Maryland's striped bass stocks and is used by DNR as part of setting the State's fishery management policies and regulations.

DNR has conducted this survey annually since 1954. This data is currently taken at sites in the Susquehanna Flats in the northern portion of the Chesapeake Bay and at several tributaries in the southern part of the Bay, namely the Choptico, Nanticoke, Potomac, and Patuxent Rivers. These have been the locations where fish spawning has traditionally occurred.

However, no surveys are currently performed in the center of the Bay. We know that spawning patterns have changed since these original survey sites were established. Changes in the water level as well as the presence of invasive species have had a significant impact on the ecosystem of the Bay.

Senate Bill 87 will give us more data to better inform our State's decision making with regards to striped bass. This will give our State a fuller picture of fish spawning activity in the Chesapeake Bay by including data from all regions of the Bay. These sites are intended to be supplemental to, and not supplant or change, the current sampling sites. The bill requires between 12 and 20 new sampling sites in the central region of the Bay. These can be located in the Magothy River, the Severn River, the Chester River, the South River, the West River, Eastern Bay, or the Miles River.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 87. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey