



Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 324 • Bozman, MD 21612 • (410) 745-9759 • info@talbotwatermen.org

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan,

We are writing to express our **opposition** to **Senate Bill 53 Natural Resources - Commercial Crab Harvest - Start Time**.

Senate Bill 53 requires the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt regulations authorizing a tidal fish licensee who is authorized to catch crabs to begin catching crabs at least 4 hours before sunrise from July 1 through September 30, inclusive. These proposed new regulations will likely be difficult to enforce and may cause a disproportionate negative impact for certain segments of the industry. The bill also discounts the role of the Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee, which serves as an advisory body to DNR on matters concerning the blue crab commercial fishing industry. The Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee is composed of individuals representing the diverse commercial blue crab fishery and strives to seek fair, balanced approaches to management through public engagement and collaboration with DNR.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and respectfully request an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 53.

Sincerely,

Herman Jeffrey Harrison
President

Contact: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
R&R Solutions, LLC
(443) 786-2137
jeannie@randrsolutions.us

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