



**Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.**

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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 **support** for **Senate Bill 186 Commercial Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline License - Prohibited Regulations**.

Senate Bill 186 will allow finfish trotline licensees to fish in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay south of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Blue Catfish and Flathead Catfish are invasive species that are posing a significant threat to both Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts and the commercial fishing industry. With the ability to live for more than 20 years and grow to over 100 pounds, they are preying on some of the Bay's most important species. With few natural predators, increasing commercial harvest is one of the most effective management tools Maryland can deploy. Senate Bill 186 will expand harvest opportunities and help protect our native species.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 186.

Sincerely,

Herman Jeffrey Harrison  
President

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