



Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.

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March 6, 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, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our **support** for **Senate Bill 960/ House Bill 506 Natural Resources - Blue Catfish - Population Control**.

SB960/HB506 establishes an electrofishing pilot program and authorizes the use of finfish trotlines for harvesting blue catfish. Blue 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. SB960/HB506 will expand harvest opportunities and help protect our native species.

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

Sincerely,

Herman Jeffrey Harrison
President

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