



**Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.**

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February 24, 2026

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

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Chair Korman, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our **support** for **House Bill 947/Senate Bill 610 - Department of Natural Resources - Commercial Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline License - Alterations.**

Blue Catfish and Flathead Catfish are invasive species that pose 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. House Bill 947/Senate Bill 610 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 House Bill 947/Senate Bill 610.

Sincerely,

Herman Jeffrey Harrison  
President

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