



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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## Senate Bill 559

### Natural Resources - Recreational Fishery Data Collection Program - Established

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**To:** Environment & Transportation Committee

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

**From:** Allison Colden, Ph.D.,  
MD Executive Director

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 559**. SB 559, as amended, requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a recreational fisheries data program (“Program”) within the Department, survey existing recreational fisheries data collection programs, and, contingent on available funding, implement the Program by December 31, 2027.

SB 559 has been expanded to cover data collection for all recreational fisheries, an improvement that will ensure that the Program will not be so narrowly focused on the striped bass fishery that it cannot be applied in other fisheries in the State. While the 2027 implementation deadline is generous, CBF recognizes that developing the methodology, approach, and data collection platform will be an involved project. That said, recreational fisheries data collection has been the topic of several bills and stakeholder workgroups over the past decade and DNR should have a solid foundation from which to start this work. We encourage this Committee to ensure that this work moves forward in a timely manner consistent with the timeline provided by the bill.

**CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE report on SB 559.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*