

Legislative Summary 2017 – Fisheries’ Related Bills

Recreational License Bills

HB 4 (CF SB46) Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, and Disabled Veterans -Passed

The bill authorizes the Department to issue complimentary fishing licenses to an out-of-state person who certifies that the person is a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran if the person’s state of residence extends similar privileges to former prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American veterans of this State; alters an exemption from the requirement to obtain a trout stamp; makes a complimentary hunting license subject to certain provisions of law; requires the Department to implement certain programs to provide certain discounted licenses, stamps, and permits to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple Heart Award; requires the Department to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2019; provides for the termination of this Act June 30, 2020.

HB 68 Hunting and Fishing - Discounted Licenses - Purple Heart Recipients - Passed

The bill requires the Department to provide certain discounted recreational fishing and hunting licenses to Purple Heart recipients; requires the Department to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2019; provides for the termination of this Act June 30, 2020.

HB368 Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Stamps - Seniors, Veterans, and Military Personnel (Howard's Law) - Failed

The bill repeals the annual fees for a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license and a resident senior hunting license; establishes that, under specified circumstances, a nonresident member of the armed forces of the United States is not required to obtain specified hunting or fishing licenses or stamps before hunting or fishing in the State; authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to issue specified lifetime complimentary fishing licenses and hunting licenses to specified veterans.

Crab

HB 29 Tidal Fish License – Catching Crabs Using Trotline Gear – Holidays- Failed

This legislation would allow the Department to modify the catch time for the commercial harvesting of crabs by trotline on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

HB1314 Crabs - Harvest Times – Holidays - Passed

This legislation, as amended, requires the Department to adopt regulations to permit commercial harvesters to take crabs using legal gears one hour earlier than current rules permit during certain summer holidays and the day before the holidays.

HB 524(CF SB 128) Public Health - Required Temperatures for Sale of Crab Meat – Repeal - Passed

Repealing a specified provision of law that prohibits a person from keeping for sale any unfrozen crab meat, any frozen crab meat, or any pasteurized crab meat at temperatures that exceed specified maximum temperatures.

SB59 Crabs - Harvest Times – Holidays - Passed

This legislation, as amended, requires the Department to adopt regulations to permit commercial harvesters to take crabs using legal gears one hour earlier than current rules permit during certain summer holidays and the day before the holidays.

Gill Net Bill

HB 1339 (CF SB554) Natural Resources - Gill Nets - Stretched Mesh Size - Failed

This legislation as amended would put the maximum allowable gill net mesh size at 7 inches.

Oysters

HB924 (CF SB27) Natural Resources - Oyster Management - Prohibited Actions - Passed

This bill would require the Department to not reduce or alter the boundaries of oyster sanctuaries until the Department has developed a fisheries management plan for the scientific management of the oyster stock.

HB 1528 Income Tax - Oyster Shell Recycling Credit - Sunset Repeal - Failed

The bill removes a sunset on an oyster shell recycling program.

Cownose

HB 211 (CF SB268) Cownose Ray Fishery Management Plan and Moratorium on Contests - Passed

As amended, this legislation would place a moratorium on cownose ray fishing tournaments in State waters through July 1, 2019, and would require the Department to establish a fishery management plan subject to funding for cownose rays by December 31, 2018.

Seafood Marketing

HB 120 Department of Agriculture – Seafood and Aquaculture Product Marketing - Passed

This bill moves the Seafood Marketing Program over to the Department of Agriculture.

Aquaculture

HB 1200 Aquaculture - Leases - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation- Passed

The bill requires the Department in consultation with interested stakeholders to study the interactions between Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and Shellfish Aquaculture Leases. It also authorizes the Department to adopt regulations that establish standards and a process that

provides the Department with more flexibility in determining if a Shellfish Aquaculture Lease should be restricted from use by leaseholders due to the encroachment of SAV.

HB 1284 Natural Resources - Aquaculture Leases - National Historic Landmarks – Failed

House Bill 1284 as amended allows the Department to issue a submerged land lease, water column lease or demonstration lease within 300 feet of the mean high watermark of the shoreline of property listed on the National Historic Landmark if the property owner is notified of the proposed lease and does not object.

SB 964 Aquaculture Leases – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Passed

The bill requires the Department in consultation with interested stakeholders to study the interactions between Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and Shellfish Aquaculture Leases. It also authorizes the Department to adopt regulations that establish standards and a process that provides the Department with more flexibility in determining if a Shellfish Aquaculture Lease should be restricted from use by leaseholders due to the encroachment of SAV.

Penalties

HB1281 (CF SB 390) Oyster Poaching - Administrative Penalties - Gear Violations – Failed

The bill changes a violation that can result in a commercial license revocation to only cover power dredging in an area reserved for another gear type.

HB 1488 Tidal Fish Licenses - Oyster Authorizations – Revocation – Failed

The bill changes the term ‘license’ to ‘authorization’ in the context of administrative penalties for oyster violations, provides that the Department may do something rather than shall do something, and provides that the Department may reinstate a revoked authorization after a two year period.