

HOUSE BILL 843

M2

11r2482

By: **Delegate Howard**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing With a Haul Seine**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law that restrict the length of a haul
4 seine that a person may use in certain waters of Anne Arundel County; repealing a
5 certain penalty for a violation of certain provisions of law that restrict the length of
6 a haul seine that a person may use in certain waters of Anne Arundel County;
7 authorizing a person to use a haul seine to fish in the waters of Anne Arundel County
8 except under certain circumstances; making technical, stylistic, and clarifying
9 changes; and generally relating to fishing with a haul seine in Anne Arundel County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 4–713
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Natural Resources
17 Section 4–714
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Natural Resources**

23 4–713.

24 (a) A person who fishes with haul seine equipment shall possess a tidal fish
25 license to catch finfish.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) Haul seines shall be limited to a depth or width of 15 feet graduating to a
2 width of 22 feet at the bunt or back. A haul seine may not have a length of its bunt or back
3 greater than 100 feet, which is a “hung” measure.

4 (c) A person may not use a seine exceeding 50 feet in length and 5 feet in width
5 to catch minnows in the tidal waters of the State.

6 (d) If the haul seine is used in the Chesapeake Bay, the length of brail line used
7 on either end of the haul seine may not exceed 1500 feet. If the haul seine is used in the
8 rivers and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, the maximum length of brail line may not
9 exceed 750 feet.

10 (e) A person may not drag or haul any seine with two or more vessels or boats
11 propelled by power, or use any haul seine more than 1800 feet in length. A power winch
12 anchored in a vessel or boat, not propelled by power, may be used if the winch boat is
13 anchored in 4 feet depth of water or less.

14 (f) A person may not empty a seine on the shore or beach, or in any water less
15 than 12 inches deep so as to leave the small fish to perish. A person always shall empty the
16 seine in waters of sufficient depth to enable the small fish to return to the waters for growth.

17 (g) A person may not haul any seine in waters covering leased oyster ground
18 unless the permission of the lessee is obtained.

19 (h) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4) of this subsection, a
20 person may not fish with a haul seine during the period from 12:01 a.m. Saturday until
21 sunrise on Monday in the tidal waters of the State.

22 (2) (i) In Baltimore County and Harford County, on prior notification
23 to the Department a person may catch carp during the period from 12:01 a.m. Saturday
24 until sunrise on Monday, except in areas where it is prohibited by the Department.

25 (ii) Except in areas where it is prohibited by the Department, a
26 person may set a haul seine at a distance greater than one-third the distance across a river,
27 creek, cove, or inlet in any of the tributary waters of Baltimore County or Harford County
28 only to catch carp and catfish, notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle
29 regarding the distance across which a haul seine may be set. A person may not set the haul
30 seine to impede or obstruct navigation or block in any way the main channel of the river,
31 creek, cove, or inlet. Any person who catches fish of a variety other than carp or catfish in
32 any haul seine shall return them immediately to the water unharmed. A person always
33 shall attend a haul seine for catching carp or catfish. Any person whose haul seine is found
34 more than one-third the distance across the waters where it is set without a person in
35 attendance is guilty of violating this subsection.

36 (iii) The Department, by regulation:

1 1. Shall establish procedures for the prior notification
2 required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; and

3 2. May prohibit fishing for carp and catfish in certain areas
4 as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph.

5 (3) (i) In Kent County, on prior notification to the Department, a person
6 may catch gizzard shad, also known as mud shad, carp, or catfish, with a haul seine during
7 the period from 12:01 a.m. Saturday until sunrise on Monday.

8 (ii) The Department, by regulation, shall establish procedures for
9 the prior notification required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

10 (4) If a haul seine is set on a Friday, a person may empty that haul seine
11 during the period from 12:01 a.m. on the following Saturday until sunrise on the following
12 Monday if the person provides the Natural Resources Police with:

13 (i) A notification before 11:59 p.m. on Friday that the person will be
14 emptying the haul seine between 12:01 a.m. on the following Saturday and sunrise the
15 following Monday;

16 (ii) The location of the haul seine that will be emptied; and

17 (iii) Contact information for the tidal fish licensee who is responsible
18 for the haul seine.

19 4-714.

20 (a) A person may only fish with a rod[,] or hook[,] and line in the waters of
21 [Coxes'] COX Creek, Furnace Branch Creek, or Marley Creek above the B. and O. Bridge.

22 (b) (1) A person may not catch fish by any means in the headwaters of the
23 Magothy River beginning at the base of Lake Waterford Dam and extending for a distance
24 of 3300 feet downstream during February, March, and April.

25 (2) A person may fish only with A rod[,] or hook[,] and line[,] in the waters
26 of the Little Magothy River and its tributaries and in the Magothy River and its tributaries
27 lying westerly of the mouth of the Magothy River and inside a line drawn 214 degrees true
28 from extreme end of Mountain Point to Persimmon Point, referring to the last edition of
29 the Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart No. 566.

30 (3) A person may fish only with A rod[,] or hook and line[,] in the waters
31 of Bodkin Creek and tributaries lying westerly and inside of a line drawn 340 degrees true
32 from extreme end of Cedar Point to Old Landen Point, referring to the latest edition of the
33 Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart No. 549.

34 (4) In the waters of the Magothy **RIVER**, Little Magothy [Rivers] **RIVER**,

1 and Bodkin Creek and their tributaries, a person may use an eel pot or minnow trap which
2 does not exceed 30 inches in length, 11 inches in width and 11 inches in height. [During
3 February, March, and April, a person may use a “D” bow frame net with handle attached
4 which does not exceed 36 inches in width or 36 inches in height in the waters of the Magothy
5 and Little Magothy Rivers and Bodkin Creek. However, a]

6 **(5) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
7 **PARAGRAPH, A person may not use a “D” bow frame net as a stationary or set net in the**
8 **bodies of water named in this subsection.**

9 **(II) DURING FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL, A PERSON MAY**
10 **USE A “D” BOW FRAME NET WITH A HANDLE ATTACHED THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 36**
11 **INCHES IN WIDTH OR 36 INCHES IN HEIGHT IN THE WATERS OF THE MAGOTHY**
12 **RIVER, LITTLE MAGOTHY RIVER, AND BODKIN CREEK.**

13 **(c) (1) IN THIS TITLE, A LINE DRAWN FROM THE EXTREME PROJECTION**
14 **OF GREENBURY POINT INTO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TO THE EXTREME POINT OF**
15 **HORN POINT MARKS THE MOUTH OF THE SEVERN RIVER.**

16 **(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**
17 **PERSON MAY FISH ONLY WITH A ROD OR HOOK AND LINE IN THE WATERS OF THE**
18 **SEVERN RIVER OR ANY CREEK, COVE, TRIBUTARY, OR INLET OF THE SEVERN**
19 **RIVER.**

20 **(3) During February, March, and April, a person may not catch fish by any**
21 **means in the waters of the Severn River or Severn Run from the dividing line between tidal**
22 **and nontidal waters to a point 2400 feet downstream.**

23 **[(2) A person may fish only with rod, or hook and line in the waters of the**
24 **Severn River or any creek, cove, tributary, or inlet of the Severn River. A line drawn from**
25 **the extreme projection of Greenberry Point into the Chesapeake Bay to the extreme point**
26 **of Horn Point, marks the mouth of the Severn River for the purpose of the title.]**

27 **(d) (1) A person may not set a pound net or other similar device at any time in**
28 **the waters of South River, or any creek, cove, or inlet of the South River above Saunders**
29 **Point on the south side and Marsh Point on the north.**

30 **(2) A person may not set any net at any time except a gill net or a haul**
31 **seine in any creek, cove, tributary, or inlet of the South River.**

32 **(3) A person may not set any net or equipment during February, March,**
33 **and April in the headwaters of South River from a line drawn from Howards Point on the**
34 **west side of the river to Brier Bottom on the east side, and in the headwaters of Beards**
35 **Creek and in the headwaters of any of the creeks of South River for a distance of 1200 feet**
36 **from its headwaters.**

1 [(e) (1) A person may not set a haul seine exceeding 50 feet in length in the
2 following waters:

3 (i) Herring Bay from a line drawn from the extreme projection of
4 Parker's Island Point into the Chesapeake Bay to the extreme point of Holland Point;

5 (ii) South River, Rhode River, and West River;

6 (iii) From a line drawn from the extreme projection from Thomas
7 Point into the Chesapeake Bay to the extreme point of Curtis Point;

8 (iv) Within the headlands of Whitehall Creek; and

9 (v) Within the headlands of Meredith Creek and Lake Ogleton.

10 (2) Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and
11 upon conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 with costs imposed in the discretion
12 of the court.]

13 **(E) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT TO §**
14 **4-713 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON MAY USE A HAUL SEINE TO FISH IN THE WATERS**
15 **OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2021.