

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1215 (Delegate Howard)
Environment and Transportation

Anne Arundel County - Natural Resources - Fishing Gear

This bill establishes that provisions that only allow fishing with a rod, or hook, and line, in specified waters of Anne Arundel County (mentioned under Current Law) apply only to a person commercially harvesting finfish. The bill also authorizes commercial harvesting of finfish with archery equipment in those waters. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: In Anne Arundel County, a person may only fish with a rod, or hook, and line in (1) the waters of Coxes' Creek, Furnace Branch Creek, or Marley Creek above the B. and O. Bridge; (2) the waters of the Little Magothy River, the Magothy River, and their tributaries; (3) the waters of Bodkin Creek and specified tributaries; and (4) the waters of the Severn River or any creek, cove, tributary, or inlet of the Severn River.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Natural Resources indicates that populations of northern snakeheads, a nonnative nuisance species, have increased in tidal rivers of the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, and there has been increased interest by both recreational and commercial harvesters to target those fish with archery equipment, a more efficient manner of harvesting northern snakeheads than hook and line. Small business

commercial harvesters that take advantage of the bill's authorization to use archery equipment in specified waters of Anne Arundel County may meaningfully benefit from increased harvest of snakeheads and associated sales of that harvest.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 713 (Senator Reilly) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2022
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