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**RECREATIONAL ANGLERS
WORKING TO CONSERVE, PROMOTE, AND ENHANCE MARYLAND'S
MARINE RESOURCES**

March 3, 2021

To: Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chairman
Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: House Bill 843- Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing With a Haul Seine

CCA Maryland Position: OPPOSE

House Bill 843 repeals the prohibition of haul seine nets in certain Anne Arundel County waters. As Maryland's only state-wide recreational angling based conservation organization, CCA Maryland has major concerns with the known and unknown impacts of the expanded use of haul seines into Anne Arundel County's rivers and tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

For more than two decades, CCA Maryland has worked with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources(DNR) to guide and shape policies that effect our state's many and valuable public natural resources.

Ideally, this important work is always guided by scientific information that helps answer questions about the impacts on the species in question and the trade-offs associated with any proposed change in natural resource policy.

An analysis of the sustainable use of a species and the many questions introduced by harvest or use of such species are often addressed in the development and use of fisheries management plan. Once written, these plans are commonly vetted by numerous advisory commissions to DNR in a public and transparent fashion.

Unfortunately, no such process has been initiated prior to the introduction of HB 843 to address the many questions related to the expanded use of haul seine gear and the species that could be impacted by this proposed change.

Questions may include, but not me limited to;

- Why and when was this gear prohibited?
- What are the potential ecological impacts of a reversal of this prohibition?
- How will the use of this gear impact targeted and non-targeted species?
 - ie: Yellow Perch, panfish, chain pickerel

- Is there a specific desire to use this gear in a specific way, at a specific location, or at a specific time?
- Are there assumptions made previously about this gear's impacts that may not be relevant to current conditions?
- What is the potential impact of this gear to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?

Beyond these ecological questions, CCA Maryland has additional concerns related to the many user impacts that are likely to occur should this prohibition of netting be reversed.

Moving forward, CCA Maryland stands committed to participating in an inclusive and transparent process to define the trade-offs associated with the use of haul seine gear in Anne Arundel County and where other conflicts may exist or could exist due to such changes in fisheries policy.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a un-favorable vote on House Bill 843.

For more information, please contact David Sikorski, Executive Director @ david@ccamd.org or (443)621-9186