

**HB0843\_DNR\_SUP 3-3-21 ENT.pdf**

Uploaded by: McKittrick, James

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein  
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 843 – Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing With a Haul Seine***

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports House Bill 843. The bill allows for the limited use of haul seines in Anne Arundel County, explicitly prohibiting the newly authorized gear type in the Severn River.

It is unknown how long the ban on haul seines in Anne Arundel County has been in statute, nor is it known why this ban was put into law in the first place. The department speculates the prohibition is related to user conflict at a time when various beach clubs dominated the County's coastline. Anne Arundel County is the only county to have such a ban.

The department does not foresee any fishery management issues with allowing the use of haul seines in certain county waters beyond the size currently used, as this gear is already in use throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. However, the department is also obligated to ensure the new gear type authorization in HB 843 does not create new user conflicts. We remain open and supportive of amendments to address legitimate concerns from stakeholders.

For the above reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant HB 843 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick  
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

Contact: James McKitrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
JamesW.McKitrick@maryland.gov ♦ 443-510-5013

**HB843\_CCAMD - AA Haul Seines.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennings, Larry

Position: UNF

OFFICERS

Kevin O'Donovan, *Chairman*  
Michael Wissel, *Vice-Chairman*  
*Chair, Management Committee*  
Larry Jennings, *Secretary*  
Kyle German, *Treasurer*  
Steve Kline, *Government Relations Chairman*  
David Sikorski, *Executive Director*



**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**

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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](mailto:david@ccamd.org) or (443)621-9186

## **HB843\_CCAMD**

Uploaded by: Sikorski, David

Position: UNF

OFFICERS

Kevin O'Donovan, *Chairman*  
Michael Wissel, *Vice-Chairman*  
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For more information, please contact David Sikorski, Executive Director @ [david@ccamd.org](mailto:david@ccamd.org) or (443)621-9186

# **HB 843 Haul Seines - MTAM - Oppose**

Uploaded by: Zellers, Susan

Position: UNF



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chairman  
House Environmental and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 843 – Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing with a Haul Seine  
OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Barve:

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM), I am writing in opposition to HB 843. House Bill 843 repeals the prohibition of haul seine nets in certain Anne Arundel County waters.

MTAM works with the Coastal Conservation Association of Maryland to support and protect recreational fishing in Maryland. 744,236 anglers spent \$491 million while fishing in Maryland last year. This economic engine is a huge part of the recreational boating industry.

Our concern is the unknown impacts of the expanded use of haul seines into the rivers and tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. Our Maryland DNR is typically guided by scientific information as they shape policies that effect our state's natural resources. Ideally, this important work addresses the trade-offs associated with any proposed change in natural resource policy.

Unfortunately, it seems that 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. Why was the gear prohibited in the first place? What is the potential impact to SAV's? Are there any specific locations being targeted and why?

Without a transparent and comprehensive look at how this change will impact our natural resources we see no way to support such a change. We respectfully request an un-favorable vote on House Bill 843.

Sincerely,

Susan Zellers  
Executive Director, MTAM

cc: House Environmental and Transportation Committee

**HB0843-553920-01**

Uploaded by: Howard, Delegate Seth

Position: INFO



HB0843/553920/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

09 MAR 21  
11:43:25

BY: Delegate Howard

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 843

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, after “County;” insert “prohibiting a person from using a haul seine in certain waters.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, after line 26, insert:

**“(D) A PERSON MAY NOT USE A HAUL SEINE IN THE WATERS UPSTREAM OF A LINE DRAWN FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT OF HACKETT POINT TO THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT OF GREENBURY POINT TO THE EASTERNMOST POINT OF TOLLY POINT.”;**

and in line 27, strike “(d)” and substitute “**(E)**”.

On page 5, in line 13, strike “(E)” and substitute “**(F)**”.