

SENATE BILL 711

M2

4lr2986
CF 4lr2981

By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fisheries – Striped Bass or Rockfish – Juvenile Survey**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the scope of the annual young-of-the-year juvenile survey
4 of striped bass or rockfish by requiring the Department of Natural Resources to
5 conduct the survey at sampling sites in the central region of the Maryland waters of
6 the Chesapeake Bay in addition to sampling sites in the northern and southern
7 regions of the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay; establishing certain
8 requirements for the central region sampling sites; and generally relating to striped
9 bass or rockfish.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 4–746
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 4–746.

19 **(A) (1)** The Department shall conduct annually a scientific survey to determine
20 the relative abundance of striped bass or rockfish of approximately 18 inches in length that
21 are in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

22 **(2)** The survey shall be conducted in areas that are used by the Department
23 to determine its young-of-the-year index of striped bass or rockfish.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) CONDUCT THE ANNUAL YOUNG-OF-THE-YEAR JUVENILE SURVEY OF STRIPED BASS OR ROCKFISH AT BETWEEN 12 AND 20, INCLUSIVE, SAMPLING SITES LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF THE MARYLAND WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY IN ADDITION TO SAMPLING SITES IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; AND

(2) LOCATE THE CENTRAL REGION SAMPLING SITES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WATERS OF THE STATE:

(I) THE MAGOTHY RIVER;

(II) THE SEVERN RIVER;

(III) THE CHESTER RIVER;

(IV) THE SOUTH RIVER;

(V) THE WEST RIVER;

(VI) EASTERN BAY; OR

(VII) THE MILES RIVER.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024.