

## Natural Resources

**Senate Bill 318 (2021) – Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights** affirms the importance of hunting and fishing to Maryland’s cultural and social heritage and economy. The bill also codifies the intent of the General Assembly that Marylanders have a right to hunt and fish in accordance with regulations and restrictions under laws enacted by the General Assembly. Formal recognition of these rights is intended to help in protecting this balance and support the hundreds of thousands of Marylanders who fish and hunt and the hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity that hunting and fishing generate in our State each year. Maryland was the 25<sup>th</sup> state to pass this type of legislation that was a priority for the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus, which Senator Bailey chairs.

**Senate Bill 10 (2023) – Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance** required the Department of Natural Resources to make available and issue most licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or certificates authorized by the Natural Resources Article in a digital or electronic format. This legislation did not eliminate paper licenses but rather gave Marylanders the choice of how they want to carry these documents.

### *Hunting*

**Senate Bill 582 (2022) – Natural Resources – Recreation on Private Land – Hunting** protected landowners from liability if they allow individuals to hunt on their property and provides that the hunter assumes the responsibility and liability for their safety and actions.

**Senate Bill 390 (2019) – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting – St. Mary’s County** allowed individuals in St. Mary’s County to hunt any game bird or game mammal, except game birds, on any Sunday during the open season for that appropriate bird or mammal. The bill applies to private property or public land designated for Sunday hunting by the Department of Natural Resources. This was a huge victory for St. Mary’s County, especially our young hunters who may not have been able to hunt because of school and extracurricular activities, which typically take place on Saturdays.

**House Bill 170 (2022) – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting** permitted hunting on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Calvert County. Under the bill as amended by the Senate, hunting is only permitted on the additional Sundays from 30 minutes before sunrise to 10:30 a.m. Sundays that were open to hunting in Calvert County prior to the bill’s passage were not affected. House Bill 170 was identical to Senate Bill 220, which Senator Bailey introduced on behalf of the Calvert County Senators.

**Senate Bill 91 (2023) – Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations** expanded youth hunting opportunities in Maryland by authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to issue an apprentice hunting license to a person younger than age 17 who has previously been issued an apprentice license.

**Senate Bill 275 (2023) – Hunting – Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices – Identification Requirement** required a person who uses a snare, a trap, or similar device to capture wildlife to ensure

the person's Department of Natural Resources identification number is affixed to the device. This requirement does not apply to a person using these traps on their own property. Trappers serve a distinct role in resource conservation and helping to control nuisance animals in our State, and these tags will assist our trappers in retaining the public's trust of the vital role that they have in wildlife management.

### *Fishing*

**Senate Bill 207 (2024) – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name** renamed the snakehead as the “Chesapeake Channa,” with the intention of making it easier to market to consumers. This has the potential to increase demand and lead to a greater economic incentive for Marylanders to remove this invasive species from our waterways.

**Senate Bill 80 (2023) – Natural Resources – Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline License – Establishment** restored provisions of law establishing a commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license as part of Maryland's strategy to fight against invasive species of catfish. This license was originally created by an amendment Senator Bailey offered in 2019.

**Senate Bill 102 (2023) – Natural Resources – Recreational Crabbing Gear – Individuals Under the Age of 16 Years** exempted individuals under the age of 16 from the requirement to obtain a recreational crabbing license to catch or attempt to catch crabs in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries if they use a collapsible trap, net ring, handline, or dip net.

**Senate Bill 422 (2023) – Natural Resources – Black Bass Conservation Fund – Establishment** created the Black Bass Conservation Fund, funded by a voluntary contribution check off block that would be available when applying for or renewing a fishing license. These funds are used for black bass management, including for stocking bass, enhancing aquatic habitat, supporting responsible bass tournaments, and supporting scientific research related to bass conservation.

**Senate Bill 455 (2022) – Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License and Recreational Fishing – Pilot Program and Task Force** established a pilot program and a task force to work towards obtaining more accurate data to estimate the number of fish caught in Maryland's waterways by recreational anglers. This more accurate data will assist the Department of Natural Resources when setting policies to maintain a stable fishery in our State.

**Senate Bill 876 (2022) – Water Pollution – Oyster Repletion Supplemental Environmental Projects** required the Maryland Department of the Environment to prioritize supplemental environmental projects involving oyster repletion for water pollution violations that occur in the proximity of an oyster population.

**Senate Bill 510 (2020) – Natural Resources – Commercial Fishing – Use of Haul Seines** authorized a person, if a haul seine is fished on a Friday, to empty that haul seine during the period from 12:01 a.m. on the following Saturday until sunrise on the following Monday. This law will protect non-targeted species of fish, including threatened or endangered species or fish caught out of season, by releasing

them on Saturday morning. Under the previous law, a waterman could not release any fish that were caught in the net, including non-targeted species, until Monday.

**Senate Bill 882 (2020) – Recreational Striped Bass Fishery – Study on Harvest Data** required the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery.

**Senate Bill 1025 (2020) – Task Force on Fishing License Penalties** established a task force to study and make recommendations on fishing license penalty reciprocity between Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC). This effort resulted in the PRFC closing a longstanding loophole allowing individuals who had their licenses suspended or revoked elsewhere for poaching to fish in the Potomac.

#### *Funding and Enforcement*

**Senate Bill 611 (2023) – Office of the Attorney General – Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit – Establishment** created the Environment and Natural Resources Crimes Unit in the Office of the Attorney General. This unit prosecutes the state's criminal environmental and natural resources laws, including bringing and defending cases under wildlife laws and laws associated with the management of public lands and other state natural and cultural resources. This bill ensured that these cases are pursued by prosecutors who have experience in this specialized area of the law, and help our local State's Attorneys, who previously had sole responsibility for bringing these complex cases to trial.

**Senate Bill 242 (2020) – Natural Resources – Wild Waterfowl Policy – Repeal** removed obsolete provisions of Maryland law regarding the issuance of a license to feed wild waterfowl. The current law only served to confuse the public and police officers who attempted to enforce it; Senate Bill 242 ended this confusion.

**Senate Bill 507 (2024) – Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License – Nonresidents – License Fee** created a separate \$100 boat license for sport fishing for non-resident applicants. The \$50 boat license fee remained unchanged for Maryland residents.

**Senate Bill 508 (2024) – Hunting – Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp – Fee Alteration** set the fee for a nonresident Sika deer stamp at \$200. The \$10 Sika deer stamp fee remained unchanged for Maryland resident hunters.

**Senate Bill 327 (2023) – Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation – Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps** gave more access and opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen to engage in outdoor recreation by providing the Department of Natural Resources with substantially more funding than it has ever had dedicated to resource management. This legislation also provided important clarifications to State law regarding a landowner's liability for actions by a hunter using their property.

**Senate Bill 324 (2021) – Environment and Natural Resources – Complaints, Inspections, and Enforcement – Information Maintenance and Reporting** ensured more transparency regarding how information about Maryland’s natural resources and environmental laws are disseminated. Senator Bailey co-sponsored this bill and testified in support at the bill hearing.

**Senate Bill 381 (2022) – Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention** prohibited a person from purchasing, selling, offering for sale, or possessing with the intent to sell, any item that the person knows, or should know, is a part or product that comes from an endangered species, such as ivory. The bill had exceptions for musical instruments, knives, and firearms for which the part or product is integral to the item and is less than 20% of the total weight of the item. Senator Bailey was proud to co-sponsor this bill and bring his experience combatting wildlife trafficking to help in ensuring this bill’s passage.

**Senate Bill 769 (2021) – Income Tax Credit for Venison Donation – Reporting Requirement and Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease** required the Department of Natural Resources to study deer brought to processors as part of the income tax credit program for venison donation for chronic wasting disease to ensure that the State is providing a safe and healthy food source to those in need through this initiative. As Senate Chair of the Sportsmen’s Caucus, Senator Bailey co-sponsored this bill and testified in support at the bill hearing.