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

February 24, 2017

To: Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environment
Committee

Re: **Senate Bill 0554** Natural Resources – Gill Nets – Mesh Size
CCA Maryland Position: **Un-favorable**

CCA Maryland opposes **SB 0554**

As a coast-wide migratory species, the Atlantic striped bass fishery is managed in Maryland by the Department of Natural Resources(DNR), consistent with the parameters set, and approved by the Striped Bass Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

At this time, DNR has the regulatory authority to set the specifications of gear used to harvest striped bass in Maryland waters:

COMAR 08.02.15.07 states:

C. Drift Gill Net Fishery Limitations.

(1) The provisions of this section apply to a commercial tidal fish licensee participating in a striped bass gill net season.

(2) In the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries:

(a) Only attended drift gill nets, as defined in COMAR 08.02.25.01B, with a stretched mesh size of not less than 5 inches or greater than 7 inches are permitted for the taking of striped bass;

Allowable fishing gear should continue to be managed through regulation, and by DNR, consistent with the approved ASMFC fisheries management plan.

CCA Maryland respectfully requests that you provide an **un-favorable** report for **SB 0554**