

OFFICERS

Frank Bonanno, *Chairman*
Michael Wissel, *Vice-Chairman*
Chair, Management Committee
Larry Jennings, *Secretary*
Frank Bonnano, *Treasurer*
David Sikorski,
Executive Director



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

March 7, 2018

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

Re: House Bill 1284 Tidal Fish Licenses – Authorization to Catch Crabs – Application Requirements.

CCA Maryland Position: Support

Maryland's blue crab fishery is largest, and most valuable commercial fishery at this time. The fishery provides important income during the spring and summer months for our watermen. The fishery is managed with scientific and stakeholder input, and harvest is adjusted based on the available population of crabs in any given year. The proper management our natural resources is vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Such management comes at a cost to those who have the privilege to harvest our shared natural resources, and Maryland's citizens.

At this time, a TFL holder must pay for their crab authorization, and the fee varies based on their state of residence. This bill will improve the process for the Department of Natural Resources to ensure that they know where a TFL holder lives, and collect the proper fees for the crab authorization based on current rules and regulations.

CCA Maryland respectfully requests a FAVORABLE report on HB 1547