

## **POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR FINFISH TROTTLINES**

The department needs to update commercial finfish trotline regulations in response to legislation passed during the 2019 legislative session.

In 2016, the General Assembly passed House Bill 63, which authorized the department to write clear rules for the use of finfish trotline gear that would allow commercial watermen to target invasive blue and flathead catfish while also addressing concerns about the gear possibly interacting with spawning striped bass. This bill added finfish trotlines to the list of commercial gears the Department may regulate. The bill included a sunset provision for 2019.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 7. The bill makes permanent the ability for the department to regulate and allow the use of finfish trotlines in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. The department will remove the June 2019 sunset from regulation to match the new statute. This is a housekeeping change.