



*Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary*

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is announcing the creation of a pilot program to use finfish trotlines to target blue and flathead catfish. This activity was previously allowed under Natural Resources Article, Section 4-701.2, Annotated Code of Maryland, which had created the Invasive Catfish Finfish Trotline License. That law expired in June 2022 and the license is no longer available.

This pilot program is specifically for individuals who currently hold a commercial tidal fish license such as a Finfish Hook and Line License (HLI) or a Limited Crab Harvester License (LCC) (under [Natural Resources Article, Section 4-701](#)) that does not allow them to harvest blue and flathead catfish with finfish trotlines. The pilot program will permit these individuals to harvest blue and flathead catfish with finfish trotlines under the gear rules stated in [COMAR 08.02.25.06](#). Individuals with commercial tidal fish licenses as noted above who previously had the Invasive Catfish Finfish Trotline License can continue the activity by applying for and receiving the new Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline Pilot Program Permit.

To learn more and apply for this pilot program, please [click this link](#) for the Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline Pilot Program application.