



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 300

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5417

House of Representatives, April 2, 2014

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEASON FOR THE TAKING OF GLASS EELS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-128a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

3 (a) No person shall take or attempt to take any [elver eel, glass eel
4 or] silver eel from the waters of the state. Any person who violates the
5 provisions of this section shall be fined not more than two hundred
6 fifty dollars.

7 (b) Not later than June 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Energy and
8 Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
9 the provisions of chapter 54, to establish a season for the taking of
10 glass eels.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	26-128a
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ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to establish a fishing season for glass eels and develop regulations by June 1, 2016. As the glass eel fishing season is not anticipated to begin until FY 17 there is no fiscal impact anticipated in FY 15 or FY 16.

The Out Years

A revenue gain from the sale of glass eel fishing licenses is anticipated to begin in FY 17. The amount of revenue depends on the fee level set in regulation and the number sold.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5417*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEASON FOR THE TAKING OF GLASS EELS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the ban and \$250 fine on taking glass and elver eels in state waters. It requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to adopt regulations establishing and regulating glass, but not elver, eel fishing by June 1, 2016 (see BACKGROUND).

Connecticut is a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a coastal fishing compact of 15 states, which currently bans glass eel fishing in all member states except Maine and South Carolina. ASMFC is currently considering amending the American eel management plan, including consideration of (1) keeping the current ban, (2) completely closing the East Coast fishery for American eels, and (3) opening American eel fishing on a quota system for the entire East Coast.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

BACKGROUND***Glass and Elver Eels***

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, glass eels and elver eels are not distinct species, but rather life-cycle stages of the American eel species. Glass eels are a juvenile stage where the eel is translucent. Glass eels gain pigmentation as they move from the Atlantic continental shelf into rivers and become elver eels, which are also a juvenile stage. Elver eels eventually become immature adult stage yellow eels, which take years to mature into full grown adult silver eels.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 11 (03/17/2014)