Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB933 **Patron:** Stuart
Bill Title: Fishing with trawl nets and drag nets; shrimp and horseshoe crab; license fee; penalty.

Bill Summary: Allows the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (MRC) to issue licenses or permits to any person to take or catch fish, shellfish, or marine organisms with a trawl net, drag net, or similar device within the three-mile limit of the Virginia Atlantic shoreline for the shrimp and horseshoe crab fisheries. The bill specifies that such license or permit shall be accompanied by a fee of $100 or as subsequently revised by the Commission for each boat so employed. Current law allows any person to fish with trawl nets and drag nets for fish, shellfish, or marine organisms, provided such person has a license issued by the Commission to trawl within the three-mile limit from Cape Charles north to the Maryland line, except during September and October and from 36° 40' north latitude south to the North Carolina line at any time, and from Cape Henry south to 36° 40' north latitude between October 1 and May 1.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No. **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Marine Resources Commission; however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section, below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any expenditure impact this bill may have on MRC can be absorbed within existing resources. It is anticipated that this bill may have an indeterminate nongeneral fund revenue impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. It is anticipated that MRC can absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this bill. It is uncertain whether eliminating seasonal restrictions on trawling would lead to changes in the number of permits and licenses issued by MRC. Twenty-seven small businesses currently hold permits and licenses for horseshoe crab and shrimp fisheries. Any additional licenses issued could increase license fee revenue. Such revenue is deposited to the Virginia Marine Products Fund. Horseshoe crab trawl permits are $0, with four active annually since 2020, and shrimp trawl licenses have been priced at $100 since 2021, with 12 issued in 2021 and 2022 and 11 in 2023.

Other: HB1697 is the companion to this bill.