

[REDACTED]

Subject: Public Comment: Opposing Proposed Kayak Bait Ban – Docket # 2025-R-P-0017

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2026 at 2:41:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Alex

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Dear Hearing Officer,

I am writing to formally submit my public comment regarding the proposed amendments to 7 DE Admin. Code 9201, specifically the provision under Docket # 2025-R-P-0017 that seeks to prohibit anglers from paddling or floating bait out into coastal waters using non-motorized vessels like kayaks or paddleboards.

As a member of the Delaware fishing community, I strongly oppose an outright, blanket ban on this long-standing surf fishing tradition. Kayak bait deployment is an essential method for land-based anglers to safely target species past the outer breakers. Prohibiting it entirely severely limits the sport based on perceived safety risks, rather than documented incidents of unsafe behavior.

Instead of an outright prohibition, I urge DNREC to consider a sensible compromise that balances public safety with the rights of responsible anglers:

- **Implement Time Restrictions:** Restrict the use of kayaks, paddleboards, or remote-controlled devices for bait deployment to non-peak beach hours (such as 5:00 PM to 8:00 AM), ensuring there is no conflict with swimmers or daytime beachgoers.
- **Establish Seasonal Visual Markers:** Require anglers deploying bait via non-motorized vessels to utilize highly visible flags or markers during high-traffic summer months.

Thank you for reviewing my feedback and for your commitment to keeping Delaware's coastal resources accessible to all responsible sportsmen.

Sincerely,

Alex D [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]