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**By: Senator Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing - Croakers - Size and Creel Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the size and creel limits applicable to certain restrictions on  
4 the sale, offer to buy or sell, or possession of certain croakers; repealing certain  
5 provisions of law which required certain limits on croakers to be made in  
6 accordance with a certain fishery management plan; and generally relating to  
7 limitations on croakers.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Natural Resources  
10 Section 4-734(a)(3)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 4-734.

17 (a) A person may not sell, offer to buy or sell, or possess any of the following fish:

18 (3) Croakers:

19 (i) [Until July 1, 1995:

20 1.] For commercial catches, less than [10] 9 inches; [and]

21 [2.] (II) For recreational catches and possession only, less than 9  
22 inches and not more than 20 TO 40 fish per day, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS  
23 ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT; and

24 [(ii) On or after July 1, 1995, for any manner of catches, not less than  
25 the size limits promulgated by the Department in accordance with the fisheries  
26 management plan adopted under § 4-215 of this title; however,]

27 (III) HOWEVER, a croaker less than the size limit provided in this  
28 paragraph may be sold during closed season if:

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1                                   1. The croaker was caught in another state;

2                                   2. The croaker is accompanied by a bill of sale or bill of lading  
3 from the state of origin certifying that the croaker was caught in full compliance with the  
4 laws of the state of origin; and

5                                   3. The state of origin is in compliance with interstate fishing  
6 management requirements as determined by the Department;

7                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 1997.