

SENATE BILL 268

M2

EMERGENCY BILL

7lr0915
CF HB 211

By: **Senators Young, Benson, Guzzone, and Pinsky**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 8, 2017

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cownose Ray ~~Fishing Tournaments~~ – ~~Prohibition~~ Fishery Management Plan**
3 **and Moratorium on Tournaments**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting a person from organizing, sponsoring, promoting,~~
5 ~~conducting, or participating in a cownose ray fishing tournament in State waters;~~
6 ~~requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations; defining~~
7 ~~a certain term; and generally relating to cownose ray fishing tournaments~~ requiring
8 the Department of Natural Resources to prepare a certain fishery management plan
9 for the cownose ray species on or before a certain date; prohibiting a person from
10 organizing, sponsoring, promoting, conducting, or participating in a certain cownose
11 ray fishing tournament in State waters until a certain date; making this Act an
12 emergency measure; and generally relating to the cownose ray fishery.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Natural Resources

15 Section 4-215(b)(23) and (24)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Natural Resources

20 Section ~~4-748~~ 4-215(b)(25)

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

Article – Natural Resources

~~4-748.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, “COWNOSE RAY FISHING TOURNAMENT” MEANS ANY TOURNAMENT, CONTEST, COMPETITION, OR DERBY WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CATCHING OR KILLING COWNOSE RAYS FOR:~~

~~(1) PRIZES OR OTHER INDUCEMENTS; OR~~

~~(2) ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES.~~

~~(B) A PERSON MAY NOT ORGANIZE, SPONSOR, PROMOTE, CONDUCT, OR PARTICIPATE IN A COWNOSE RAY FISHING TOURNAMENT IN STATE WATERS.~~

~~(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.~~

4-215.

(b) The Department shall prepare fishery management plans for the following species:

(23) Hard shell clams; [and]

(24) Catfish; AND

(25) COWNOSE RAY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 31, 2017, the Department of Natural Resources shall prepare the cownose ray fishery management plan required by § 4-215(b)(25) of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) In this section, “cownose ray fishing tournament” means any tournament contest, competition, or derby with the objective of catching or killing cownose rays for:

(1) prizes or other inducements; or

(2) entertainment purposes.

1 **(b)** Until July 1, 2018, a person may not organize, sponsor, promote, conduct, or
2 participate in a cownose ray fishing tournament in State waters.

3 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June~~
4 ~~1, 2017.~~

5 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
6 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
7 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
8 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
9 enacted.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.