

Chapter 343

(House Bill 213)

AN ACT concerning

Cownose Ray Fishery Management Plan and Moratorium on Contests

FOR the purpose of extending the date by which the Department of Natural Resources is required to prepare a certain fishery management plan for the cownose ray species, subject to available funding; ~~extending the termination date for~~ continuing the prohibition on a person sponsoring, conducting, or participating in a certain cownose ray fishing contest in State waters until the Department prepares a certain fishery management plan for the cownose ray species; and generally relating to the cownose ray fishery.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources
 Section 4–215(b)(25)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 398 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017
 Section 2 and 3

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Chapter 399 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017
 Section 2 and 3

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–215.

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

(25) Cownose ray.

Chapter 398 of the Acts of 2017

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31, [2018] **2020**, subject to funding made available to the Department of Natural Resources to implement Section 1 of this Act, the Department 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 contest” means any competition, tournament or derby with the objective of catching or killing cownose rays for:

- (1) prizes or other inducements; or
- (2) entertainment purposes.

(b) Until ~~July 1, [2019] 2021~~ **THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PREPARES 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**, a person may not sponsor, conduct, or participate in a cownose ray fishing contest in State waters.

(c) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction is subject to the penalties provided in § 4–1201(a) and (b) of the Natural Resources Article.

Chapter 399 of the Acts of 2017

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 31, [2018] **2020**, subject to funding made available to the Department of Natural Resources to implement Section 1 of this Act, the Department 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.

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(c) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction is subject to the penalties provided in § 4-1201(a) and (b) of the Natural Resources Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 30, 2019.