

# HOUSE BILL 1238

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EMERGENCY BILL

4lr2968  
CF SB 1053

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By: **Delegate Jacobs**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fisheries – Striped Bass – Closed Season**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from catching or attempting to catch striped bass  
4 or striped bass hybrids in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries during a  
5 certain time period in certain years; establishing an exception for the closed striped  
6 bass season to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources to manage the  
7 striped bass fishery under a fisheries management plan; and generally relating to  
8 the closed season for the striped bass fishery.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 4–215(i) and 4–732  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Natural Resources**

17 4–215.

18 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, except [**§ 4–1002**] **§§**  
19 **4–732(A) AND 4–1002** of this title, once a fishery management plan has been adopted by  
20 regulation, the State’s fishery resources shall be harvested in accordance with the  
21 conservation and management measures in the fishery management plan and any  
22 regulations implementing or amending that plan.

23 4–732.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A)** NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, A PERSON  
2 MAY NOT CATCH OR ATTEMPT TO CATCH STRIPED BASS OR STRIPED BASS HYBRIDS  
3 IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OR ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES FROM MARCH 1 THROUGH  
4 MAY 15, INCLUSIVE, IN ANY YEAR FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT  
5 ESTABLISH A SPRING TROPHY SEASON FOR STRIPED BASS.

6           **(B)** The Department may restrict or prohibit by rule or regulation catching fish in  
7 areas where striped bass spawn during the spawning season of striped bass.

8           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
9 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
10 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
11 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
12 enacted.