

Chapter 519

(House Bill 512)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Fish and Fisheries – Reporting Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring certain persons licensed or regulated with respect to fish and fisheries by the Department of Natural Resources to submit reports in accordance with regulations adopted by the ~~Secretary of Natural Resources~~ Department; and generally relating to fish and fisheries reporting requirements.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–206
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–604(b) and 4–745(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–604(i) and 4–745(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–206.

(a) **(1)** The Department shall audit the books of any person who packs or deals in fish resources within the jurisdiction of the Department including anyone who catches and ships directly to market.

(2) The Department audit shall be conducted to determine the quantity of resources caught and any other data needed for reporting and accounting to State officials.

(b) (1) Every person engaged in the business of packing or dealing in any fish resource within the Department's jurisdiction shall keep accurate books, statements, and accounts showing every detail of the business.

(2) Every book, statement, and account shall be open for the Department to inspect at reasonable hours.

(3) Every person engaged in the business of packing or dealing in any fish resource within the Department's jurisdiction shall [make] **SUBMIT** any report the Department requires [on forms the Department prescribes] **IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ DEPARTMENT.**

(c) Every person the Department licenses to catch the fish resource shall [make] **SUBMIT** any report the Department requires [on forms the Department provides] **IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ DEPARTMENT.**

(d) (1) An officer or employee of any department or unit of the Executive Branch of State government may not divulge or use in any manner information contained in any report submitted pursuant to the provisions of this section that would reveal the income of any person submitting the report.

(2) This section does not prohibit the publication of statistics classified to prevent the identification of particular reports and items of them or prohibit inspection of reports and records by any official or employee of the Executive Branch having a proper interest in them.

4-604.

(b) Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish in the nontidal waters of the State. An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal waters of the State only during the open season.

(1) EVERY PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT ANY REPORT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

4-745.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and § 4-217 of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries without first obtaining a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration issued under subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the license or registration.

(F) EVERY PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT ANY REPORT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.