
By: Senator Stoltzfus

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 1997

CHAPTER ____

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; providing for the effective date
7 of this Act; and generally relating to 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]

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1 [2.] (II) For recreational catches and possession only, less than 9
2 inches and not more than ~~20 TO 40~~ 25 fish per day, ~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH~~
3 ~~REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT~~; and

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

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

- 9 1. The croaker was caught in another state;
- 10 2. The croaker is accompanied by a bill of sale or bill of lading
11 from the state of origin certifying that the croaker was caught in full compliance with the
12 laws of the state of origin; and
- 13 3. The state of origin is in compliance with interstate fishing
14 management requirements as determined by the Department;

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 ~~October~~ June 1, 1997.