

BY: Delegate Hutchins

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 873

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, before “Hard-Shell” insert “Blue Crabs and”; in the same line strike “-Size Limit”; in line 3, after the first “of” insert “exempting certain provisions of law relating to crab pots set out by property owners or their family members from being superseded by fishery management plans of the Department of Natural Resources;”; in line 8, after the second “the” insert “harvesting of blue crabs and the”;

and after line 9, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 4-215(b)(7) and 4-811

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)”

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 4-215(h)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 17, insert:

“4-215.

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

(Over)

(7) Blue crabs:

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title EXCEPT § 4-811 OF THIS TITLE, once a fishery management plan has been adopted by regulation, the State's fishery resources shall be harvested in accordance with the conservation and management measures in the fishery management plan and any regulations implementing or amending that plan.

4-811.

Any owner of tidewater shoreline property in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Worcester, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Wicomico Counties may set not more than four crab pots attached to his pier or dock, by line, string or rope, or attached to a pole set not more than 200 feet from shore. This pole shall be conspicuously marked by colored tape or similar material and shall have on it a sign at least 6 inches by 6 inches indicating the owner's name and address. In Worcester County, an owner of tidewater shoreline property may set not more than 4 crab pots attached to a buoy or float set not more than 200 feet from shore. In Worcester County, this buoy or float shall be colored or painted orange and conspicuously marked by a sign at least 6 inches by 6 inches indicating the owner's name and address. Pots may be set any day or night during the crab season when the shore owner or a member of his family is residing at the owner's shore property. Any person catching crabs in this manner shall use them for personal consumption only and may not sell them. The provisions of this section do not apply in the Potomac River."