
By: **Delegates Hutchins, Arnick, Baldwin, Bissett, Bozman, DeCarlo, Linton,
V. Mitchell, O'Donnell, Slade, Vallario, Wood, D. Hughes, and Stup**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishery Management Plans - Blue Crab Harvesting - Exceptions**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain provisions of law relating to crab pots set out
4 by property owners or their family members from being superseded by fishery
5 management plans of the Department of Natural Resources; and generally
6 relating to the harvesting of blue crabs.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article - Natural Resources
9 Section 4-215(b)(7) and 4-811
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Natural Resources
14 Section 4-215(h)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Natural Resources**

20 4-215.

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

23 (7) Blue crabs;

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

1 management measures in the fishery management plan and any regulations
2 implementing or amending that plan.

3 4-811.

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

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 1998.