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By: **Delegates W. Baker, Walkup, and D'Amato**  
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2001  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 20, 2001

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Crab Scrapes**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to ~~establish~~  
4 ~~certain weight regulations for crab scrapes; prohibiting~~ adopt regulations to  
5 prohibit the use of ~~certain~~ crab scrapes in certain areas; and generally relating  
6 to scraping for crabs.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Natural Resources  
9 Section 4-803  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

14 **Article - Natural Resources**

15 4-803.

16 (a) The Department may adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
17 following purposes:

- 18 (1) To restrict catching and possessing any blue crab;
- 19 (2) The methods by which crabs are taken;
- 20 (3) To close or open any specified area to catch crabs;

1 (4) To prohibit or restrict devices used to catch crabs;

2 (5) To establish seasons to catch crabs; {and}

3 (6) ~~TO ESTABLISH THE WEIGHT OF CRAB SCRAPES, EXCEPT AN~~  
4 ~~INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT USE A CRAB SCRAPE OTHER THAN A SINGLE CRAB SCRAPE~~  
5 ~~THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 45 POUNDS IN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND~~  
6 ~~TIDAL TRIBUTARIES NORTH OF A LINE EXTENDING IN AN WESTERLY DIRECTION~~  
7 ~~FROM WADES POINT IN TALBOT COUNTY TO KENT POINT IN QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY~~  
8 ~~TO CURTIS POINT IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INCLUDING THE WATERS OF THE WYE~~  
9 ~~AND MILES RIVERS AND THEIR TIDAL TRIBUTARIES~~ PROHIBIT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM  
10 USING A CRAB SCRAPE IN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND TIDAL  
11 TRIBUTARIES NORTH OF A LINE EXTENDING IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION FROM THE  
12 SOUTHERN POINT OF THE MOUTH OF PUNCH ISLAND CREEK IN DORCHESTER  
13 COUNTY TO COVE POINT IN CALVERT COUNTY; AND

14 (7) To establish minimum size limits for hard, soft, and peeler crabs.  
15 However, this section does not permit the Department to change existing license fees  
16 for catching, picking, canning, packing, or shipping cooked hard or soft crabs or crab  
17 meat; or for selling, or shipping live hard or soft crabs by barrel or crate. The  
18 Department may set license fees on types of gear or equipment if not otherwise set by  
19 law.

20 (b) The Department's regulations may not become effective under this section  
21 until the Department first holds public hearings. The Department shall advertise the  
22 time, place, and purpose of the hearings in one newspaper of general daily circulation  
23 in the State, and at least in one newspaper circulated in the affected region of each  
24 county whose waters may be directly affected by the proposed regulations for 2  
25 successive weeks in advance of the hearings.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2001.