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By: **Senators Stoltzfus, Colburn, Dyson, and Stone**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Recreational Fishery - Croakers - Increase in Maximum Daily Catch**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of croakers that a person may catch or  
4 possess for recreational purposes to a certain number per day; and generally  
5 relating to the recreational fishing of croakers.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Natural Resources  
8 Section 4-734(a)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article - Natural Resources**

14 4-734.

15 (a) A person may not sell, offer to buy or sell, or possess any of the following  
16 fish:

17 (1) Bass, largemouth or smallmouth less than 15 inches from March 1  
18 through June 15, and less than 12 inches from June 16 through the end of February;

19 (2) Catfish, except bullheads, less than 10 inches;

20 (3) Croakers:

21 (i) For commercial catches, less than 9 inches;

22 (ii) For recreational catches and possession only, less than 9 inches  
23 and not more than [25] 50 fish per day; and

24 (iii) However, a croaker less than the size limit provided in this  
25 paragraph may be sold during closed season if:

- 1                                   1.       The croaker was caught in another state;
- 2                                   2.       The croaker is accompanied by a bill of sale or bill of lading  
3 from the state of origin certifying that the croaker was caught in full compliance with  
4 the laws of the state of origin; and
- 5                                   3.       The state of origin is in compliance with interstate fishing  
6 management requirements as determined by the Department;
- 7                   (4)       Yellow perch less than 8 inches, if caught other than by hook or line;
- 8                   (5)       Pike or walleyed pike less than 14 inches;
- 9                   (6)       Weakfish less than 12 inches, except that weakfish less than 12  
10 inches may be sold during closed season if:
  - 11                   (i)       The weakfish was caught in another state;
  - 12                   (ii)       The weakfish is accompanied by a bill of sale or bill of lading  
13 from the state of origin certifying that the weakfish was caught in full compliance  
14 with the laws of the state of origin; and
  - 15                   (iii)       The state of origin is in compliance with interstate fishing  
16 management requirements as determined by the Department;
- 17                   (7)       Spotted sea trout less than 12 inches;
- 18                   (8)       Striped bass, less than 14 inches in length or measuring more than  
19 32 inches. However, a person may possess one striped bass over 32 inches per day  
20 caught with hook and line in the tidal waters of the State at any time of the year  
21 except from March 1 to April 30 inclusive, which may not be sold or offered for sale. In  
22 any year that the young-of-the-year striped bass index exceeds 15, the Department  
23 may permit by regulation during the 12-month period beginning April 1 of the  
24 following year, the possession, sale, or offer for sale of striped bass 12 inches in length;
- 25                   (9)       Sturgeon weighing less than 25 pounds;
- 26                   (10)       Taylor or bluefish less than 8 inches;
- 27                   (11)       Summer flounder less than 13 inches except that an amount of  
28 undersized fish not greater than 5 percent of a vessel's load by number, as indicated  
29 by a sample of not less than 200 fish, may be retained by licensed commercial  
30 fishermen; and
- 31                   (12)       Red drum or channel bass less than 14 inches. A person may not  
32 possess more than 2 red drum or channel bass over 32 inches total length each, per  
33 day.

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