

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 965 (Delegate Weir)  
Environmental Matters

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Commercial Crabbing - Restricted Days

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This bill prohibits, in specified areas, a person authorized to catch crabs for commercial purposes from catching or attempting to catch crabs for commercial purposes on Sundays and Mondays.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A person may not catch hard crabs in any waters of the State between January 1 and April 1.

**Background:** The blue crab is one of the most important species harvested in the bay and generates approximately \$90 million in economic benefit to the State. In the past several years, the blue crab harvest has decreased substantially. According to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), about 57 million pounds of blue crab were landed in 1993; in 1999 landings of blue crab totaled only about 32 million pounds. This year Maryland's crab harvest hit a record low, with waterman landing a reported 21.9 million pounds.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 26, 2001  
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