

# CHAPTER 321

(House Bill 1436)

AN ACT concerning

## **Natural Resources – Fishing Restrictions – Pot and Net Setting**

FOR the purpose of altering the distance that a person is prohibited from setting ~~a net~~ a certain pot, net, or series of nets within a certain distance in any direction of any other net or series of nets; ~~altering the method used to measure the distance between~~ limiting the length of nets for enforcement purposes a certain net or series of nets; limiting the application of a certain distance restriction to a certain pot, net, or series of nets; defining a certain term; and generally relating to fishing restrictions on the use of ~~nets~~ certain pots and nets.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Natural Resources  
Section 4–728(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

### **Article – Natural Resources**

4–728.

(a) (1) **IN THIS SUBSECTION, “CONNECTED LINE OF NETS” MEANS A SERIES OF CONNECTED NETS SET IN SINGLE FILE.**

(2) Except as **OTHERWISE** provided in ~~paragraph (2) of this subsection~~ **THIS TITLE**, a person may not set ~~any net~~:

(I) **A FISH POT, FYKE NET, OR CONNECTED LINE OF FYKE NETS** within [1,650] ~~300~~ **500** feet in any direction of any other ~~net~~, ~~MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES TO EXISTING NETS OR LINE OF NETS FOR ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES~~, or any **NET OR CONNECTED LINE OF NETS**;

(II) **A FYKE** net of a total length of more than **OR CONNECTED LINE OF FYKE NETS THAT EXCEEDS** 1,500 feet **IN LENGTH**, including the net’s leaders, hedges, or wings. ~~In addition, a net may not be set; OR~~

**(III) A FISH POT, FYKE NET, OR CONNECTED LINE OF FYKE NETS** at a distance greater than one-fourth the distance across the bay, measured from the low water mark.

~~(2)~~ **(3)** In the waters in the part of the Chesapeake Bay which lies between a straight line drawn from Drum Point Lighthouse in Calvert County to Hog Point in St. Mary's County, and a straight line drawn from Cove Point Lighthouse in Calvert County to Cedar Point Lighthouse in St. Mary's County, a person may not set any kind of net:

- (i) Nearer than 500 yards in every direction from any other net;
- (ii) Of a total length of more than 550 yards including the net's leaders, hedges, or wings; or
- (iii) At a greater distance than one-fourth the distance across these waters measured from the low water mark on either side.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

**Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2008.**