

HOUSE BILL 63

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6lr0066

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 29, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Fishing – Regulation and Use of Commercial Finfish**
3 **Trotlines**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with
5 certain entities, to adopt regulations defining and governing the use of commercial
6 finfish trotlines; establishing an exception to the prohibition against using more than
7 a certain number of hooks or sets of hooks for each commercial rod or line by
8 authorizing a tidal fish licensee to use a finfish trotline; and generally relating to the
9 regulation and use of commercial finfish trotlines.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 4–221 and 4–710(h)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 4–221.

19 (a) The authority provided by this section is in addition to any other authority of
20 the Secretary provided by law.

21 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary, after
22 consultation with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries
23 Advisory Commission, may adopt regulations to define and govern the use of:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) Recreational fishing gear; and
- 2 (ii) The following types of commercial fishing gear:
- 3 1. Fish pots;
- 4 2. Bank traps;
- 5 3. Fyke nets; [and]
- 6 4. Hoop nets; AND
- 7 **5. FINFISH TROTTLINES.**

8 (2) The Department shall consider relevant biological, ecological, and
9 socioeconomic factors before adopting regulations under this subsection.

10 4-710.

11 (h) (1) Except **WHEN USING A FINFISH TROTLINE OR** in State waters in the
12 Atlantic Ocean, a tidal fish licensee may not use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for
13 each rod or line.

14 (2) For the purposes of this subsection, artificial lures or plugs with
15 multiple or gang hooks are considered 1 set of hooks.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2016.