

Chapter 86

(House Bill 63)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Fishing – Regulation and Use of Commercial Finfish Trotlines

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

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

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–221.

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

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

- (i) Recreational fishing gear; and
- (ii) The following types of commercial fishing gear:
 1. Fish pots;
 2. Bank traps;
 3. Fyke nets; [and]

4. Hoop nets; AND

5. **FINFISH TROTTLINES.**

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

4-710.

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.