

(II) ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1995, FOR ANY MANNER OF CATCHES, NOT LESS THAN THE SIZE LIMITS PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED UNDER § 4-215 OF THIS TITLE;

- (4) Yellow perch less than 8 inches, if caught other than by hook or line;
- (5) Pike or walleyed pike less than 14 inches;
- (6) Weakfish less than 10 inches;
- (7) Spotted sea trout less than 12 inches;
- (8) Striped bass, less than 14 inches in length or measuring more than 32 inches. However, a person may possess one striped bass over 32 inches per day caught with hook and line in the tidal waters of the State at any time of the year except from March 1 to April 30 inclusive, which may not be sold or offered for sale. In any year that the young-of-the-year striped bass index exceeds 15, the Department may permit by regulation during the 12-month period beginning April 1 of the following year, the possession, sale, or offer for sale of striped bass 12 inches in length;
- (9) Sturgeon weighing less than 25 pounds;
- (10) Taylor or bluefish less than 8 inches;
- (11) Summer flounder less than 13 inches except that an amount of undersized fish not greater than 5 percent of a vessel's load by number, as indicated by a sample of not less than 200 fish, may be retained by licensed commercial fishermen; and
- (12) Red drum or channel bass less than 14 inches. A person may not possess more than 2 red drum or channel bass over 32 inches total length each, per day.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Natural Resources shall undertake studies of croaker harvest and population dynamics to enhance management of the species. These shall include studies of the availability of different sizes of croakers, recreational and commercial harvests, the proportion of legal to sublegal croakers, the survival rate of sublegal croakers that are caught by hook and line and released, and the percentage of croakers that are sexually mature at various lengths. The Department of Natural Resources shall report the results of these studies to the General Assembly by January 1, 1995 in the form of the annual report required by § 4-215 of the Natural Resources Article and to the Chesapeake Bay Program Living Resources Subcommittee for their consideration in amending the Atlantic Croakers and Spot Management Plan.

SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 1993~~ June 1, 1993 is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved May 11, 1993.