

of sale. In fact, it may be intended to permit merchants who have accepted deposits for appliances and other equipment which they have not been able to deliver to retain such deposits. Such retention is not permitted under the Retail Instalment Sales Law. Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Small Loans the bill will be vetoed.

CRABS

HOUSE BILL 229

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 39 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1943 Supplement), title "Fish and Fisheries", sub-title "Crabs", said new section to be known as Section 110C, and to follow immediately after Section 110B of said Article, to legalize the use of the device known as crab pots in Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound.

The General Assembly of 1943 vested in the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries complete regulatory power with respect to crab fishing, subject to the review and approval of its regulations by the Board of Natural Resources. An important consideration in granting these broad regulatory powers was the desirability of placing the Maryland Commission in a position to negotiate and enter into agreements with the Virginia Fishery authorities for the more effective management of the Chesapeake Bay Crab population chartered by the two States. To now completely curtail these powers by the signing of this bill would handicap the Commission not only in its future dealings with Virginia, but in its efforts to better regulate crab fishing in Maryland waters.

Tangier Sound constitutes an important migratory route for crabs moving from Virginia waters to the numerous tributaries of Tangier Sound in Somerset, Wicomico and lower Dorchester Counties and probably to a considerable extent farther up the Bay. Since the crab pot is an efficient device for catching crabs, and since the use of this device greatly increases the catch per crabber, it is evident that a heavy drain would be placed upon the crabs migrating through the Sound to the detriment of the crabbers in the waters of the tributaries above mentioned. It would almost certainly have a serious effect upon the soft crab industry, since it would greatly increase the catch of hard crabs moving into the grassy flats for feeding. This would apparently adversely affect the crab feeding industry in Somerset County.

Under the regulations for the use of crab pots, promulgated by the Commission after public hearing and after approval by the Board of Natural Resources, their use was restricted to the open waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Pocomoke