

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That two new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 39 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Fish and Fisheries", sub-title "Crabs", said new sections to be known as Sections 110A and 110B, to follow immediately after Section 110 of said Article, and to read as follows:

110A. The Commission of Tidewater Fisheries is hereby empowered to make such rules and regulations and to modify the same, from time to time, to restrict the taking or catching of crabs, the possession thereof, or the methods by which same may be taken; to close or open any specified area for the taking or catching of crabs, to prohibit or restrict devices used for the taking or catching of crabs and to establish seasons for taking same; to establish minimum size limits for hard, soft, and peeler crabs, and to make regulations with respect to taking and possessing any fat crab, or any crab known as a snot crab, green crab, or buckram crab (a crab that has a paper shell). Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to empower said Commission to change existing license fees for taking, picking, canning, packing, or shipping cooked hard or soft crabs or crab meat; or for selling, marketing, or shipping live hard or soft crabs by barrel or crate. The Commission, however, shall have the power to fix license fees on types of gear or equipment not now permitted under existing statutes but which may hereafter be authorized.

110B. No such rules and regulations of the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries shall become effective under Section 110A until said Commission has held public hearings on same, and such public hearings shall be advertised as to time, place and purpose in one newspaper of general daily circulation in the State, and at least in two newspapers circulated in the tidewater counties for two successive weeks in advance of said hearings. After such hearings and upon adoption of such rules and regulations, a certified copy of same, together with reasons for adopting same, shall be transmitted to the Board of Natural Resources at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The Board of Natural Resources shall vote to approve or disapprove such rules and regulations and if a majority of the members present vote to disapprove such rules and regulations, the same shall be null and void. But if a majority of the members present at the meeting of the Board of Natural Resources approve such rules and regulations, the same shall be published for one week in the newspapers bearing notice of the hearing and shall thereafter have all the force and effect of law. Any person or persons found guilty before a Justice of the Peace qualified to try same, or before any court on appeal, of violating any such