

to the State Game Protection Fund, the balance to be expended as heretofore in this section provided. Any fines for violation of the provisions of this section shall be paid to the [Commission of Tidewater Fisheries] *Department of Game and Inland Fish* [to be credited to the Conservation Fund].

Provided, however, that nothing contained in this section shall apply to any dams which have been constructed, or may now be under construction by any sanitary district created by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland to provide a public water supply.

294.

The [Commission] *Department of Tidewater Fisheries* CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS is hereby authorized to make rules and regulations governing the taking of sturgeon from the waters of this State or the possession and sale within the State, of sturgeon taken from the waters of this State. The rules and regulations so promulgated shall have the force of law and any person who shall violate any of the said rules and regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be fined for each violation the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

No such rules and regulations of the [Commission] *Department* shall become effective until [said Commission] *it* 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 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. No rule or regulation shall be adopted, nor be effective, hereunder unless or until the State of Virginia has in effect, or simultaneously puts into effect, a rule, regulation, or law with similar provisions as the rule or regulation made by the [Commission] *Department*.

314.

(b) It shall be unlawful to catch black bass in any manner in the tidal waters of the State of Maryland except that black bass may be caught with rod, hook and line using natural or artificial baits at any time during the year, subject to the creel limit imposed by Section 316 of this article. Whenever any black bass are caught in nets, seines or other devices legally engaged in other fishing those fishing such nets shall immediately return such fish to the waters uninjured, except it shall be lawful for anyone fishing said nets to retain not to exceed one day's legal creel limit of five (5) black bass for his own private use during said open season. It shall also be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell or offer to sell,