

defined as having a soft shell fully developed under the hard shell, on which there is a pink line or rim on the edge of that part of the back fin next to the outer section of this fin) measuring less than three inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike, or any soft crabs measuring less than three and one-half inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike; nor shall any person take, catch or keep in floats or in his possession any fat crabs, or any crab known as snot crab or green crab or buckram crab (a crab that has a paper shell). The provisions of this section shall apply to all waters of the State of Maryland, and any person violating any provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be fined as hereinafter provided, and in addition thereto the deputy commanders and inspectors of the State fishery force are hereby authorized to confiscate and liberate into the waters of the State any fat crab, snot crab, green crab, or buckram crab wherever found and held in violation of this section, and said officers are further authorized to confiscate any hard crabs, peelers or soft crabs of a size less than the measurements hereinbefore provided, wherever found, and shall dispose of any crabs so confiscated under the direction of the [Commission of Tidewater Fisheries] *Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs* to the best interests of the State.

328.

The [Commission of Tidewater Fisheries] *Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs* 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] *Department* 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] *Department*, 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.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1967.

Approved April 21, 1967.

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CHAPTER 487

(Senate Bill 374)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 707 (d) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition