

shall take effect July 1, 1978.

Approved April 11, 1978.

CHAPTER 134

(House Bill 569)

AN ACT concerning

Oyster Culling

FOR the purpose of requiring that stones, gravel, and slag be returned to natural oyster bars in addition to shells; altering certain measurements regarding oysters; authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to permit the possession of certain oysters under certain conditions; altering the total of cultch and certain sized oysters a person may possess under certain circumstances; excluding certain oysters and cultch from certain measurements; and generally relating to oysters and cultch.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 4-1015(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

4-1015.

(a) A person who catches oysters from the waters of the State with any scoop, dredge, tong, rake, or any similar instrument shall cull the oysters on the natural bar from which they were caught, and return [every shell] to the bar ALL SHELLS, STONES, GRAVEL, AND SLAG. Any oyster whose shell measures less than 3 inches in length[,] from hinge to [mouth] BILL, whether or not attached to a marketable oyster, shall be included in the culling and replaced on the bar from which caught. [If any oyster measuring less than 3 inches adheres so closely to the shell of a marketable oyster that it renders impossible its removal without destroying the small oyster, then both oysters shall be returned to the bar from which caught. However, marketable oysters may be retained if the small oyster adhering to the marketable oyster is less than 1 inch in length from hinge to mouth and cannot be removed without destroying the small