

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.

Approved May 13, 1986.

CHAPTER 617

(House Bill 1044)

AN ACT concerning

Rockfish - Survey

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to conduct certain surveys on the prevalence relative abundance of certain striped bass or rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; providing for the conduct and completion date of certain surveys; and requiring the Department to make certain reports.

BY adding to:

Article - Natural Resources

Section 4-746

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1983 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The purpose of the moratorium on the taking, possession, sale, and transportation of striped bass or rockfish was to allow the young of the 1982 year class to grow to maturity and spawn, thus preserving the striped bass or rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, In order for the General Assembly to determine for itself whether there are sufficient numbers to preserve the fishery, this Act is intended to gather sufficient information on any year class of striped bass or rockfish that is approximately 18 inches in length; now, therefore,

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Department of Natural Resources shall conduct annually a scientifically based survey with appropriate nets, seines, or other similar devices to determine the number of striped bass or rockfish of approximately 18 inches in length that are in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The survey conducted in accordance with this Act shall be similar to the survey used by the Department to determine its Young-of-the-Year index of striped bass or rockfish. The Department shall complete~~