

black bass fisheries in certain waters of the State; providing for the effect of certain regulations; and generally relating to the authorization of regulation of black bass fisheries.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 4-735

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Natural Resources**

4-735.

(a) During the open season, a person may not catch by means of rod, or hook and line, more than [five black bass or] ten chain pickerel in any one day.

(b) [(1)] A person may not catch chain pickerel in the tidal waters of the State during the period from March 15 to April 30. A person may not sell, offer to sell, purchase, offer to purchase, or possess any chain pickerel during this period caught in tidal waters of the State.

[(2) A person may not sell, offer to sell, purchase, or offer to purchase any black bass at any time.]

(c) A person may not catch [black bass or] chain pickerel in any manner in the tidal waters of the State except with rod, or hook and line using natural or artificial baits. A person shall return uninjured immediately to the water any [black bass or] chain pickerel caught in any net, seine, or other device legally engaged in other fishing. However, a person may retain no more than one day's legal creel limit of [five black bass or] ten chain pickerel for his own private use during the open season.

(d) Chain pickerel may not be transported into or out of the State during April, May, and June. [Black bass may not be transported into or out of the State at any time.] Anglers, however, may possess and transport [black bass and] chain pickerel caught with rod, or hook and line, in accordance with the provisions of this section. This subsection does not prevent shipment in interstate commerce of live [black bass or] chain pickerel for propagating, breeding, or stocking purposes under § 4-11A-19 of this title, nor prevent any person from catching or engaging in catching [black bass or] chain pickerel for propagating or restocking the waters of the State under the direction of the Department under § 4-410 of this title.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SUPERVISE, REGULATE, AND CONTROL THE HARVEST OF BLACK BASS IN THE TIDAL WATERS OF THE STATE; AND

(F) SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE FISHING FOR BLACK BASS BY AREA, GEAR, SEASON, SIZE, AND CATCH LIMITS.