

(2000 Replacement Volume)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~~~Chapter 418 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998~~~~Section 12~~~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~~~Chapter 419 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998~~~~Section 12~~

BY repealing

Chapter 184 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1994

Section 3

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

Article - Natural Resources

4-803.

(a) The Department may adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the following purposes:

- (1) To restrict catching and possessing any blue crab;
- (2) The methods by which crabs are taken;
- (3) To close or open any specified area to catch crabs;
- (4) To prohibit or restrict devices used to catch crabs;
- (5) To establish seasons to catch crabs; and

(6) To establish minimum size limits for hard, soft, and peeler crabs. However, this section does not permit the Department to change existing license fees for catching, picking, canning, packing, or shipping cooked hard or soft crabs or crab meat; or for selling, or shipping live hard or soft crabs by barrel or crate. The Department may set license fees on types of gear or equipment if not otherwise set by law.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ADOPT REGULATIONS TO:

- (1) RESTRICT A TIDAL FISH LICENSEE WHO CATCHES CRABS USING TROTLINE GEAR TO A WORKDAY OF LESS THAN 8 HOURS PER DAY, EXCLUDING TIME SPENT SETTING OR TAKING UP GEAR;
- (2) ESTABLISH TIME RESTRICTIONS ON A TIDAL FISH LICENSEE USING TROTLINE GEAR FOR SETTING AND TAKING UP GEAR; OR
- (3) PROHIBIT A TIDAL FISH LICENSEE FROM OBSTRUCTING THE CULL RING OF A HARD CRAB POT AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR IN ORDER TO CATCH PEELER CRABS.