

Article - Natural Resources

4-701.

(P) A COMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSE SHALL IDENTIFY EITHER SUNDAY OR MONDAY AS THE DAY ON WHICH THE PERSON WHO HOLDS THE LICENSE MAY NOT CRAB FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

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 REDUCE THE HARVEST OF HARD CRABS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY UNLESS THE REGULATIONS:~~

~~(1) ARE ADOPTED IN RECOGNITION OF THE DIVERSITY OF INDUSTRY IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE BAY; AND~~

~~(2) BALANCE THE IMPACT OF THE REDUCTION IN THE HARVEST OF HARD CRABS ON THE VARIOUS COMMERCIAL HARVESTERS.~~

(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS WHICH RESTRICT A HOLDER OF A COMMERCIAL LICENSE FROM CATCHING CRABS ON CERTAIN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

(2) REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-804 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, BE BASED ON THE CONSIDERATIONS SET FORTH IN § 4-215(C) OF THIS TITLE.

[(b)](C) The Department's regulations may not become effective under this section until the Department first holds public hearings. The Department shall advertise the time, place, and purpose of the hearings in one newspaper of general daily circulation in the State, and at least in one newspaper circulated in the affected region of each county whose waters may be directly affected by the proposed regulations for 2 successive weeks in advance of the hearings.