

~~Department, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to report annually to the General Assembly on the environmental and economic impact of certain harvest restrictions on or before a certain date~~ requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations relating to yellow perch by a certain date; requiring the yellow perch management strategy adopted under this Act to be based on certain objectives and measures; requiring the Department to incorporate certain objectives into a certain fishery management plan for yellow perch; requiring the Department in consultation with certain stakeholders, to prepare and submit to certain committees of the General Assembly a certain report related to fisheries on or before a certain date; and generally relating to fishery management in the State.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Natural Resources
Section 4-215(h)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)~~

BY adding to
Article - Natural Resources
Section 4-~~710~~^(g) 4-215.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, There is an immediate need to conserve ~~the dwindling stock of and~~ allocate yellow perch in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for the purpose of sustaining the yellow perch population in the future and ensuring the continued economic viability of the yellow perch ~~commercial fishery~~ recreational and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's angling community is concerned about the State's regulatory efforts to manage this coveted fishery because of ~~questionable science-based~~ policies that ~~allow the~~ continue the current practices of commercial harvesting of yellow perch: (1) as the perch attempt to reach their ancestral spawning grounds; (2) at rates and with nets absent any appropriate limits; and (3) within tributaries previously restocked for yellow perch propagation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Markets for yellow perch harvested in Maryland are primarily located out of State; and

WHEREAS, The commercial harvest of yellow perch comprises ~~95%~~ the majority of the annual catch in Maryland and, under existing regulatory policies, is