

CHAPTER 607

(House Bill 473)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources - Soft Crabs - Bycatch

FOR the purpose of requiring certain regulations adopted by the Department of Natural Resources to establish a permissible bycatch for soft crabs to be no more restrictive than the permissible bycatch for hard crabs and peeler crabs; creating a certain exception to the prohibition against possessing a bycatch of undersized soft crabs; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations relating to a bycatch for soft crabs; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to catching or possessing soft crabs.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Natural Resources
Section 4-809
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

Article - Natural Resources

4-809.

(a) A person may not catch or possess more than 10 hard crabs per bushel or 25 hard crabs per barrel which measure less than 5 inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person may not catch or possess peeler crabs measuring less than 3 inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike.

(2) A person may possess a bycatch of peeler crabs measuring less than 3 inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike if the bycatch is not greater than:

- (i) 30 per bushel; or
- (ii) 60 per float.