

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

Article – Natural Resources

4-710.

(a) A person may not catch finfish for any purpose in the tidal waters of the State by use of any gig, gig iron, purse net, beam trawl, otter trawl, trammel net, troll net, or drag net. Any person who violates this section by catching fish with any of the equipment or devices referred to in this subsection, with the exception of a gig or gig iron, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, with costs imposed in the discretion of the court. Any person who illegally catches fish with a gig or gig iron is subject to the penalties provided by this title.

(b) An appropriately licensed person may fish in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean with an otter trawl or beam trawl, subject to Department rules and regulations, if the person is at least one mile from the shoreline. The Department rules and regulations shall include:

- (1) Setting seasons when otter trawl or beam trawl fishing is permitted; and
- (2) Enumerating the species of fish which may be taken.

(c) (1) A person may not fish with any net whose size of stretched mesh, allowing a reasonable tolerance for shrinkage, is less than the following: pound net, 1 1/2 inches; haul seine, 1 1/2 inches; gill net, 2 1/2 inches; fyke or hoop net, 1 1/2 inches.

(2) Any hedging or lead attached to a fish trap, fyke net, or pound net shall be constructed of materials which have meshes having a twine size of #12 or larger.

(3) Until December 31, 1979, in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, a person may not set or fish any gill net whose size of stretched mesh, allowing a 1/4 inch variable, is more than 7 inches. After December 31, 1979, in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, a person may not set or fish any gill net whose size of stretched mesh is more than 6 inches.

(4) This subsection does not apply to catching eels with a net.

(d) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person may not install, set, operate, or maintain in any tidal water of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries any monofilament gill net webbing of any description to catch fish.

(2) A person may use a monofilament cast net or a monofilament throw net to catch baitfish in any tidal water of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.

(3) In casting a monofilament net as provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person:

- (i) May not use a cast net that has a radius greater than 10 feet; and