

clams; requesting the Department to make a certain report to certain committees of the Maryland General Assembly; and repealing certain provisions of law related to the taking and handling of soft-shell clams.

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,  
 Article – Natural Resources  
 Section 4-1033(c)  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing  
 Article – Natural Resources  
 Section 4-1040.1  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

4-1033.

(c) The Department may promulgate rules and regulations relating to any aspect of the soft-shell clam fishery and shall adopt rules and regulations governing:

- (1) Measurement and structural details of a hydraulic clam dredge,
- (2) The number of hydraulic clam dredges which may be carried on a vessel,
- (3) The use of mufflers on motors or engines on hydraulic clam dredges or on board boats carrying hydraulic clam dredges,
- (4) The establishment of limits on the number of bushels which may be caught by a hydraulic clam dredge, or by a boat carrying a hydraulic clam dredge,
- (5) The minimum size of soft-shell clams,
- (6) The ~~time~~ TIMES AND DATES for taking, landing, and unloading soft-shell clams, and
- (7) Protection of soft-shell clams from contamination, or from deterioration as a result of excessive heat.

[4-1040.1.

From June 1 to September 14, inclusive, a person may catch soft-shell clams of the species *Mya arenaria* at the times and in the manner prescribed by regulations adopted by the Department. The Department may consult with the Department of Health and