

HOUSE BILL 63

M2

6lr0066

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 29, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Fishing – Regulation and Use of Commercial Finfish**
3 **Trotlines**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with
5 certain entities, to adopt regulations defining and governing the use of commercial
6 finfish trotlines; establishing an exception to the prohibition against using more than
7 a certain number of hooks or sets of hooks for each commercial rod or line by
8 authorizing a tidal fish licensee to use a finfish trotline; providing for the termination
9 of this Act; and generally relating to the regulation and use of commercial finfish
10 trotlines.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Natural Resources
13 Section 4–221 and 4–710(h)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 4–221.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (a) The authority provided by this section is in addition to any other authority of
2 the Secretary provided by law.

3 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary, after
4 consultation with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries
5 Advisory Commission, may adopt regulations to define and govern the use of:

6 (i) Recreational fishing gear; and

7 (ii) The following types of commercial fishing gear:

8 1. Fish pots;

9 2. Bank traps;

10 3. Fyke nets; [and]

11 4. Hoop nets; AND

12 5. **FINFISH TROT LINES.**

13 (2) The Department shall consider relevant biological, ecological, and
14 socioeconomic factors before adopting regulations under this subsection.

15 4-710.

16 (h) (1) Except **WHEN USING A FINFISH TROTLINE OR** in State waters in the
17 Atlantic Ocean, a tidal fish licensee may not use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for
18 each rod or line.

19 (2) For the purposes of this subsection, artificial lures or plugs with
20 multiple or gang hooks are considered 1 set of hooks.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2019,
23 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
24 of no further force and effect.