

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1994 SESSION

## CHAPTER 492

*An Act to amend and reenact § 28.2-707 of the Code of Virginia, relating to restrictions on the size of crab dredges.*

[H 1358]

Approved April 8, 1994

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 28.2-707 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 28.2-707. Restrictions on crab dredging; penalty.

A. It is unlawful for any boat licensed to dredge crabs to use more than two dredges at any time when dredging for crabs. Such boat may use only one dredge on each side of the boat or join two dredges together for use over the stern of the boat. ~~No single dredge shall exceed eight feet in width across the inside mouth of the dredge. When two or more dredges are fixed together, their total width shall not exceed sixteen feet.~~ *The size of dredges shall not exceed limits established by the Commission. The Commission is authorized to promulgate regulations limiting the size of dredges.*

B. It is unlawful to dislodge crabs from the bottom with a crab dredge using hydraulic methods.

C. It is unlawful to use a crab dredge on Saturday.

D. It is unlawful to use a dredge for catching crabs between April 1 and December 1; however, the Commission, when in its judgment it is advisable due to weather conditions and it is not contrary to the public interest, may open any season as early as November 16, may delay opening any season, and may extend any season until April 16.

E. It is unlawful to use dredges to take crabs in any of the rivers, or their estuaries, inlets, or creeks, except on the ocean side of Accomack and Northampton Counties.

Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.