

House Bill 1016

By: Representatives Lane of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 126<sup>th</sup>, and Jerguson of the 22<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-4-151 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 use of crab traps, identification of boats or vessels, and closure of salt waters, so as to provide  
3 the commissioner of natural resources the ability to manage certain aspects of the blue crab  
4 resource; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 27-4-151 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the use of crab  
8 traps, identification of boats or vessels, and closure of salt waters, is amended by revising  
9 subsection (j) as follows:

10 "(j) The commissioner shall have the power to close all or any portion of the ~~saltwaters~~ salt  
11 waters of this state to commercial and recreational fishing for blue crabs or any component  
12 of the blue crab fishery, including peeler, soft, or sponge crabs, ~~in the event of flood,~~  
13 ~~drought, disease, or any other emergency situation or in the event of a disaster or other~~  
14 ~~occurrence likely to cause seafood to be unfit for human consumption.~~ Any determination  
15 to close the ~~saltwaters~~ salt waters pursuant to this subsection or to reopen such waters shall  
16 be made in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management  
17 as provided by Code Section 27-4-130."

18 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

19 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
20 without such approval.

21 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 3.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.