



SPONSOR: Rep. Price & Sen. Venables ;  
Reps. Buckworth, Capano, Keeley,  
Schroeder

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

140th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO.

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 9 OF TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HEADBOATS AND CHARTER BOATS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:  
(Two-Thirds of all members elected to each house thereof concurring therein):

1           Section 1. Amend § 906, Title 7, Delaware Code, by adding thereto two new paragraphs to read  
2 as follows:

3                               “(69) ‘Charter boat’ shall mean any vessel-for-hire engaged in recreational  
4 fishing that is hired on a per trip basis.

5                               “(70) ‘Headboat’ shall mean any vessel-for-hire engaged in recreational  
6 fishing that is hired on a per person basis.”

7           Section 2. Amend Chapter 9, Title 7, Delaware Code, by adding thereto a new section to read as  
8 follows:

9                               “941. Headboat/charter boat fishing permits; reporting requirements.

10                              (a) If a fishery management plan approved by the Secretary of the U.S.  
11 Department of Commerce or Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requires the landings  
12 of a finfish species by headboats and charter boats to be monitored, said finfish species, if caught  
13 on a headboat or charter boat, shall not be landed in this State unless the owner or operator of said  
14 boat has been issued a headboat/charter boat fishing permit. The Department shall not charge a  
15 fee for he headboat/charter boat fishing permit.

16 (b) All headboat/charter boat fishing permit holders shall maintain a  
17 logbook, supplied by the Department, for those finfish species that have management plans which  
18 require landings to be monitored. Headboat/charter boat fishing permit holders shall forward  
19 copies of their logbook entered to the Department as prescribed by the Department. The logbooks  
20 shall contain, but not be limited to:

- 21 (1) The headboat/charter boat fishing permit number; and  
22 (2) The number and/or weight, by species, of finfish landed on each  
23 date.

24 (c) The Department may adopt, amend, modify or repeal rules and regulations to  
25 effectuate the policy and purpose of this section.”

26 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2000.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Act establishes a headboat/charter boat fishing permit, without a fee, and requires owners or operators of such boats to report their landings of a finfish species when an interstate or federal fishery management plan for such species requires landings by headboats and charter boats to be monitored. (Beginning January 1, 2000, the interstate fishery management plan for bluefish requires monthly reports from the owners or operators of headboats and charter boats.)