

fishing. The Department may adopt rules and regulations governing use of gill nets fished under the provisions of this section in any of the waters of the State, restricting the use of gill nets in any waters deemed necessary for conservation purposes, and regulating the quantities of any species of fish caught by gill nets.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.

Approved May 13, 1986.

CHAPTER 461

(House Bill 540)

AN ACT concerning

Strip Mining of Coal

FOR the purpose of requiring a licensed coal operator to notify the Department of Natural Resources of any change in ownership--or-control officers, directors, principal owners, or resident agents of the operator; authorizing the Department to suspend or not renew an operator's license if the operator fails to take certain actions ordered by the Department; repealing the requirement that the State obtain the written consent of the landowner to enter on land affected by strip mining; requiring an applicant for a strip mining permit to furnish certain documents as evidence of both the landowner's and surface owner's consent to strip mining and reclamation; providing for the Department and its authorized agents a right of entry, without notice, to open-pit mining or prospecting operations and to premises where certain records are located; authorizing the Department to inspect certain equipment or methods of operation; repealing certain consent and notice requirements for the Department to enter certain private property not otherwise accessible from a public road; authorizing the Department to enter on private property for access to and reclamation of any open-pit mining or prospecting operation; requiring the Department to secure the consent of the property owner or a judicial order under certain conditions; providing that a public hearing is discretionary, rather than mandatory, for permit applications for certain small open-pit mining operations; and generally relating to regulation of the strip mining of coal and reclamation of strip mined areas.

BY renumbering