

oysters in the shell out of the State. An inspection tax of [ten] 10 cents per bushel shall be levied upon marketable oysters shipped in the shell to any place outside the State and the shipper shall pay the tax when the permit required by this subsection is issued. The tax imposed by this subsection shall be levied in addition to every other tax imposed on oysters.

4-1031.

Every hard-shell clam dealer shall pay a special tax of [five] 5 cents for each bag, which shall contain no more than 105 hard-shell clams, on all clams sold by him, and shall remit the tax weekly to the Department.

4-1035.

A severance tax of [ten] 10 cents per bushel shall be levied on all soft-shell clams caught within the State. The tax shall be paid by the buyer of clams at the place in the State where the clams are to be shipped in bulk no further by vessel, or before clams are shipped out of the State by vessel. All taxes shall be remitted weekly to the department for deposit to the credit of the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.

4-1101.

(f) "Marketable oyster" means an oyster measuring [three] 3 inches or more from hinge to mouth.

4-1103.

(d) The Department may select and reserve for its own use areas, to be known as seed areas, within the waters of the State for the propagation of seed oysters. The number, size, and location of these areas shall be determined from time to time by the Department. However, no more than [five] 5 percent of the natural oyster bars of the State shall be designated as seed areas. The first million bushels of seed oysters produced in seed areas shall be planted on the natural oyster bars of the State. At least 50 percent of the seed oysters removed in any year from any seed area to be planted on any natural oyster bar shall be planted on the natural oyster bars of the county in which that seed area is located. The Department shall publish a notice of reservation not less than 30 days before the closing date of any seed area in one newspaper of general circulation in the State and at least one newspaper of general circulation in each county of the State. The Department shall schedule a public hearing on the proposal not less than 15 days before the proposed closing date. The hearing shall be held at the county seat of the county in which the