

lyable to satisfye the damage so susteyned by servitude or otherwise as the Court before whome such matter is brought shall think convenient. Provided that where the Mother of any such Childe as aforesaid shall be able to prove her charge by sufficient Testimony of Witnesses Confession of the Party charged, or pregnant Circumstances agreeing with her declaracōn in her Extremity of her Pains or Throes of Travell and her Oath taken by some Magistrate before the tyme of her delivery of every such Bastard Child or after her delivery then the Party charged if a Servant to satisfye halfe the damage, if a Freeman then the whole damage by Servitude or otherwise as the Court before whom such matter is brought as aforesaid shall think fitt. And if any such Mother as aforesaid be able to prove by such testimony or Confession of the Party charged that he being a single person and a Freeman did before the begetting of such Childe promise her marriage that then he shall be at his choice either to performe his promise to her, or recompence her Abuse according as the Court before whom such matter is brought shall adjudge. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that a former Act of this Province Entituled an Act concerning those Servants that have Bastards made att a General Assembly begunn & held att the city of St. Mary's the Tenth day of May One Thousand six hundred and Nynety two is hereby repealed and voyde.

Public
Record
Office,
London.
C. O. 5.
Vol. 731,
Maryland.
From
1694-1702.
Acts

An Act against Strikeing of Fish in Dorchester & Somersett
Countyes.

Acts of 1694,
ch. 26
(Repealed
by 1696,
ch. 15)

Whereas the Strikeing of Fish hath been and still is a Grievance of the Inhabitants of Somersett & Dorchester Countyes by reason that severall persons that inhabite in Virginia and other distant places doe yearly come up within the precincts of the said Countyes and there doe strike or cause to be struck great Quantities of Fish and by wounding hurting and maiming of Fish cause Sharks and other voracious Fish to haunt the Coasts to the Spoyling of the Rivers and destruccōn of the Fry of Fish for prevention whereof Wee pray it may be Enacted and be it Enacted by the King & Queens most Excellent Ma^{ty}s by and with the Advice and Consent of this present Gen^rall Assembly and the Authority of the same That from and after the Publicacōn of this Act noe person or persons whatsoever either Inhabitant of this Province or Virginia shall strike or cause to be struck either by himself or any hired Indian any Fish within any of the Rivers Creeks or Harboures or about any of the Islands belonging to the said Countyes of Somersett or Dorchester under the Penalty of Five Thousand pounds of Tobaccoe the one halfe to our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King & Queen for support of this Government and the other halfe to the party that shall sue for the same to be recovered in any Court of Record in this Province wherein no Essoyne Proteccōn or Wager of Law to be allowed.