

that more crabs would be consumed if the price was regulated according to the supply.

Anyone who has followed the efforts on the part of the Department for the past five years will have no difficulty in determining that conservation measures adopted by the States of Maryland and Virginia are solely responsible for the return of the crab.

There is also continual increase in the supply of upland game and water fowl, which is due principally to the restocking of the covers of the State with bob-white, quail and rabbits, the protection and regulation of same by placing uniform seasons throughout the State, and the enforcement of the Game Laws.

While there is not yet a noticeable increase in the supply of oysters, it may be said that if it had not been for the progressive oyster laws enacted in the past four years, results would have been disastrous. The enactment of such laws as planting 10% of the shells made by the different oyster packers, which law has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States, and the liberal appropriations given by the Legislature in 1927 and 1929, have made it possible for the Department to plant 750,000 bushels of oyster shells this year and to continue to do so as long as the 10% law remains on the statute books and the appropriations continue. This shell planting is aided also by reservations of certain areas known as seed areas, in which planters are able to secure young seed oysters to be planted upon their private grounds. Renewed activity in private oyster propagation, enforcement of the three-inch cull law and other conservation measures are not only stemming the decrease in the oyster output, but are expected to cause rapid increase in oyster production both on the natural rocks and from private beds.

The Department will keep pace with this progress by building and maintaining a Marine Laboratory provided for by the last General Assembly. The scientific information available from this source is expected to be of great benefit to the oyster industry.

The principal laws which were enacted by the 1929 General Assembly are as follows:

### FISH AND CRABS

The re-enactment of Article 39 of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Fish and Fisheries," which act provides for the uniformity of all the fish laws of the State, both general and local, pertaining to fisheries and repealing all that are inconsistent. There were nearly 300 sections of old fish laws re-enacted into an article containing 100 sections.

### TERRAPIN

What previously applied to the fish laws may be said about the laws pertaining to diamond-back terrapin. Article 92 was rewritten and likewise repealed all the local laws inconsistent therewith. As a result we now have uniform seasons on catching, having in possession, selling and size of terrapin throughout the waters of the State.

### BLACK BASS

One of the most important fish laws that has been enacted for some time is the one relating to Black Bass, namely, Chapter 180 of the Acts of 1929. This act prohibits the catching, sale, transporting or having in possession any black bass in the State during the months of April, May, June and July, when caught in tidal waters. Above tide the season for catching bass remains the same, July 1st to November 30th. This