

missioners is hereby directed to submit a plan to the next Session of the General Assembly of Maryland providing for the assessment of rentals for leased bottoms in accordance with the value of these bottoms for the cultivation of oysters.

An. Code, sec. 101. 1906, ch. 711, sec. 99.

117. In case the survey provided for by this sub-title shall not have been completed within one year from April 2, 1906, then it shall be the duty of the board of shell fish commissioners to begin the leasing of barren bottoms in the manner and upon the terms provided in the preceding section; provided, that such leasing shall then commence only in those areas in which the survey provided for in this sub-title shall have been completed.

An. Code, sec. 102. 1906, ch. 711, sec. 100. 1912, ch. 539, sec. 100.

118. For a period of thirty days after the said survey shall have been completed, or after any area shall have been opened to leasing under the preceding sections, citizens of Maryland residing in any part of the State, who, at the time of the completion of said survey, or at the respective times of the opening for oyster culture of the several areas, as the case may be, may be owners of land having a water front upon any part of the said areas so opened to oyster culture, shall have the exclusive right to rent any land opened to oyster culture under the provisions of this sub-title, adjacent to their lands. And for an additional period of thirty days after the expiration of the said period of thirty days, all boatmen, residents of this State, who shall be engaged in the business of dredging, scraping or tonging for oysters at the time of the completion of the said survey, or at the respective times of the opening for oyster culture of the several areas, or if said survey shall be completed, or the said areas shall be opened to oyster culture during the closed season for dredging, scraping or tonging, as the case may be, then the person so engaged at the end of the last dredging, scraping or tonging season shall have the like exclusive right in the order of their respective applications, as the same may be received and opened by the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners to rent any adjacent lands; provided, that in no event any such landowner, boatman or any other person be permitted to rent or acquire more than thirty acres, one hundred acres, or five hundred acres, as the case may be, dependent upon the situation of the land which is leased or acquired; and provided, further, that no such riparian landowner, as is mentioned in this section, shall be entitled to rent the amount of thirty acres, one hundred acres, or five hundred acres, as the case may be, unless the water front of the land so owned by him, if fronting on water within the territorial limits of a county, be at least two hundred yards, or if fronting on waters in any other place, be at least seven hundred yards. The owners of land having a less water front than is mentioned above shall be entitled to rent a proportionately less amount of land, dependent upon the length of the front upon water within county limits or elsewhere.