as to affect in any manner the holdings by citizens of this State in any lot which may have been appropriated or taken up under the laws of this State prior to April 2, 1906.

1906, ch. 711.

90. The said board in defining the natural beds and bars, shall exercise its judgment liberally in favor of the natural beds and bars, and allow a reasonable margin of the barren bottoms, rather than encroach on a natural bed or bar. The natural beds or bars shall be bounded by straight lines, even though some portions of barren bottoms may thus be necessarily included within such lines.

Ibid.

91. If residents of any county, exceeding twenty-four in number, shall, within four months after the filing of said survey and report in such county, file in the circuit court for said county a petition, in writing, attested by the oath of some one or more of the petitioners, alleging that five or more adjacent acres of oyster beds, bars or rocks, in such county, have been omitted from such survey, or that five or more acres of barren bottoms have been included in such survey, and designating the location of same by a plat, or as near as may be with reasonable certainty by such land marks as will locate and designate the beds alleged to have been omitted or included, a judge of the circuit court for the said county, after due notice given to the board of shell fish commissioners, shall proceed to hear testimony and decide the case, as provided in the succeeding section, but this section shall not apply where the ground claimed by the petitioners has been legally taken up prior to April 2, 1906.

Ibid.

92. Upon hearing a case presented by petition under the preceding section, the judge shall determine the question whether the ground referred to in said petition is a natural bed or barren bottom, and his finding on said question shall be final, and shall be entered upon the records of the board of shell fish commissioners in their office in the city of Annapolis, and properly marked on the copies of the plats as hereinbefore required.