

flow of salt waters, for the breeding and cultivation of oysters in any manner deemed proper and not conflicting with the laws of this state; and whereas the Isle of Wight and Assawoman bays aforesaid have, from the closing of inlets south of them, been for many years past unhealthy fresh water; and whereas the lands bordering on said bays and tributaries have greatly depreciated in value from that cause; therefore—

Preamble.

SEC. 8. *Be it enacted*, That, in consideration of the cutting and making the inlet aforesaid, and the great advantages rendered to the adjacent land thereby, and the increased value to the State of Maryland and Worcester county, and to the citizens thereof, by the salting of the waters of the Isle of Wight and Assawoman bays by a regular ebb and flow of tide through the inlet aforesaid, the State of Maryland does hereby convey, in fee, unto the said Isle of Wight Inlet and Oyster Planting Company, one-half of the bed of the said Isle of Wight and Assawoman bays, on the eastward side of a line beginning at Ocean City bridge, thence running northerly to the dividing line between the State of Maryland and the State of Delaware, so as to divide the said bays into two equal portions, excepting the rights of the owners of lands bordering on the eastern side of said bays, already acquired or hereafter to be acquired.

Advantages rendered.

Divide into two equal parts

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted*, That whenever it can or shall be shown to the satisfaction of the register of the land office that the said Isle of Wight Inlet and Oyster Planting Company have constructed the inlet connecting the bays aforesaid and the Atlantic ocean, so as to secure the ebb and flow of said water through the said inlet, as provided in the provisions of this act, it shall be his duty, and he is hereby directed, to issue a patent to the company for one-half of the bed of the said bays, as described in the previous section of this act, for the cultivation and planting of oysters; provided said patent shall convey no further title than the right to plant, cultivate and produce oysters and other shell fish, and nothing hereby conveyed shall be construed to interfere with the right of fishing in said bay or on the waters conveying the said lands.

Register to issue patent.

Construction of proviso.

SEC. 10. *And be it enacted*, That as soon as the provisions of the previous section of this act have been carried out, all that portion of the bays aforesaid