

or any vessel may be brought, charged with violating any of the preceding sections of this act, shall either give the case or cases an immediate hearing, or at the instance of the party or parties charged shall appoint some early day, within the next ten days, to hear the case, the party or parties charged giving such good and sufficient bail as said judge or justice shall require for his or their appearance at trial; and the said vessel shall be held and safely kept at the cost of the party charged, or of the said vessel, as the case may be; and in case the master, owner or other person in charge of the said vessel shall or shall not be arrested, then the vessel used in violation of this act shall be seized, and the charge against the same shall be heard by the said judge or justice of the peace, and she shall be dealt with as hereinafter provided; and if the said master, owner or other person in charge of said vessel shall not appear, after giving bail as hereinbefore provided, then in either case the judge or justice of the peace may proceed to hear the case, and to determine whether or not the said vessel has been employed in violation of this act, and any vessel so employed is hereby declared to be forfeited; and in case the said judge or justice shall find the vessel has been so unlawfully employed, then he shall declare the same to be forfeited, and shall so enter upon his docket, together with all her tackle, apparel, appurtenances, boats, sails and rigging, and he shall authorize and direct any sheriff or deputy sheriff to sell said vessel, together with all the apparel, tackle, boats and other things belonging thereto, at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, after giving at least twenty days notice of the time and place of said sale, printed in some newspaper published in the county in which the case may be tried; and the said officer shall be allowed actual expenses of seizure, sale and keeping of said vessel and poundage fees, and the proceeds of said sale shall be first applied to the payment of all the costs, charges and expenses of the seizure, trial and sale of the said vessel, and the balance of said proceeds, if any, shall be paid to the clerk of the court as herein provided, and by him to the comptroller, to the credit of the oyster fund, unless a part thereof be remitted as provided for in section seven; provided that the owner, or any other person having any mortgage or any other lien on the said vessel, shall in all

Hearing of case

Penalty.

Notice of auction.

Proviso.